



Cressida Dick
Metropolitan Police Commissioner
Victoria Embankment,
London SW1A 2JL

9 July 2018

Dear Commissioner Cressida Dick,

Making misogyny a hate crime in London and across England and Wales.

We are writing to you as community leaders from London's diverse cultural and religious institutions, as well as women's organisations.

In the last year, the global movements #MeToo and #TimesUp have highlighted the scale of sexual harassment and abuse experienced primarily by women in the workplace. However, many women still don't feel safe in our streets.

Across the UK, an overwhelming huge majority of young women (85%) and nearly half (45%) of all women have been sexually harassed in public places. [1] Only one in ten received help after these incidents. Almost half of young women are consciously doing safety-planning, including avoiding public transport at night. Harassment is often amplified for disabled women, LGBT women, black and minority ethnic women and Muslim women.

In 2014, Nottingham Citizens - part of the Citizens UK alliance of civic institutions - used the findings of an in-depth study on hate crime to ask the local police force to include misogyny as a new strand of hate crime in recognition of the fact that so many women experience abuse, simply for being women. As a result, Nottinghamshire Police became the first police force in the country to start recording misogynistic hate crime. [2] Since then, other police forces have followed suit, such as in Northamptonshire and Avon and Somerset.

Categorising misogyny as a hate crime won't end violence against women, but challenging the normalisation of these attitudes on our streets and in public life can help challenge violence against women and girls in wider society. Recording these incidents also provides a vital evidence base. When police forces treat these incidents seriously, women's trust in the police increases.

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) are shortly meeting to discuss a national roll out. We urge you to agree that all police forces in England and Wales should record misogyny as a hate crime, so that we can begin to address the underlying cause of violence against women and girls, which is endemic in our society.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Holtam, Co-Chair, Citizens UK

Sam Smethers, CEO, Fawcett Society

Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner, Reform Judaism

Rabbi Charley Baginsky, Liberal Judaism

Harun Khan, Secretary General, Muslim Council of Britain



Paul Sternberg, Associate Dean, Ravensbourne University London

Martha Jephcott, Student Communities Manager, Middlesex University

Onjali Q. Raúf, Founder, Making Herstory

NOTES:

[1]: Data on violence against women and girls: End Violence Against Women and Girls Coalition:
<https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/about/data-on-violence-against-women-and-girls/>

[2] BBC News: Nottinghamshire Police records misogyny as a hate crime:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-36775398>