



## ***PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET***

*An image database of body modifications to aid the identification of victims of disasters and missing persons*

## **INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN A RESEARCH STUDY**

### **PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH STUDY**

You are being asked to participate in a research project carried out by the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHID) at the University of Dundee. For this project, we will be collecting images of body modifications to establish a database which may aid in the identification of victims and missing persons, for example in a disaster. By collecting a large number of images of tattoos, piercings and other body modifications, not only can we develop a more uniform way of describing those modifications but also establish how individualistic certain body modifications are within a population, social group or age group. For example, when someone is found with a tattoo of a dragon on the lower left leg, the database may be consulted to see how many people have a dragon tattoo on the lower left leg, and more specifically, how many of those have the same dragon tattoo in this location to establish how individualistic this body modification is. This information may help to indicate the identity of a person with more certainty when other (more conclusive) identification data, such as DNA and dental information, is unavailable. The images may also be used to develop computerised image enhancement and automated image comparison techniques for body modifications to help in the victim identification process. The latter is useful when a photo of a missing person with a tattoo is available to compare with a number of photos of victims with similar tattoos.

The research forms part of the FAST and efficient international disaster victim Identification (FASTID)-project, a European Union funded, 3-year collaboration of six partners from the United Kingdom, Germany and Denmark. The FASTID-project partners are INTERPOL, Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), University of Dundee, Fraunhofer Institutes IOSB and IGB, PLASSDATA and Crabbe Consulting Ltd. The University of Dundee is primarily tasked with developing aides to optimize the collection of identification data and developing a more uniform system of recording these data between all INTERPOL 188 member countries. Fraunhofer IOSB is developing technology for automated tattoo matching for use in large-scale missing persons and unidentified bodies databases. It is hoped that the aides will lead to an internationally acceptable format for accurate, repeatable and translatable data recording in the event

of a disaster and investigations into missing persons and unidentified victims. More information on the project can be found at <http://www.interpol.int/Projects/FASTID>

The database of images will be used to research and develop aids for the identification of victims in disasters and missing person investigations, and will not be used for commercial or policing purposes and criminal procedures. This research will benefit relatives of those missing in disasters. It will also benefit those involved in the identification of unidentified remains in both disasters and international day-to-day policing.

### **TIME COMMITMENT**

Participation in the study typically takes **5 minutes**. You are being asked to provide a personal username. Participants begin by answering a series of personal details, after which an upload section will be shown where participants can upload an image of their body modification(s).

### **TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION**

Participation is completely voluntary. Participants have the right to withdraw at any point without reason or penalty within the timeline of this project. If you decide to withdraw from the research, all correspondence and data will be destroyed.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY/ANONYMITY**

All responses are treated as confidential, and in no case will responses from individual participants be identified. Rather, all data will be pooled and can only be analysed and viewed by the researchers of the University of Dundee and FASTID-project partners. The images will not be used in any publication such as journals, unless specific written consent is given by ticking a designated tickbox prior to submitting your details and images.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS RESEARCH STUDY**

The study is being conducted by Dr Jan Bikker at the University of Dundee in accordance with standard ethics guidelines and the Data Protection Act. Contact for further information: Dr. Jan Bikker ([j.bikker@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:j.bikker@dundee.ac.uk)), *Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHID), College of Life Sciences, University of Dundee, Dow Street, Dundee DD1 5EH, Angus, UK*. Alternatively, a contact form is provided at [www.bodymodresearch.com/contact.php](http://www.bodymodresearch.com/contact.php)

**The University Research Ethics Committee of the University of Dundee has reviewed and approved this research study.**