*NOTE: This is a sample consent form that should be modified for your study. All the text in red are informational and should be evaluated carefully. Before finalizing the consent document, all instructions should be removed from the actual consent form.*

TEXAS WOMAN’S UNIVERSITY (TWU)

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Title: The Impact of Female Participation in Gangs on Family and Social Problems

Principal Investigator: Jane Doe jdoe@twu.edu 940/898-5555

Faculty Advisor: Leslie Smith, PhD lsmith@twu.edu 940/898-1111

Summary and Key Information about the Study

You are being asked to participate in a research study conducted by Ms. Jane Doe, a student at Texas Woman’s University, as a part of her thesis/dissertation. The purpose of this research is to determine how being a female member of a gang affects family and friend relationships. You have been invited to participate in this study because you are female and are currently/formerly a gang member. As a participant you will be asked to take part in a face-to-face interview regarding your relationships and experiences with being a member of a gang. This interview will be audio recorded, and we will use a code name to protect your confidentiality. The total time commitment for this study will be about one hour and 30 minutes. Following the completion of the study you will receive a $20 gift card for your participation. The greatest risks of this study include potential loss of confidentiality and emotional discomfort. We will discuss these risks and the rest of the study procedures in greater detail below.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you are interested in learning more about this study, please review this consent form carefully and take your time deciding whether or not you want to participate. Please feel free to ask the researcher any questions you have about the study at any time.

Description of Procedures

In order to be a participant in this study, you must be at least 18 years of age or older and be (or have been) a member of a gang. As a participant in this study you will be asked to spend one hour of your time in a face-to-face interview with the researcher. The researcher will ask you questions about your gang membership and your relationships with your family and friends. You and the researcher will decide together on a private location where and when the interview will happen. You and the researcher will decide on a code name for you to use during the interview. The interview will be audio recorded with a digital recorder and then transcribed so that the researcher can be accurate when studying what you have said. An additional time of approximately 20 minutes may be needed to verify information after the interview. The researcher will reach out to you and schedule a time to verify this information over a phone call.

Potential Risks

The researcher will ask you questions about how your gang membership has affected your relationships with your family and your friends. A possible risk in this study is emotional discomfort with these questions you are asked. If you become tired or upset you may take breaks as needed. You may also stop answering questions at any time and end the interview. If you feel you need to talk to a professional about your emotional discomfort, the researcher has provided you with a list of resources.

Another risk in this study is loss of confidentiality. Confidentiality will be protected to the extent that is allowed by law. There is a potential risk of loss of confidentiality in all email, downloading, electronic meetings and internet transactions. The interview will be held at a private location that you and the researcher have agreed upon. A code name, not your real name, will be used during the interview. No one but the researcher will know your real name.

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Initials

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The audio recording and transcribed interview will be encrypted and stored in a password protected folder on the researcher’s TWU-assigned laptop in the researcher’s office. Only the researcher and her advisor will hear the audio recording or read the transcription. The audio recording will be destroyed after the transcriptions have been verified. The transcription will be deleted three years after the study is complete. The signed consent form will be stored separately from all collected information in a locked cabinet in the researcher’s office and will be destroyed three years after the study is closed. The results of the study may be reported in scientific magazines or journals but your name or any other identifying information will not be included.

*\*Please note: Because this study involves the collection of identifiable private information, one of the following statements should be used, not both. Choose the statement that applies to your research.*

(1) The researchers will remove all of your personal or identifiable information (e.g. your name, date of birth, contact information) from the audio recordings and/or any study information. After all identifiable information is removed, your audio recordings and/or any personal information collected for this study may be used for future research or be given to another researcher for future research without additional informed consent.

 If you would like to participate in the current study but not allow your de-identified data to be used for future research, please initial here \_\_\_\_\_.

**OR**

(2) Your audio recording and/or any personal information collected for this study will not be used or distributed for future research even after the researchers remove your personal or identifiable information (e.g. your name, date of birth, contact information).

The researchers will try to prevent any problem that could happen because of this research. You should let the researchers know at once if there is a problem and they will try to help you. However, TWU does not provide medical services or financial assistance for injuries that might happen because you are taking part in this research.

Participation and Benefits

Your involvement in this study is completely voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any time. Following the completion of the study you will receive a $20 gift card for your participation. If you would like to know the results of this study we will email or mail them to you.\*

Questions Regarding the Study

You will be given a copy of this signed and dated consent form to keep. If you have any questions about the research study you should ask the researchers; their contact information is at the top of this form. If you have questions about your rights as a participant in this research or the way this study has been conducted, you may contact the TWU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at 940-898-3378 or via e-mail at IRB@twu.edu.

Signature of Participant Date

\*If you would like to know the results of this study tell us where you want them to be sent:

Email: or Address:

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