

SAMPLE

CONSENT FORM

PLEASE NOTE: this is a sample of a consent form used in one Canadian University.

Dear participant,

I am a researcher from McGill University interested in understanding more about the ways HIV and AIDS affects teachers and learners in your community. We think that teachers are in a key position to bring about changes in relation to addressing HIV and AIDS particularly amongst the youth in your schools.

In the project called “Seeing for ourselves” we will be using photography and video as entry points to facilitating self-study in relation to addressing issues around HIV/AIDS in local school communities. We would like to invite you to participate in this study. In the course of the project you will be involved in taking photographs, and participating in a film-making project (including coming up with the ideas for the project, shooting and editing) on issues of HIV and AIDS and youth. In the course of the project you may be exhibiting some of your work

For research purposes your visual work will be analyzed. We may want to use some of the images and footage from the video in follow-up from the study (conference presentations or posters) but these we would request at a later point and you are free to withhold permission. We will also be interviewing you about what you learned in the project, your reflections, suggestions for follow-up and so on. All interviews will be audio-taped and later transcribed. In the event of ‘roundtable’ group discussions it may also be useful to video-tape these discussions which may be used in a video documentary production on the topic of sexuality, gender, youth and HIV prevention.

Please know that your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any point, and as noted above are free to withhold the use of any images that you produce. Every attempt will be made to keep your participation confidential and anonymous particularly in any writings that emerge from the study. We recognize however that because of the group interviews and the visual nature of the work this may not always be possible.

I thank you for your cooperation and look forward to our work together.

If you require any further information I can be reached from the Faculty of Education, UKZN (031 260 2008).

Yours sincerely,

Claudia A. Mitchell

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I _____ agree to participate in the study “Seeing for Ourselves” conducted by Claudia Mitchell and the research team from McGill University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. I also agree to allow the use of my voice in audio recording, and my likeness in video recording, ad infinitum as part of the *Seeing for Ourselves* study conducted by Claudia Mitchell, McGill University. This material will be used for educational purposes only.

- I understand the purpose of this study and know about the risks, benefits and inconveniences that this research project entails.
- I understand that I am not obliged to participate in this project, that I am free to not answer certain questions, and that I have the right to withdraw from the study at any point.
- I understand how confidentiality will be maintained during this research project.
- I understand the anticipated uses of data, especially with respect to publication, communication and dissemination of results.
- I also understand that all interviews will be audio-taped (and possibly video taped in the case of the roundtables) and that because of the nature of my involvement in the research area I herewith waive my right to confidentiality and anonymity.

Finally, I understand that I will have an opportunity to read and comment on any reports, articles or documentary scripts that come out of the interviews that pertain particularly to me. If at that time I feel that something I said has been misrepresented or has now become a sensitive issue, I have the right to withhold my consent in terms of its use.

I have carefully studied the above and understand my participation in this agreement. I freely consent and voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

DATE _____

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

SIGNATURE