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Dear team,

I am contacting you on behalf of a team of public health researchers at UCL who are looking into the effects of urban environments, specifically neighbourhood-based risks and hazards, and their impact on young women's wellbeing and mental health in the Finsbury Park area of Islington.

The project is running with the support of Islington Council and aims to better understand how hazards in the community affect young women living in the borough. The researchers want to find out more about how young women experience safety in their local area, by asking for example: which routes they take through the neighbourhood, which areas they avoid, where they might feel at increased risk, and assess the level to which this impacts their everyday wellbeing. It is hoped that the findings generated from this research will go towards improving community safety for young women alongside impacting public health initiatives within Islington.

The project is being run by a team of social and public health scientists based at UCL and is being supported by UCL's Collaborative Social Science Domain (CSSD), an initiative which funds expert innovation in social and applied research.

Our team is getting in touch as we would like to offer young female volunteers, workers or service users benefiting from your organisation the opportunity to take part. The research itself will consist of a one-off 1 hour long 'walking' interview in the local area. This involves the participant walking around their local area with a female researcher to show them how they typically travel around their neighbourhood (i.e. taking them along on a regular walk from home to work/the gym, around the local park, down their local highroad, etc). During the walk, the researcher and participant will discuss issues around neighbourhood safety, including the participants perceptions of urban risks and the measures they take to mitigate these. During the interview, the participant will be invited to take photos of their area, and at the end, to draw an annotated map depicting the route that was walked along. Participants will be offered a £30 gift voucher to thank them in-kind for the time they have given to the project.

With your permission, we would love to connect to local women who might be interested in taking part through your service. This could mean via a social media post with details about the project (provided below), through word-of-mouth, or by having one of our researchers join one of your sessions to discuss the project in person. Any interested participants will then be able to contact me directly through the contact details provided.

Please note that the project has received full support from UCL's world-class ethics service (UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Number: 13253/003). It is important to note that young women interested in taking part in this project are aware they are under no obligation to do so and that their involvement is entirely voluntary. Participants can choose what information they wish to disclose, and they are under no requirement to discuss any sensitive or personal information. In addition, the project is fully GDPR 2018 compliant and full confidentiality will be maintained throughout. No identifiable features of either your organisation or your employee's identities or will be documented, stored, or published as part of this project. On request, an anonymised summary report of the projects' key findings will be available to your organisation at completion of the research.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either myself or the project supervisor Sahra Gibbon ([s.gibbon@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.gibbon@ucl.ac.uk)).

Yours sincerely,

Rosie Mathers

EXAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POST (can be modified to suit the typical language style of your organisation):

*Hi {service users} – we're pleased to share an exciting opportunity to be part of a research project at London's Global University UCL! The project is exploring young women's use of public spaces in Islington and how this affects their overall wellbeing. The researchers are interested in better understanding how young women feel when they walk around their local area and the sorts of hazards or risks they think they might encounter. If you're interested in taking part and are happy to dedicate 1 hour to a 'walking' interview of your local area, the team would love to hear from you! Participants will receive a £30 gift voucher for their time and any data shared will be fully protected by UCL ethical procedures.*

*Please contact Rosie Mathers (project assistant) for a full information sheet and consent form if you are interested in this opportunity [rosie.mathers.16@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:rosie.mathers.16@ucl.ac.uk)*