

Hi there!

Thank you for taking part in our previous survey and for indicating your interest in participating in this interview. We're interested in interviewing LGBTQ+ young people (aged 16-19) in the UK and the Channel Islands.

This information sheet will give you details about the interviews and our research so that you can decide if you'd still like to take part. It answers most questions you might have about the research. You can also reach out to the research team; our contact details are at the end of this document.

What is online pressure or blackmail?

As you might recall, online pressure or blackmail is when someone tries to influence or pressure another person by saying they'll share private things, like images, videos, messages, or personal information (such as someone's sexuality, gender identity, or relationships, especially if they haven't shared this with others).

Why are we doing this study?

While our survey gave us some good information about how young LGBTQ+ people experience online blackmail, we want to explore this topic more. Interviews allow us to do that.

This research is being carried out by LGBTQ+ researchers from the University of Birmingham and Nottingham Trent University, in partnership with the [NSPCC](#), a UK charity dedicated to protecting children and young people and preventing abuse.

LGBTQ+ young people have helped design the questions asked during this interview and will also help create accessible resources from the findings to share with you and with adults or professionals responsible for supporting you.

What will the interviews involve?

If you decide to take part, we will ask you some questions about yourself and also introduce ourselves. We'll then ask various questions about online pressure or blackmail and your experiences of it. Some questions will relate to your specific experience, such as what the person demanded of you and how you responded.



We will make an audio recording of the interview. After the interview, we'll create a written version of what you said and then destroy the audio recording.

If you have any **accessibility needs** or need extra help to take part in the research, please contact us and we'll do our best to help. If you would like us to make any arrangements that would make participating more comfortable, please let us know. This can also include things like doing the interview with the cameras off. Our contacts details are at the end of this document.

The interview should last around **one hour**.

Do I have to take part? Can I change my mind?

Taking part is up to you. You can stop at any time. You don't have to answer every question. You can skip or come back to them.

In the interview, you can ask for a break or end it whenever you want. If you stop early and tell us you no longer want to take part, we'll delete the recording straight away.

At the end of the interview, the interviewer will ask if you're happy for what you've told us to be used in the research.

Will my answers be private?

We're collecting your answers because it helps us learn what's really going on—and we're doing it under something called "**legitimate interests**". That means: We're using your data to help improve support for young people, and we're doing it in a way that's fair, respectful, and safe. We only collect the information we need to understand the issue and help make things better. We won't use your data to sell you anything or send you ads.

We won't share your personal information with anyone outside the research team. The research team includes staff employed or contracted by the University of Birmingham and Nottingham Trent University. Only members of the research team will be able to access any information you share.

Your interview data will be stored securely on the University of Birmingham system and will not be shared with the NSPCC or any other organisation. It will only ever be shared outside the research team if there is a serious safeguarding concern and the information is needed to help keep someone safe.

Your answers will be checked by the researchers to make sure no one is in danger or unsafe. If you say something that shows someone is at serious risk and you include a name or contact details, the researchers

might step in to help—like by telling the police or children’s services. They would only do this if the team are seriously worried about safety and there is enough information to identify the person at risk.

Your answers will be kept on secure, password-protected systems at the University of Birmingham. Only the research team will see your data.

If you take part in an interview, a trusted transcription company (Transcript Divas) will type up the recording. They follow strict rules on privacy and will delete the audio once it’s typed. Only the research team will see the full typed version.

We will remove anything that could identify you (like your name or place names). For example, “Nottingham” would become “a city in the East Midlands.” We’ll also give you a different name in our notes, or you can choose a name yourself.

We will keep the data safely for up to five years. We may share the results in reports, papers, or at conferences, and sometimes include short quotes in your own words, but no one will be able to tell who you are.

Your consent form (with your real name) will be kept separate from your data so they cannot be linked.

Is there a payment for taking part?

You will be given a £25 voucher for your time. But by sharing your experiences, you are helping researchers and organisations like the NSPCC understand what’s really happening online and how to make things safe and more supportive for LGBTQ+ young people like you.

Once completed, the findings of this research will be available on the [projects website](#) and also hosted on the [NSPCC learning website](#).

Your comfort and safety

If you feel uncomfortable with any questions asked during the interview, you do not need to answer them. You don’t have to give any reason just let us know you’d like to go straight to the next question.

The researcher will check in with you during the interview to make sure you’re okay. If you seem upset or distressed, they’ll ask if you’d like to pause or stop — but they will not end the interview unless you want to.

We will also give you details of **LGBTQ+ and young person-friendly support services**, no matter what you choose to share.

Everything we do is designed to keep you safe and supported.



What if I have questions or worries?

If you have any questions about the interview, you can contact the research team directly. Both researchers identify as LGBTQ+, are trans-affirming, and have experience working on LGBTQ+ topics:

- **Dr Willem Stander (he/him)** at w.stander@bham.ac.uk
- **Dr Liam Cahill (he/him)** at liam.cahill@ntu.ac.uk

The person who will be doing the interviews is a research assistant, who is also a member of the LGBTQ+ community and an active researcher in the area:

- **Chase Staras (he/they)** at chase.staras@ntu.ac.uk

If you have a complaint about the research, please contact:

- Mrs Sue Cottam (Ethics Manager) at s.l.cottam@bham.ac.uk
- University of Birmingham Data protection officer: dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk
- You can also let the NSPCC know. You can email researchcomplaints@nspcc.org.uk or phone the NSPCC Support Care team on 020 7825 2505.