Appendix 1- Participant Information Sheet (Interview) (v.2-15032025)

**Participant Information Sheet for Surgeons**

**Project Title:**

**What Does It Mean to Be a Surgeon in Conflict Zones: A Phenomenological Approach.**

**Imperial College London Education Ethics Research Process (EERP) Application / Approval Number: [EERP2425-076a]**

*You will be given a copy of this information sheet*

Thank you for your interest in this important research. We invite you to participate in a project that explores the experiences of civilian surgeons working in conflict zones. This document outlines the purpose of the study and provides details about what participation entails.

**Who is conducting the research?**

The research is being led by Hashem Yaseen, a Master of Education (MEd) candidate in Surgical Education at Imperial College London. He is supervised by Professor Linda de Cossart, also from Imperial College London. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact:

* **Hashem Yaseen**
* **Professor Linda de Cossart**

**Purpose of the Research**

This study aims to explore how civilian surgeons develop their professional identity through their experiences in conflict zones and their participation in Communities of Practice (CoPs). By understanding the challenges, adaptations, and learning processes in these environments, we hope to contribute valuable insights to medical education and professional development.

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited to participate in this study because you meet the eligibility criteria for the research. To qualify, you must be a civilian surgeon who has either completed or is currently undergoing training within the UK training system. Additionally, you should have voluntarily participated in two or more humanitarian missions and have performed surgeries in a conflict zone, either directly or by assisting, mentoring, or teaching others.

Participants are eligible regardless of nationality, gender, or ethnicity. However, you are not eligible to participate if you are a military surgeon, have involuntarily participated in humanitarian missions, have completed or are currently undergoing training outside the UK training system, have participated in only one or no humanitarian missions, work exclusively in non-surgical roles without direct or indirect surgical involvement, or are currently deployed on a humanitarian mission.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, your participation in this research is completely voluntary. Choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. There are no financial incentives for your involvement. You may decide to withdraw at any point during the interview without explanation or penalty. ***You may also decide to withdraw within 2 weeks after the interview*** is completed and all associated data will be deleted. If you wish to withdraw after the interview, please contact Hashem Yaseen.

**What will happen if I choose to participate?**

If you decide to take part, you will participate in a one-on-one interview lasting approximately 45-60 (up to 90 minutes). This interview will be conducted online through a secure platform using Microsoft Teams. With your consent, the interview will be ***audio-recorded*** to ensure accurate transcription and analysis.

The focus of the interview will be on your professional experiences, the challenges you have faced, and your reflections on working in conflict zones. All recordings will be securely stored and deleted after transcription. Only the research team will have access to the data, and your responses will remain confidential throughout the study.

**Potential Risks and Emotional Well-being Acknowledgment**

Reflecting on your experiences in conflict zones may bring up challenging emotions or memories. If at any point during the interview you feel uncomfortable, you may pause, skip questions, or withdraw entirely.

Support resources will be provided should you wish to seek help. Please do not hesitate to inform the researcher if you need a break or wish to discontinue.

**What are the benefits of participating in this study?**

By taking part in this study, you will contribute to research aimed at improving our understanding of how professional identity develops in challenging environments. Your insights will help inform the design of future training programs and support systems for surgeons working in conflict zones. While you may not receive direct benefits from your participation, you can request a summary of the study findings once the research is complete**.**

**Will my participation in this project be kept confidential? What will happen to the information I provide?**

Your participation in this project will remain strictly confidential. Any personally identifiable information collected during the study will be anonymized to protect your identity. All data will be securely stored on a password-protected device, with access restricted to the research team.

Imperial College London is committed to protecting your personal data in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. We will only collect the minimum necessary personally identifiable information to achieve the study's objectives. Your rights to access, change, or erase your information are limited because we need to manage your data in specific ways to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the research. If you choose to withdraw from the study, we will retain the information collected up to that point to maintain the integrity of the research.

**How Will Data Be Used?**

The findings will be used in the researcher’s dissertation for the Master of Education (MEd) in Surgical Education at Imperial College London. Results may also be published in academic journals or presented at conferences to contribute to the broader understanding of professional identity formation among civilian surgeons in conflict zones.

**Withdrawal Rights**

You can withdraw from the study at any time within 2 weeks after the interview, without providing a reason, and with no negative consequences. You can also request to withdraw any data provided before transcription.