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## Information Sheet for Potential Participants

My name is Pádraig Ó Féich and this study is being conducted as part of my PhD in UCD. My supervisor is Dr Mick O'Connell. Recent studies have shown that as many as 1 in 6 Catholics in Ireland have either liberal or very liberal views on issues such as divorce, homosexuality, un-wed mothers etc. In 1980 this figure stood at 1 in 25. Therefore a significant and growing proportion of the population identify as Catholic whilst maintaining liberal or very liberal views on many issues. The aim of this study is to examine how people who identify as both Catholic and liberal perceive and manage the relationship between these identities. In order to do so it is important that you complete all the questions honestly so that an accurate representation can be made. Each section of the survey comes with instructions. Please read these instructions carefully. It is also important that you answer based on your first instinct as there are no right or wrong answers.

### What happens if I volunteer?

It is important to note that your participation is entirely voluntary. However, if you wish to volunteer **you must be 18 years of age or older**. Please note that potential **participants must be comfortable with reading and writing in English in order to participate**. If you agree to take part in the study it will involve the following:

You will be asked to complete a short survey and draw an Identity map. This should take no more than 20 minutes. Each section of the survey comes with instructions. Please read these instructions carefully. It is also important that you answer based on your first instinct as there are no right or wrong answers.

### What happens if I do not agree to participate?

It is important to note that you can refuse to participate if you wish. There will be no consequences if you refuse to participate.

### Are there any benefits to my participation?

Although, due to funding restrictions, you will not receive a monetary reward for your participation, you will have the opportunity to contribute your opinions towards a variety of important issues which may be studied by academics in the future. You will also be contributing significantly to the successful completion of this study which would not be possible without voluntary participation.

### Are there any risks involved in participating?

There is very little risk however should you become uncomfortable you can stop testing, take a break and decide whether they wish to continue.

### How will the data be used?

The data will be used to complete a PhD. The data may also be presented at academic conferences and/or put forth for publication in academic journals.

## **Confidentiality and Anonymity**

Your answers will remain confidential. When filling out the questionnaires, each participant will be given an ID number. This will be used for any information relating to the study. Participants will not be asked for their names or any other information through which they could be identified. All data will be stored securely in UCD or on a password protected laptop.

## **Right to Withdraw**

Participation is completely voluntary. If you change your mind and wish to withdraw from the study you are free to do so up until the data is de-identified at which point it will be impossible to identify which data came from which individual. However the data will not be de-identified until the data collection is fully complete.

## **Contact Details**

If you are interested in participating please contact me using the contact information below. If you have any questions or require any further information feel free to contact me using the details below. You can also use the information below to contact me, **when the study is fully completed**, if you are interested in the findings of the study.

Principal Researcher  
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01-7168499

## **Counselling and Support services:**

Should they be required you can search for counselling services in your area as they are often provided by local community groups. Alternatively you can get a referral from your GP to avail of counselling services provided by the HSE. Below is a list of available counselling and support services you can avail of should they be needed:

### **Samaritans**

Locall: 1850 609090  
Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)  
<http://www.samaritans.org>

### **Aware**

Tel: +353 (0)1 6617211  
Locall: 1890 303302  
Email: [aware@iol.ie](mailto:aware@iol.ie)  
<http://www.iol.ie/aware/>

### **Headstrong** - for young people aged 12-25 in Ireland

Tel: 01 6607343  
Email: [info@headstrong.ie](mailto:info@headstrong.ie)  
<http://www.headstrong.ie>