EMAIL ADDRESS:

DATE:

To Whom It May Concern:

I founded the We Can’t Consent to Thiscampaign in 2018 after being deeply concerned about the ways ‘rough sex gone wrong’ is being used by men after they have killed women. The campaign is run on a voluntary basis. The work of the campaign includes;

1. Gathering data about men who have killed or injured women and used ‘rough sex’ defences.
2. Liaising with media about cases and about the campaign.
3. Meeting with politicians, legal professionals, those in the domestic abuse and sexual violence sector and others seeking to effect change.
4. Connecting with those who have been harmed by ‘rough sex’ defences including women injured by men who have used this defence and the family and friends of women who have been murdered.
5. Speaking at conferences and other events about the use of ‘rough sex’ defences.

Until I began the campaign, there was no research about the use of ‘rough sex’ defences by men who had killed women, and I built a database collating cases using media reports and some appeal court information. We also receive reports from women about the ways men have used ‘rough sex’ as a justification for subjecting them to sexual violence. Informed by research and women’s stories, we aim to campaign for changes in law and public policy that will prevent men using this defence and protect women from harm. We are hugely enthusiastic about collaborating with Natalie on her proposed research, as we can use her research to evidence the need to changes to the law and public policy. Also, given our limited resources, Natalie’s commitment to represent the campaign and work with us is of huge value to us.

Natalie contacted us in November 2019 regarding her interest in researching the use of ‘rough sex’ defences. She wanted to ensure her PhD proposal was informed by our work and that her research would contribute positively to the campaign’s goal to end the use of ‘rough sex’ defences. Natalie’s existing campaigning through the Fifty Shades is Abuse campaign and her work addressing male violence, including her work around violent pornography makes her a valuable ally in the work we are doing. After attending a campaign meeting in November 2019, Natalie spoke with me at length about her research and the work of the campaign. She has offered to speak at conferences on our behalf and do media interviews; her experience in public speaking and media commentating will be really useful to the campaign.

We are committed to being the collaborative partner in Natalie Collins’ proposed PhD research at Durham University in the Law and Social Sciences department, with Dr Hannah Bows and Nicole Westmarland supervising. Although we are run on a voluntary basis and cannot offer financial support to the project, we can contribute to the project:

1. Networking opportunities for recruiting research participants and promoting the research.
2. Media and event opportunities for Natalie Collins to represent the campaign and share results of the research.
3. Access to the campaign databases and other research we have conducted.
4. Introductions to key stakeholders.
5. Ensuring women’s voices and the voices of family members and friends of women who have been killed are centred within the research.
6. General support throughout the research.

Some of the potential pathways to impact include:

1. Using the research to build a strong evidence base for law and policy change.
2. Research findings can be included within our campaign briefings to media, politicians and others.
3. Sending out press releases about the research findings.
4. Presenting the research when we contribute to conferences and other events.

Yours truly,

**A strong collaboration will provide significant added value to the academic research project,** placement experience, access to source materials or novel access to research opportunities. A strong collaboration will also be able to provide evidence of existing engagement by the applicant with the partner organisation. There will be evidence of clear complementarities between the research and the partner’s activities, and this can be used to demonstrate the potential impact of the research, but there will also be a very strong academic motivation for the project. There will be evidence of substantive and sustained engagement with the project and support for the applicant by the partner organisation.

Specific emphasis and recognition should be given to the **potential impact and knowledge exchang**e opportunities arising from the collaboration. A strong nomination will be aware of these considerations and articulate potential pathways to impact, which the award- holder will be following during the course of studies.