

Council meeting, 27 July 2021

Motion: Cllr Barry Rawlings

Amended by Cllr Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee

Ending street harassment of women and girls

Council notes:

1. Most, if not all, women and girls have experienced street harassment at some point in their lives.
2. Barnet has had a strategy to combat violence against women and girls (VAWG) since 2017. The Council is currently consulting on a refreshed VAWG strategy, to run from this year through to 2024.
3. The VAWG strategy seeks to, among other things, fight domestic abuse and street harassment of women and girls.
4. [There has been a recent post on a local online neighbourhood forum](#), highlighting the harassment that one woman's daughters have faced – examples of this widespread issue. In this post, the resident highlighted:
 - a. The harassment of a 15-year-old girl in school uniform, prior to boarding a bus, and then followed onto it.
 - b. The continued harassment and intimidation of a 17-year-old girl by a middle-aged man at a public transport station, despite pleas to cease.
5. Violence against women, including harassment, is a criminal offence

Council believes that:

1. The harassment of women and girls is despicable and has no place in society: in Barnet, Britain or around the world
2. Women and girls should feel safe, whether they are at home or walking down a street.

Council resolves to:

1. Publish a new VAWG strategy to support the Council in continuing to combat street harassment and all forms of violence and harassment against women and girls
2. Ask relevant Council committees to consider what more can be done within their powers to end street harassment of women and girls.
3. Continue supporting the Metropolitan Police wherever possible in charging those who are violent towards, or harass, women and girls.