**INFORMED CONSENT**

The Impact of the Peace Corps and it’s Use as a Public Diplomacy Strategy in Host Countries

Dear Returned Peace Corps Volunteer,

This research on the impact of Peace Corps is being conducted by Riley Gardner. I am an undergraduate student being supervised and advised by Dr. Robert D. Whittemore, Professor of Anthropology at Western Connecticut State University. Specifically, I am looking at the impact of the Peace Corps from the perspective of Host Country Nationals as interpreted by former volunteers. I have contacted you because you are a former Peace Corps Volunteer. As a participant in this study, you will be asked to fill out a survey of general demographic questions, questions with a sliding scale of agreeability, and a few open-ended questions.

If you consent to participate, I will send a survey of around 30 questions to be filled out and sent back. You are not required to participate; your participation in this research is entirely voluntary and you may stop participating at any time, for any reason.

There are no immediate benefits or risk associated with your participation in this research. Any information collected may be used in the following way: Consolidating the data to analyze it and draw conclusions from it to form my senior thesis project. All data gathered will be kept confidential. Your identity will be protected in the following ways: No names will be attached to any of the information when it is described in the thesis. It will either be omitted, or a pseudonym will be used in its place. Any record of names, emails, or mailing addresses attached to the surveys when sent back will be kept on paper in a locked drawer that is inaccessible to anyone but me.

Parts of the data collected from this study may be used for my senior thesis, for academic presentations, or publication purposes.

A copy of this consent form is available for your records, should you request it.

If you have questions about the study, you may contact me, or Dr. Whittemore, using the contact information provided below.

This research project has been reviewed and approved by the WCSU Institutional Review Board. If you have any questions concerning the rights of participants involved in research studies, please contact the WCSU IRB Chair at irb@wcsu.edu and mention “Protocol # 2122-64”

This study’s approval is valid until 3/3/2023

Before proceeding, **please circle** the following two items, stating that you agree (“yes”) or do NOT agree (“no”) to the following:

1. Yes No I am 18 years of age or older.
2. Yes No I agree to possibly being contacted by Riley Gardner for clarification on any answers provided.
3. Yes No I have read and understand the above consent form and agree to participate in this study.

Your signature below constitutes consent to participate in this research.

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Participant signature Date

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Participant’s printed Name

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Riley Gardner

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