

## #gymnastalliance:

### An international investigation into why women's gymnasts are speaking out about abuse

Dozens of gymnasts have since June 2020 spoken out about abuse in women's artistic gymnastics (WAG). Their speaking out is crucial for the sport to change for the better.

#### **What is the purpose of the investigation?**

The purpose of the investigation is to understand why gymnasts are speaking out about abuse. What factors do gymnasts identify as important for their speaking out? How do gymnasts describe their experiences of speaking out? What outcomes do gymnasts hope to achieve through speaking out?

#### **Who can participate and what does participation involve?**

I would like to speak with current and former women's gymnasts who have spoken out about abuse (openly or anonymously). Participation will involve an interview that I expect to take around 90 minutes. The interview will be conducted using an online communication platform (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Teams) and will be recorded. If you would prefer to speak another language than English, a translator can assist. The recording will be transcribed and I can provide you with the typed transcript of the audio file.

#### **How is your wellbeing and how are research ethics ensured?**

I will create a comfortable interview situation. As a former gymnast and experienced WAG researcher, I understand the culture of WAG and what it is like to participate in it. During the interview, you can refrain from answering questions with no negative consequences.

All information you provide in the interview will be treated confidentially. No other person than me will have access to the interview recordings and transcripts. The information you provide will be anonymized (e.g., names, places, years) and any information published in scientific or other publications will not allow identification of you or other individuals.

#### **Why investigating gymnasts' speaking out about abuse?**

The knowledge from this investigation will provide insight into how athletes can find their voice to speak out about abuse. This insight will demonstrate how sport participants ought to be able to determine the conditions on which they participate. The investigation will also offer sport organizations concrete strategies for ensuring athlete safety, health and wellbeing.

#### **How can you participate?**

If you would like to participate in the #gymnastalliance research investigation, or if you have questions about the investigation, please contact Natalie Barker-Ruchti, Örebro University, Sweden, via email: [natalie.barker-ruchti@oru.se](mailto:natalie.barker-ruchti@oru.se).

*Thank you for considering my invitation to participate in the #gymnastalliance research investigation. I look forward to hearing from you.*

Kind regards,

*Natalie*