

If you have any questions, please contact:

Kristin Nash +1 415-755-5627 or

GAIA +26 501 847918

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY**

--Assent Form for Minor Participants--

Study Title: Information, education and communication (IEC) on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) for adolescent girls in rural southern Malawi: a Landscape Analysis

Researcher's statement:

My name is Kristin Nash.

We are asking to talk to you because we want to learn more about what girls in your area are taught regarding their bodies and pregnancy.

Talking to girls like you will help GAIA to educate girls and try to prevent them from having babies too young or when they don't want to.

If you choose to participate, your answers will be saved without your name, so no one will know the information came from you.

What will happen if I talk to you?

If you agree, we will sit and talk together for about 45 minutes, either in your own home or another close and private place. We will talk about:

Where you get information about your body and pregnancy, and what are you taught?

How would you most like to get this information?

I will take notes and audio-tape the interview. Only the translator and I will listen to the recordings and we will not identify you in interview notes or the recording. To protect your privacy, please do not say your name or mention others during the interview.

Will talking to you hurt me in any way?

No. But, some of the questions may make you uncomfortable or upset, and you are free

NOT to answer any questions you do not wish to answer or to NOT talk to us at any time. There is a very small risk that some information may be seen by someone outside the research study. But because we are not recording your name or where you live, the chance of the information being linked to you is extremely small, and we are doing everything we can to protect the data.

Will talking to you help me in any way?

No. But, the information that you provide may help GAIA to help girls from having babies too young or when they don't want to.

How long will it take?

After you decide whether or not to participate, our talk will take about 45 minutes.

Can I stop at any time?

Yes. You can decide to stop at any time. Just tell Kristin right away if you wish to stop talking.

Will I be paid for talking to you?

You will receive a bar of body soap as a thank you for your time.

What if I have questions?

You can ask any questions. If you have a question later you can call **Kristin at +1 415-755-5627 or call any GAIA staff member (+26 501 847918)**, including if you feel like you were harmed in any way by talking to us.

Do I need to ask my parent/guardian/husband?

Please talk this over with your family before you decide whether or not to do this. [Unless married] We will also ask your parent/guardian if it is okay for you to talk to us. But even if they say "yes" you can still decide not to do this.

Remember, talking to us is up to you and no one will be upset if you don't want to, or even if you change your mind later and want to stop.

Your statement:

I agree to talk to the researcher. The interview process has been explained to me. I have had a chance to ask questions. If I have more questions, I understand that I can ask the researcher. If you wish to participate in this study, please respond "yes."