



## **Participant Information Sheet (Survey)**

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research study. Before you make your decision, it is important that you understand why this research is being carried out and what it will involve. This information sheet will tell you about the purpose and benefits of this research study. Please feel free to take as much time as you need to read the following information carefully and ask if there is anything that is unclear or if you would like more information. You should only decide to take part in the research study when you feel you understand what is being asked of you.

### **What is this research about?**

My name is Dr Mary McGill, and I am a Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Galway, funded by Research Ireland. The aim of my research is to explore experiences of gender-based online abuse among female academics in Ireland and to develop supports for those impacted.

### **What will my responsibilities be if I take part?**

You will provide responses to an anonymous, ten-minute survey exploring your perspectives and experiences of gender-based online abuse as a woman academic working in Ireland.

### **Do I have to take part?**

*If you decide not to take part, that's OK.* If you do decide to take part and later change your mind, you can withdraw any time up until December 31, 2026. You do not have to give a reason. Should you withdraw, any information that you have provided will be destroyed.

### **What are the benefits of taking part?**

This is an opportunity for you to express your views and experiences relating to how gender-based online abuse impacts on women working in Irish academia and how institutions like universities can better support those effected. Currently, in general, little knowledge or awareness exists in Irish Higher Education regarding how gender-based online abuse impacts female academics. This research will help change that, and every participant will contribute to that outcome.

### **What are the risks of taking part?**

Given the nature of the material the study explores, participants should be aware that the survey may touch on issues which some people may find distressful. In such instances, participants are under no obligation to continue, and support will be provided.

### **What will happen to the information I provide?**

All responses will be anonymous. The survey data will be analysed by myself (Dr Mary McGill). All data relating to the study will be processed in line with GDPR, securely stored, and kept strictly

confidential on University of Galway systems, with access restricted to myself and my mentor (Dr Stacey Scriver). The study will strive to take every reasonable step to protect participant anonymity. The study findings will be published as a policy paper, a podcast, composite case studies, conference papers, two academic papers, and in other formats and academic publications from June 2026 onwards. Data gathered by the study will be destroyed seven years after the study's completion (31/8/34).

If you have any concerns about this study and wish to contact someone independent and in confidence, you may contact the Chairperson of the University of Galway Research Ethics Committee, c/o Office of the Vice President for Research, NUI Galway, [ethics@nuigalway.ie](mailto:ethics@nuigalway.ie). The University of Galway's Data Protection webpage is available [here](#). The University's Data Protection Officer can be contacted via email: [dataprotection@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:dataprotection@universityofgalway.ie). Information on the right to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner can be found [here](#).

*Your participation in the study will be greatly valued. Thank you for taking the time to read this participant information sheet.*

Dr Mary McGill

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