

## A positive pregnancy test is not always good news.

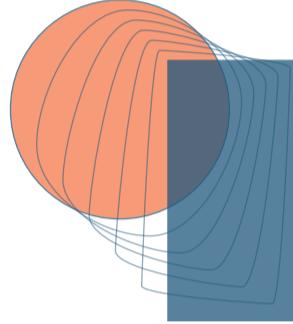
**Have you experienced an unintended pregnancy?**

**How did you feel in that situation?**

**What did you find especially challenging?**

**Who supported you?**

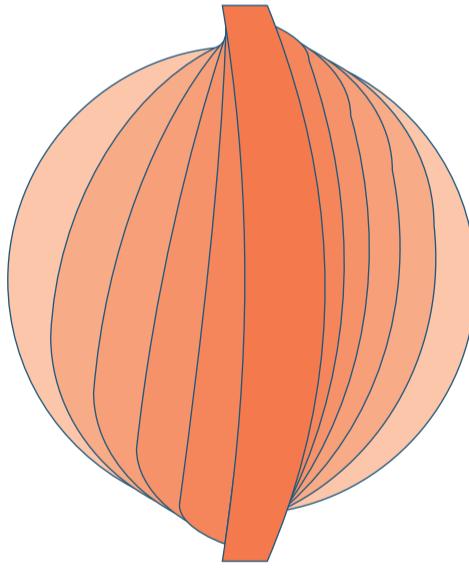
**We would like to listen to you and learn about your story.**



## Who are we?

The ELSA study ([www.elsa-studie.de](http://www.elsa-studie.de)) addresses the experiences and life situations of women with unintended pregnancies. The objective of the study is to find out more about the social and health pressures connected with the pregnancy, each woman's own strengths and abilities, and the support she received.

The ELSA subproject at Nordhausen University of Applied Sciences ([www.elsa-nordhausen.de](http://www.elsa-nordhausen.de)) focuses on the perspective of women\* who may face special challenges due to their life situation. We are interested in women\* who are or have been migrants, refugees and/or undocumented, or women\* who were experiencing violence in their relationship at the time of the unintended pregnancy. The aim is to find out more about the individual strengths and support, as well as the life situations, of these women\* with unintended pregnancies. We want to give them an opportunity to tell their stories and share their experiences. The study aims, on the basis of these personal experiences, to identify areas where support is lacking and to derive recommendations for the psychosocial and health care system. The ultimate goal is to help make long-lasting improvements to the support system.



## We are looking for women\* who, at the start of their pregnancy...

- were living in a violent relationship
- and/or had a history of being migrants or refugees
- and/or whose residency status in Germany was not secure

## What?

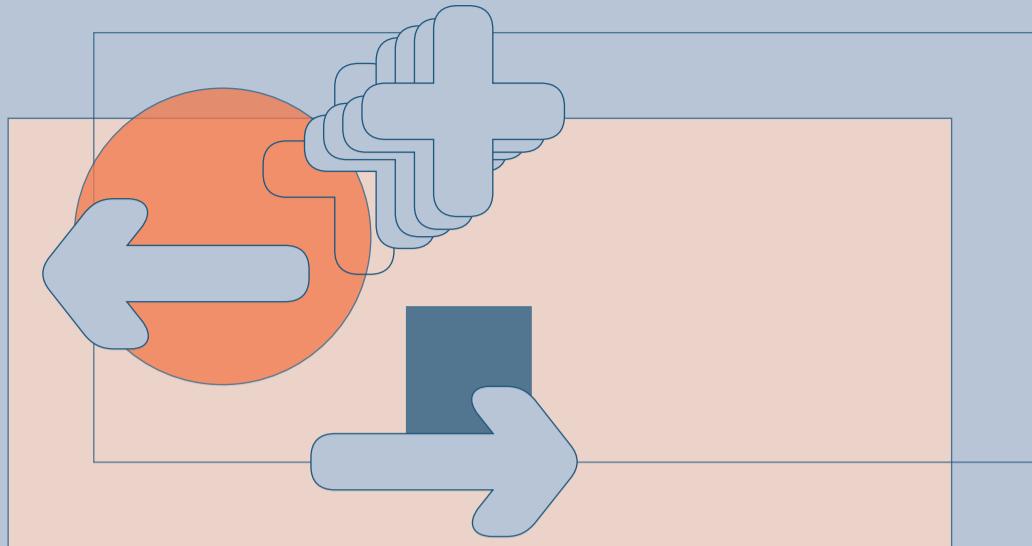
In our research project, we want to learn about your own personal experiences. Were there special challenges? Who or what supported you? Where do you feel there are problems in terms of care and, looking back, what do you feel was positive or negative? The focus is on the time when you found out about the pregnancy: how and why did you decide whether or not to carry the pregnancy to term? And what happened after that? In terms of counselling, health care and psychosocial services: who supported you and where would you have liked to receive more support? This also relates to your social environment, your personal strengths and difficulties. We would like to learn about your life circumstances in two ways: Firstly, in an online questionnaire which you can fill out using your own device or our tablet. And secondly, in a one-to-one conversation. You will be compensated for the time you spend participating in each of these surveys.

We will be happy to meet you wherever you feel safe and comfortable. We can come to the place where you are living, or meet you at the premises of our cooperation partners or at our office in Nordhausen. You choose the location.

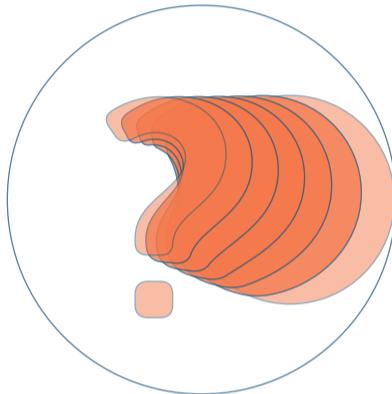
## When?

We are expecting to carry out the surveys starting in the late autumn of 2021. Please let us know the date and time that suit you best. It will take about half an hour for you to complete the online questionnaire. The conversation will last about 60 minutes.

## Where?



## Contact and interview process



After first making contact with you by telephone – at which point you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the project and the next steps – we will talk about where and when we could meet. You can participate in both surveys or decide to just participate in one of them. Once we have arranged a date and time, we will meet you at the agreed location and carry out the interview there using a tablet (questionnaire) or in the form of an open conversation. The interview and its analysis are completely anonymous. If you wish, we can provide you with the published results of our research project.

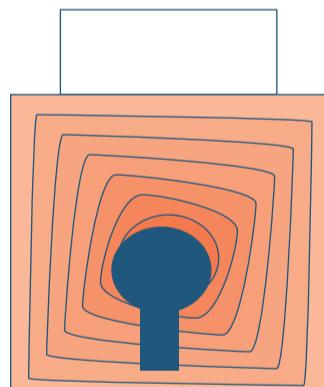
## Some brief facts:

- Women\* with unintended pregnancies in the context of certain life situations
- Voluntary basis
- Confidentiality
- Anonymity
- Option of translation
- Commitment to the woman participating in the survey or interview
- Listening without prejudice
- Compensation for your time
- Goal: to improve support



## Data protection

The data will, of course, be evaluated in a completely anonymised manner. Your personal data is always stored separately from the information you provide, meaning that it cannot be traced back to any one individual. Your personal data is also only stored if you consent to us doing so.



## Contact details

If you are interested in participating in either of the surveys (or in both), here is how to contact us:

[elsa@hs-nordhausen.de](mailto:elsa@hs-nordhausen.de)

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We look forward to working with you and to your participation in the study.