

## **Appendix D: Participant Consent Form**

Images & Voices: An Arts-based Qualitative Study Using Photovoice to Understand the Needs & Aspirations of Sex Workers in Portland, Oregon

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### **Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this study is to understand the needs and aspirations of sex workers in Portland, Oregon from their own point of view, and to bring forward the knowledge and experiences of their everyday lives. The objective of this study is to use the arts-based method of photovoice to promote critical dialogue about the issues of concern to sex workers through discussions about their photographs, and to reach influential community advocates and the broader public about their concerns and aspirations through an art exhibit of their photographs.

### **Study Procedures**

If you take part in this project, you will be asked to take photographs of the images that are important or concerning in your life. You will also be asked to attend a training workshop and an individual dialogue session. The training workshop and individual dialogue session will be held in a community location that is private, convenient and acceptable to you.

The training workshop will explain the purpose and procedures of the project; underlying issues about the use of cameras, power, and ethics; potential risks to participants; and how to minimize these risks. You will be given a camera with film and there will be discussion about themes you can focus on to photograph that will represent your life. In the event that your camera is lost or broken, we will replace it for you. The training workshop will last approximately 1-1½ hours.

After you take your photographs, I will meet with you to pick up your film for developing. Then, we will schedule an individual dialogue session to discuss your photographs and the stories that you want to share about them. You will choose which photos to share at the dialogue session. Your individual dialogue session will last approximately 1½ -2 hrs. A few weeks after your dialogue session, you will also be invited to give feedback on my summary of your comments to be sure I understood what you said. This is optional; you do not have to agree to give me the feedback in order to participate in the study.

You also will be invited to an optional group dialogue session with other participants in the study. At this session, we'll talk about the photographs and plan for an art exhibit to educate the community about sex workers' needs and aspirations. The group dialogue session will last 1½ - 2 hours and will be held in a community location that is private, convenient for you. Attending this group session is optional; you do not have to participate in order to be in the study. If you decide to participate and you want to have any of your photos included in the exhibit, I'll ask you to give permission by signing a separate photo release form.

With your permission, I will audio-tape record both the individual dialogue session and the optional group dialogue session so that the results are more accurate and better represent your actual words. This study will take place over a period of 2 to 3 months

(depending on your choice to participate in the optional activities). At the end of the study, you will be invited to a community art exhibit of the photographs taken.

### **Risk, Stress and Discomfort**

The use of cameras to photograph your life experiences and issues of concern may have potential risks, such as physical harm and loss of privacy to yourself and/or your communities. It is important that others' privacy and rights are respected. You will be advised to always obtain verbal consent before taking any photographs of other people. Due to the illegal nature of sex work, no photographs possibly depicting any illegal behavior will be accepted for discussion in the research project. In addition, you may feel some discomfort or embarrassment from participating in the dialogue sessions because the stories behind your photographs may be very personal. However, you do not have to share or discuss anything you do not wish to discuss and you are free to stop the dialogue at any time. If you experience any stress or discomfort during your participation in this study, you will be provided with referrals to specific agencies that support women working in the sex industry.

### **Benefits**

The benefits to participating in this study are: (1) you will receive \$50 in cash after completing the individual dialogue session and you will get to keep the camera and one set of photographs, (2) you will receive a \$5 Fred Meyer gift card if you participate in the optional group dialogue session, (3) you will have the opportunity to voice your concerns through your photographs to influential community advocates, and (4) your participation will contribute to the understanding of sex workers needs and aspirations in Portland, Oregon.

### **Costs**

The training workshop and dialogue sessions will be conducted at no cost to you. The camera, film and development of the film will all be provided for you.

### **Confidentiality**

All information that you provide in this study will be kept strictly confidential. All participants will choose a pseudonym (make up name) for purposes of anonymity. Only the researcher will have your real name, and this will be kept private. While all participants in the group dialogue session will be asked to keep what is said in the group dialogue private, we cannot guarantee that others in the group will not share what is said.

Your name and consent form will be kept separate from the photographs and dialogue transcripts and data to ensure that you cannot be identified. If you consent to participate, all identifying information will be removed from the audio-tape transcripts so that your responses remain confidential. In other words, the transcripts will not include any identifying information and the audio tapes will be destroyed once they are transcribed.

The information gathered, including audio-tapes, photographs, and transcripts will be kept in a locked storage cabinet or password protected computer at the office of the researcher in the School of Social Work. The researcher will be the only person who has the key for this locked storage cabinet or password for the computer. The exceptions of confidentiality are if you share information with me about the abuse of a child, which by law, has to be reported to the appropriate agency.

Some of your comments may be included in the reports written to summarize what has been learned from this study, however, the summary will not include any identifying information about you. Neither your name nor your identity will be used for any publication or publicity purposes. The verbal and visual information gathered in this research study may

be published or presented at public forums, however, none of your photographic images will be released without your written consent, and your name will not be used or revealed.

**Voluntary Participation/Withdrawal from the Study**

Your decision to participate in this study is strictly voluntary. You may refuse to participate or you may withdraw from the study at any time without any penalty or consequence.

**Voluntary Participation to Release Photographs**

Your decision to release your photographs for publication or use in public forum is completely voluntary. You may refuse to release your photographs for any secondary uses in this project.

**Statement of Consent**

The study described above has been explained to me. The risks and benefits have been explained to me. I understand that the information regarding my personal identity will be kept confidential. I agree to not disclose information that I hear from others in the optional group dialogue session. I understand that I will be given a copy of this consent form after signing it. I understand that my decision to release my photographs for publication or use in public forums is voluntary and that I may choose to withdraw my permission at any time. I freely agree to release my photographs or only certain specified photographs for use in this research study.

I have read this consent form and I have had the opportunity to discuss this study with the researcher. I have had my questions answered in a language I understand. I authorize the PSU Institutional Review Board view and/or copy our research records. If I have questions later on about the research I can ask one of the Principal Investigator, Moshoula Capous Desyllas, who is listed on this consent form or I can contact the Human Subjects Research Review Committee, Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, 600 Unitus Bldg., PSU, 503-725-4288.

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Signature of Participant Date

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Printed Name of Participant Witness