

## **Information for participants of the research project SOLID**

You are taking part in a scientific study conducted at the University of Turku. This notice describes how your personal data will be processed in the study.

### **1. Data Controller**

University of Turku, FI-20014 Turku

### **2. Description of the study and the purposes of processing personal data**

School bullying remains a significant problem: worldwide, one out of ten children is victimized repeatedly, monthly or weekly. Victims of bullying suffer from severe psychological problems such as depression, loneliness, and low self-esteem. Bullying is a group process: on average, peers are present in 80% of bullying episodes. Only a minority of these bystanders (10-25%) reaches out to help victims. The silence of passive bystanders can hurt even more than the bullying itself. For this reason, many anti-bullying programs encourage youth to defend victims by standing up against bullies and by consoling victims. But is this the case?

Few studies have examined whether victims actually benefit from their peers' defending attempts. Although some cross-sectional studies identified beneficial effects of defending on decreasing victimization and improving victims' adjustment, alarming and puzzling findings have emerged in other work: defending was ineffective in decreasing bullying, and did not improve victims' psychological adjustment, or even had adverse effects by increasing bullying and exacerbating victims' psychological problems. These counterintuitive findings pose a significant puzzle: why do victims often not benefit from being defended? Do anti-bullying interventions currently include strategies (promoting peer defending) that have adverse effects on victims?

I (Lydia Laninga-Wijnen) have been the first to examine whether defending decreases bullying and improves victims' psychological functioning longitudinally. I demonstrated that defended victims had higher feelings of belonging in their classroom than non-defended victims; however, being defended was unrelated to changes in victims' self-esteem, depressive symptoms, and the frequency of victimization. The aim of the proposed SOLID project is to extend upon my prior study and to identify success factors enhancing the effectiveness of defending.

To this end, students will report on how they perceive the classroom having bystanders during being victimized, being defended by bystanders, and students' wellbeing. The collective answers of all students taking part in these surveys will be analysed simultaneously.

**3. Principal investigator or research group**

Name: Lydia Laninga-Wijnen

Address: Mathaakveld 16, 3993 SR Houten, The Netherlands

E-mail: [solid@utu.fi](mailto:solid@utu.fi)

**4. Contact details of the Data Protection Officer**

The Data Protection Officer of the University of Turku is available at contact address: [dpo@utu.fi](mailto:dpo@utu.fi).

**5. Persons conducting research**

Lydia Laninga-Wijnen

Research group (limited access)

**6. Contact person in matters related to the research registry**

Lydia Laninga-Wijnen [solid@utu.fi](mailto:solid@utu.fi)

**7. The name and duration of the study**

Name of the study: SOLID

Questionnaire answer data is collected from students by means of an online questionnaire three times during the academic year 2022–2023 (in October, January and April).

**8. Purpose of processing personal data**

Scientific research based on public interest.

**9. Legal basis for processing personal data**

The EU General Data Protection Regulation, Article 6 Section 1

consent of the data subject

compliance with the data controller's legal obligation

legislation:

task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller

scientific or historic research or statistical purposes

archiving research or cultural heritage materials

legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party

which legitimate interest:

## 10. What categories of personal data the research data includes

Personal data of participants will be collected, including their names, date of birth, native / spoken language, names and email addresses of parents/caretakers, and names of the teachers. Research data will be stored according to the regulations of the GDPR and the Personal Data Act and finally archived in a completely anonymous format in the Finnish Social Science Data Archive: <http://www.fsd.uta.fi/en/>.

Names of the students or other personal information will not be stored in the data; instead, they will be stored on a separate secure network drive of the University of Turku and destroyed after the project has ended. Participants can also demand for their personal data to be deleted (from the separate secure network drive) before the end of the data collection. Only the principal investigators have access to the data.

## 11. Sensitive personal data

From the questionnaire data and school records it is possible to identify profiles of victims of bullying and those who bully others. Due to technical safeguards and pseudonymization, individual victims or bullies will not be identified.

Sensitive personal data is processed on the following basis, which is based on Article 9(2) of the General Data Protection Regulation:

- data subject's consent
- performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller:
- scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes

## 12. Which sources the personal data is collected from

The names of the students are acquired via schools participating in the study. Names are used by the school teachers administering the questionnaires to give students their personal codes to enter the digital questionnaires, and to form names of the class-members to peer-report questions. In the informed consent forms, parents/caretakers of the pupils provide their names and e-mail addresses so we can send them their questionnaires. Names of the teachers are also acquired via schools. All other data (i.e. information about victimization and bullying) are collected in the questionnaires or from the school registers.

## 13. Transfers or disclosures of data outside the research group

Direct identifiers are not transferred or disclosed to parties outside the University of Turku. The university of Turku uses subcontractors in the execution of its own services. All data is stored on the secure server network drive of the University of Turku. In the online questionnaire system, Wellu, the processor of personal data is a subcontractor of the university, Anders Innovations Oy. The roles and division of work of the data

controller (University of Turku) and the data processor (Anders Innovations Oy) are determined on the contract made between the parties.

#### **14. Transfers or disclosures of data outside the EU or the European Economic Area**

Personal data will not be transferred outside the EU/ European Economic Area.

#### **15. Automated decision-making**

No automated decision-making is used.

#### **16. Principles of safeguarding personal data**

- The data is confidential
- Safeguarding paper forms: paper form (research assent forms) are destroyed when the information has been digitalized.
- Personal data processed in IT systems:

Personal data (name and grade) is stored in secure and password protected Wellu-system, which exists on the University of Turku's secure servers. Research data is stored on the secure, access controlled and crypted network drive of the university of Turku. Only the limited research group has access to personal data and the data controller of the study controls and oversees access. The teacher users of Wellu only have access to the name and grade information of the students of their own schools.

other:

Processing of direct identifiers

- Direct identifiers will be removed in the analysis phase
- Data is analyzed with direct identifiers, because (basis of using direct identifiers):

The data processed in the information systems is safeguarded with the following measures:

- account credentials  password  registering usage  access control
- other measure, what:

**17. Processing of personal data after the research has ended**

Research data will be archived:

without direct identifiers

with direct identifiers

Duration of the processing of personal data: Personal data is stored for 20 years after the end of the funding period. Until that, the necessity to store personal data is assessed every 5 years. The data will be securely disposed if in assessment there are no plans to conduct relevant further research, and at the latest after 20 years.

After the project, the data that can be opened will be archived in the Finnish Social Science Data Archive without direct identifiers <http://www.fsd.uta.fi/en/> if both the caregiver(s) of the participant and the participant give their consent for the archival. It will be made available for subsequent use by other researchers. The permission for such use can be given by the PI of the group (Laninga-Wijnen).

**18. Rights of the data subjects and possible limitations to them**

The rights of the data subject under the GDPR can be deviated from in scientific research with the following safety measures. The processing of personal data is based on the research plan.

- The research has an appointed person or a group responsible for it.
- The personal data is used and disclosed only for historic or scientific research purposes or other comparable purposes, and other actions are also implemented in a manner ensuring that data identifying a certain person is not disclosed to outsiders.
- If the research includes processing of the personal data referred to in Article 9 Section 1 of the GDPR (special categories of personal data) and Article 10 (personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences), in addition to complying with sections 1—3 mentioned above, the persons conducting the research must also compile a data protection impact assessment as defined in Article 35 of the GDPR and deliver it to the Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman 30 days before the research is started.

The following rights of the data subject under the EU General Data Protection Regulation will be deviated from in this research for the following parts:

- Right of access (GDPR Article 15)
- Right to rectification (GDPR Article 16)
- Right to erasure (GDPR Article 17). The right to erasure is not applied in scientific or historical research purposed when the right to erasure would be likely to prevent or hinder processing.
- Right to restriction of processing (GDPR Article 18)
- Right to data portability (GDPR Article 20)
- Right to object (GDPR Article 21)

Reasons and the extent for the exceptions: Participants have a right to ask for erasure of their personal data. However, other research data (questionnaire data, school registers) gathered up until the request will be stored anonymously based on Scientific research based on the public interest as the legal basis for the processing of personal data, if disposing these anonymous research data would jeopardize the aims of the project. This will be assessed case by case.

### **Right to lodge a complaint**

The data subject has the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority if the data subject considers that the processing of personal data related to him/her has violated the information security legislation currently valid.

Contact information of the University of Turku Data Protection Officer: [DPO@utu.fi](mailto:DPO@utu.fi)