

Do I have to give permission?

- No. It's completely up to you to decide if you want us to observe and take notes. **We will not observe without your permission.**
- If you change your mind, you can ask us to remove your case from the study at any point before the 30th of April 2026 and we'll delete any notes made.

Are there any risks?

If you're happy for us to observe, there are no risks or disadvantages. It won't affect the case. You may feel comforted in knowing that a researcher is present in the courtroom and that we will try use the case study to shape the development of specialist sexual offence courts for victims and survivors.

Could I be identified?

- We will use notes from cases we observe to publish a report, an article, and a briefing for victims and survivors on specialist sexual offence courts.
- It should not be possible for someone to identify you in documents we publish.
- We will quote from case notes but **we will never name you**, or anyone else involved, and we will remove details that could identify you.

How will you keep my data safe?

- Your information will be stored on University of Oxford password protected computer servers. It'll be kept securely for 3 years until after we publish the findings. Only researchers involved in the project will have access to it throughout this time.
- At the end of the study, we'll deposit case notes in the Oxford University Research Archive and the UK Data Archive, so other researchers can refer to them, but only if you give us permission to do so.

How do I give permission?

- Speak to your ISVA, Witness Care Officer, Victim Liaison Officer, the Witness Service, or Crown Prosecutor.
- Speak to your local Rape Crisis centre. You can find them here: rapecrisis.org.uk/find-a-centre.
- Fill out the [contact form](http://law.ox.ac.uk/care-in-the-courtroom/observation) on our project website: law.ox.ac.uk/care-in-the-courtroom/observation.
- Scan the QR code:



- Email us directly:

Natalie Kyneswood (Newcastle or Leeds)
natalie.kyneswood@csls.ox.ac.uk

Alma Ionescu (Snaresbrook, London)
alma.ionescu@csls.ox.ac.uk

Further support

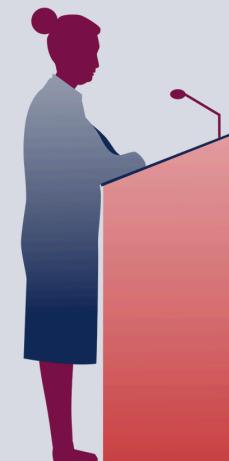
Contact Rape Crisis anytime day or night: **0808 500 2222** or via the online chat: 247sexualabusesupport.org.uk.

This research is funded by Wellcome and has received ethics approval from the University of Oxford Social Sciences and Humanities Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee Ref: 1847247.



CARE IN THE COURTROOM CASE STUDY: SPECIALIST SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT COURTS

Court Observation Victim and Survivor Information Leaflet



You're invited to take part in a research project. This leaflet explains what it's about, who we are and what happens if you decide to take part.

Who is invited to take part?

- Researchers at the University of Oxford are asking adult victims and survivors for their permission to observe rape and sexual assault trials and section 28 hearings at **Leeds** and **Snaresbrook** Crown Courts.
- This includes cases where victims and survivors give 'live' evidence in the courtroom, testify from another building, or give pre-recorded evidence.

What is the research about ?

- 'Specialist Sexual Violence Support' (SSVS) courts were set up in 2022 in **Leeds**, **Newcastle** and **Snaresbrook** Crown Courts.
- We're interested in victims' and survivors' experiences of these courts, the support they are receiving and how they are treated.
- The study will help develop trauma-informed specialist courts for victims and survivors in the UK and internationally.

Why do we want to observe rape and sexual assault cases?

Very little is known about SSVS courts and what victims and survivors think about them. Observing cases at **Leeds** and **Snaresbrook** will help us to understand how these courts work in practice.

Why are you asking victims and survivors for their permission?

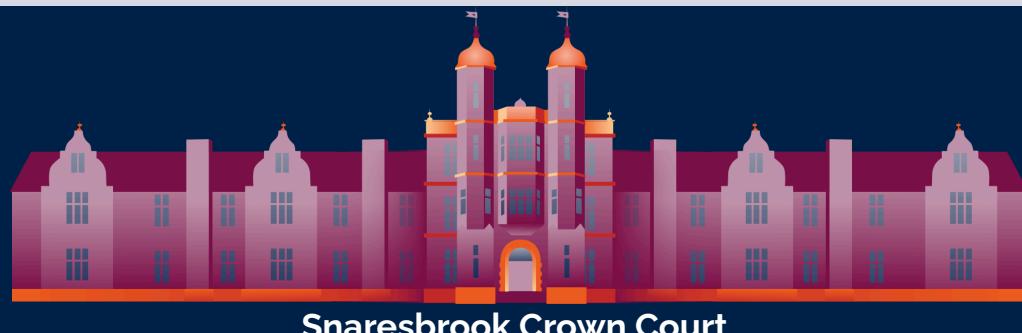
Sexual offence trials are open to the public but we know that victims and survivors may feel uncomfortable giving evidence if there are other people in the courtroom. That's why we want to tell you about the study and ask for your permission to observe proceedings.

How are you trying to reach victims and survivors?

- We're asking people who work in the criminal justice system (ISVAs, Witness Care Officers, Victim Liaison Officers, the Witness Service and Crown Prosecutors) to share this leaflet with victims and survivors and tell them about the study.
- We have created a dedicated 'observation' webpage for victim-survivors to ask us questions and give us permission to observe their case directly:
law.ox.ac.uk/care-in-the-courtroom/observation.

Are you speaking to victims and survivors about their experiences?

Yes. If you're interested in talking to us, speak to your local Rape Crisis centre, email us, or get in touch via the participation webpage of the project website:
law.ox.ac.uk/care-in-the-courtroom/participation.



What happens if you observe?

- Only one researcher will be in the courtroom.
- We will sit quietly taking notes during the case.
- We would like to observe you give evidence in court as well as the rest of the trial.
- We won't talk to anyone in the public gallery.

What information will you collect?

We will make notes of any support or special measures you receive, how these work, and the way you are questioned. We are also interested in how the prosecution and defence describe what happened to you and talk about the evidence you give.

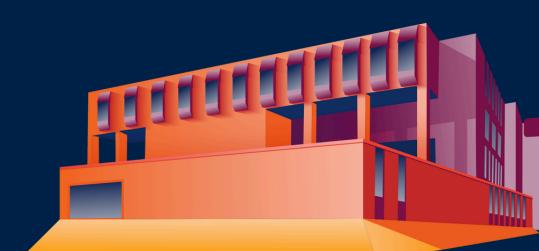
Who is working on the study?



Dr Natalie Kyneswood is observing sexual offence cases at **Leeds Crown Court**. She is a researcher at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford.



Dr Alma Ionescu is observing cases at **Snaresbrook Crown Court**. She is a researcher at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies.



Leeds Crown Court