

Participant Information Sheet

31st March 2024

Title of research project: VOICE ENGINE

What is this project and who is the researcher?

VOICE ENGINE is a research project that gathers data through focus groups and questionnaires from women who are childless or childfree. This data serves as a platform for expressing and exploring the viewpoints of these individuals. While VOICE ENGINE primarily focuses on childless and childfree women, it also includes the perspectives of childless and childfree men, as well as mothers. The research work is under an umbrella name VERP. The research work is led by Senior Lecturer in Film Production, Rachel Tillotson.

VERP, an acronym for Voice-Engine, Reframing, and Playpen, represents three distinct development approaches with a shared mission: elevating underrepresented female voices in Film and High-End Television (HETV). VERP's core focus is to empower individuals who have been stereotyped or portrayed.

What am I expected to do?

We ask participants to take part in an online focus group (on Zoom) and answer questionnaires which are embedded into the VERP website. Each focus group is 90 mins long. Each focus group will be led by an experienced facilitator and counsellor who has been sourced from Gateway-Women. There will also be a questionnaire to fill out ahead of each focus group and one immediately afterwards. We will be recording each focus group. All data from this will be securely held, privately, on the University OneDrive system.

Do I have to take part?

You do not have to take part and you can withdraw at any point whilst the data is being collected. You can do this up to a week after you have given data; after this time it would be difficult to extract your data from the general analysis. The process is done simply by emailing us via the VERP website

Will I be identified in the project?

You will be anonymous throughout to all participants, we only ask you to include your first name for participating in the focus group. At the start of the process, as you sign onto VERP website we only ask for your name and email address at that part.

What are the benefits of taking part?

This research work aims to seek ways to better represent the underrepresented female voices in Film and High-End Television (HETV), particularly focusing on a better representation of childless women and childfree women.



What are the risks of taking part?

We understand that the subject matter of childlessness can be emotionally challenging. Therefore, there is some risk in taking part that the discussions or questionnaires might be triggering. To mitigate against risks, we would like to signpost some support resource links to help you if you so need them:

What do I need to do next?

Agreeing to take part in the focus group and answering the questionnaires is what we ask for. The information will be on the VERP website.

Will my data be kept secure?

Your data is kept secure on the OneDrive University system, which is private to the University and cannot be accessed by anyone outside of it. It will be kept for the duration of the research project, anytime up to the end of 2026. After that it is deleted. A copy of the University of Gloucestershire Research Privacy Notice is given to participants of the research; this gives more detail on how data is kept and used.

What if I have questions?

If you have a question please contact the research lead and Senior Lecturer, Rachel Tillotson on rtillotson@glos.ac.uk

This research project has been reviewed by the University of Gloucestershire's Research Ethics Committee. If you have any questions the committee's chair, Dr Emily Ryall, can be contacted on email: eryall@glos.ac.uk

Kind Regards,
Rachel Tillotson

rtillotson@glos.ac.uk
University of Gloucestershire

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