

Motion 908 - Violence Against Women and Girls

Proposer – Cllr Kathy Williams

Seconder – Cllr Phil Robinson

This council believes that women and girls deserve to live free from intimidation, violence and harassment. This council condemns all violence against women and girls (VAWG) and notes that it can take many forms, including physical, financial, and emotional.

We want Gloucestershire to be the safest county in the UK for women and girls.

We welcome the launch of the Home Office's new 'Enough' campaign which seeks to educate the public by highlighting VAWG and its various forms.

We are also pleased that our Police and Crime Commissioner has made VAWG one of his top priorities in his Police and Crime prevention plan. We are particularly grateful to the work of the OPCC, Gloucestershire Constabulary and Gloucester City Council in securing more than £1 million from the Government's Safer Streets Fund to eradicate VAWG from Gloucestershire and note especially the introduction of the 'Flare App' which gives women the opportunity to anonymously report inappropriate behaviour directly to the police.

To ensure that Gloucestershire is the safest in the country for women and girls, members resolved that the Council: -

- Strive to become the first public body in Gloucestershire to receive a 'White Ribbon Accreditation' for its commitment and work to end male violence against women.
- Write to all public bodies and Head Teachers in the county asking them to become White Ribbon Champions to show a clear signal that Gloucestershire stands united against VAWG and engage with organisations that help to educate our children and young people about the issue of VAWG, and act as a facilitator between them and our schools such that every pupil in the county receives preventative education.

- Invite the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and Gloucestershire Constabulary to run a session for all councilors on the nature of VAWG in Gloucestershire and what we can all be doing in communities to tackle it.
- Utilise its strong relationships with Head Teachers to invite them to a similar session to ensure that they are supported in combatting VAWG in schools so that we can prevent unhealthy and dangerous behaviours in young people.
- Ask the Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee to investigate and produce a report for cabinet on any steps the county council can be taking to end VAWG in Gloucestershire, in particular, how to engage with agencies that do valuable work in the County, such as the Nelson Trust and GDASS, in relation to training for professionals and support, information and rehabilitation for survivors of violence and abuse.
- Invite the Police and Crime Panel to look at how the voice of those with lived experience can be heard, including about their dealings with Gloucestershire Constabulary, what would make them feel safer in their interactions with police officers and the measures that could be taken to challenge any incidents of predatory or misogynistic behaviour.
- Ask the local authorities, together with the County Council, to review the arrangements for appointments to the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel in order to seek a gender balance in future appointments (noting that currently there are just three women members out of 13 on the Panel).