

Interview participant information sheet Human trafficking policy engagement



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Research Ref: 003

Human trafficking policy engagement research in East Africa Interview Information Sheet for participants

You are invited to participate in a research study on the adoption integration and actualization of the different anti-human trafficking policies and legislation in Rwanda. This study is being conducted by Smart Talk Cafe in collaboration with Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. We wish to engage you because of the direct relevance of your professional engagements in the anti-trafficking efforts in East Africa. This information sheet will provide detailed guidance on the purpose, process, and protocols in regard to the survey. **Please do not hesitate to ask if there is anything that is not clear.**

What is the purpose of this research?

This research aims to determine the anti-trafficking policy gaps, and strengths especially when it comes awareness and its implementation in East Africa. The key is to understand the prevalence estimation in regards to those affected thus the survivors, their families and secondary duty berries. We will also look into the connection between the implementation of the existing policies and the service provision in East African countries and its relation the broader region. The research will also look into prevention, protection and prosecution in relation to human trafficking in regards to government and civil society in East Africa. We are interested in finding out about priorities for anti-trafficking legislative or policy in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania and also look at reforms that are needed by key actors. The information from this study will help in the development of key strategies that will help in the eradication of root courses when it comes to human trafficking, the knowledge base of key stakeholders in the human trafficking sector thus in regards to existing laws, acts of parliament, and policies

Participation

You are invited to participate in this research because you are a key stakeholder when it comes to anti-trafficking efforts in East Africa. Your participation is voluntary (your choice). If you decide not to participate, there are no consequences. You are still free to withdraw at any time without any obligations. This would not affect your relationship with Smart Talk Cafe or GITOC or any member of the research team.

You are are free to decide whether or not to respond to any question asked in the survey.

Format of interviews

The interviews will be conducted in person across a single one hour session in a secure space assigned for the purpose. For those that are far we will use an online platform of the participants choosing. The interview will have a special focus on the assessment of shortfalls, gaps and strength

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of anti-trafficking legislative frameworks in East Africa and identify the priorities for policy reforms. As a participant you will be expected to attend to this single interview and provide views or insights on anti-trafficking policies you are familiar with, and you are comfortable sharing with the research team conducting the interview. When conducted in person, the interviewer will take adequate safeguard to conduct the interview in a private safe environment.

Are there any potential benefits from taking part in this research?

A potential benefit is that participants will develop further understanding of the anti-trafficking legislation in the mentioned region. The participant may not benefit directly however the research will help us develop an advocacy toolkit and help in the development of strategies focused on the reforms, community advocacy and training especially among anti-trafficking organizations. We will also develop a data collection toolkit that aims at supporting the policy development initiatives in Africa as well as resource allocation in the anti-trafficking efforts in East Africa. After the survey is completed the research team will analyse the data collected and it will be used to inform our outputs in order to co-develop a data driven advocacy and policy development campaign.

Are there any potential risks involved in this research?

We do not foresee any risks or disadvantages in taking part in the survey, except the time taken in participating. Only the research team will have access to data that identifies you as a participant, your response will be anonymous if you choose to and any extra information will be destroyed as soon as its not necessary for the project.

Confidentiality

You will be given the opportunity to decide on the level of your responses, and how your information will be attributed in project outputs. If you choose to be anonymous, your name and other details that might identify you will be not be used in the project resources, or any other public materials produced. You will be given a chance to choose attribution details and to review anonymized description of you as a participant. If you decide no to be anonymous, we will share outputs with you before publication to give a chance to review how you are represented. You can change your mind and choose to be anonymous at any point before the publication

All non-digital surveys will be digitized as soon as possible, and original hard copies destroyed. Digital copies will be held in secure, access controlled folders.

What if you change your mind during or after the study?

You are free to withdraw at any time before 25 December 2024 that is during or after completing the survey. Any information you have entered up to that point will be deleted from the data set. If you withdraw after the date indicated we may not completely remove your response but wont include your data in future projects. To withdraw from the study before completing the survey, simply exit the survey without submitting your response. To withdraw after submitting, please email the research team. If your information has already been anonymised, we may need to request some details of your response to identify your data.

Review and approval of the research

All research involving human participants is reviewed by an ethic department to ensure that the dignity and well-being of participants is respected and to protect your interest. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by Smart Talk Cafe and all other partners involved in running of the survey.

What will happen to the information you provide?

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The data collected from the research will primarily be used to inform our research and will be incorporated into country reports, advocacy engagements and policy reform recommendations thus co-produced in collaboration with Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. The data will also be used for training purposes. It will also build premise to discussions and presentations in regards to policy engagements in East Africa. It will also be used for publications in journals, blogs or books when it comes to anti-trafficking engagements under Smart Talk Cafe. Individual participants will not be identified in any outputs unless express permission has been granted. *Smart Talk Cafe* will be responsible for making sure that only members of the research team use your data for the purposes mentioned in this information sheet.

All data will be collected through secure platforms, and held in secure controlled OneDrive folders. A master list of participants will be kept in a separate, access controlled folder from the response data. Your personal data will be kept for six months and after the end of the study so that we are able to contact you about the findings of the study and possible follow-up studies. Anonymous data will be held long-term securely for a minimum of 5 years after the research project finishes but will not include any information that can identify you as a participant. All data will be disposed securely. Confidentiality will be maintained among the research team. As participants you have the right to check the accuracy of data held about you and correct any errors at any time.

Will the results of the study be published?

The results of this research will be published in an anti-trafficking platform and also in the Counter Trafficking Report 2024-2025. This report will be available to the general public through the Smart Talk Cafe and GITOC websites and also the Anti-Trafficking East African platform. Results may be published in peer-reviewed, academic journals. Results will also be presented during conferences or seminars to wider professional and academic communities. You will not be identifiable in any publication.

We will send a summary of the research to you at the end of the study, if you request this. If you provide an email address for this purpose, it will not be linked with your survey responses.

How we process your data

Data you provide will be analysed by the research team in conjunction with other data collected from workshops, interviews, and written consultations. Your data will not be subject to automated processing or profiling.

Who we share your data with

Extracts of your data may be disclosed in published works that are posted online for use by policy makers. Your data may also be stored indeterminately on external data repositories and be further processed for archiving purposes in the public interest, or for historical, scientific purposes. It may also move with the researcher who collected your data to other countries in the future. Data will only be shared on the terms to which you have consented.

Who can I contact if I have any questions or concerns?

If you have any questions about the research, please contact: *Andati Morris Shapwala* at andatimorris@smarstalkcafe.or.ke or the organization via info@smarstalkcafe.or.ke

This study has been reviewed and approved by Smart Talk Cafe and other partners. If you have concerns or complaints about this research, please contact the Executive Director at info@smarstalkcafe.or.ke

What happens next?

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If you would like a PDF version of this information sheet, please email robbinomeka@smarttalkcafe.or.ke at the email address above.

Please read the following statement of consent and start the survey below.

Statement of consent

I have read the study information and understand what is involved in participating. By completing the survey and submitting my responses, I consent to participate.

Name and contact details of the research team

Andati Morris Shapwala Smart Talk Cafe	andatimorris@smarttalkcafe.or.ke
Robbin Omeka Smart Talk Cafe	robbinomeka@smarttalkcafe.or.ke