

To: Mayor Philip Glanville,
London Borough of Hackney
Labour and Co-operative Party

CC: Councillor Caroline Selman
Woodberry Down, Labour
Cabinet Member for Community Safety,
Policy and the Voluntary Sector

CC: Councillor Kam Adams
Hoxton East & Shoreditch, Labour
Speaker of the Council



Dear Mayor Glanville,

Re: Sistah Space Venue Relocation

We are contacting you today as the below signed parties have grown increasingly concerned with the situation regarding Sistah Space and the proposed relocation to their previous address in Clapton. We would like to seek assurances that arrangements are in place to ensure we avoid the loss of this essential service for African and Caribbean women suffering from domestic abuse across Hackney and London.

Sistah Space have publicly stated many times through news coverage, social media and on their petition on 38degrees.org.uk which has nearly 7,000 signatures at the time of writing why the Clapton shop front, even with the renovation expenses already undertaken by the Council, is inappropriate and unsafe for them to return to. This has been exacerbated further by the current COVID-19 pandemic, which we know disproportionately affects Black and minority groups like those that Sistah Space supports.

Sistah Space are clear that they are unable to return to their previous location due to safety concerns and therefore if an alternative arrangement is not found, the service will sadly be lost.

Sistah Space is unique in that it offers vital specialist support for African and Caribbean heritage women in Hackney. We are united in fighting for equality and against social injustice, we therefore ask the Council to confirm their current position in response to the following questions:

- What action is the Council taking to ensure Sistah Space can remain in their current location until at least after March 31st 2021, as they have requested?
- Why is the Council evicting Sistah Space from their current location to a property that is unsuitable for their needs, unsafe and in the middle of a pandemic?
- What assurances can the Council make to ensure that Sistah Space can move to suitable premises once it is safe to do so?

We would appreciate transparency from the Council on this matter and a swift response.

With Regards,

Hackney Green Party

Hackney Women's Equality Party

Hackney Liberal Democrats