

## **Violence against Women and Girls Strategy/Raise Your Voice Training**

“This council notes with sadness the recent murders of Stacey Knell and Karen McClean along with Sarah Everard in London, adding to the hundreds of women and trans women across these islands who have lost their lives in gender related attacks where a man has been convicted or charged as the primary perpetrator.

We send our sympathies to their families and loved ones and we make clear our anger that these women were taken from them.

We are deeply concerned by the rising numbers of violent acts perpetrated against women and we are committed to doing everything within our powers to make Belfast more safe, fair and equal for all women.

This council welcomes the recent developments made by the Minister for Justice regarding a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and so this council agrees to write to the Executive to ask that an open, transparent discussion and consultation about what needs to be in the strategy takes place. It is imperative that the Northern Ireland Executive listens to the voices of women and girls to provide direction and meet their needs within such a strategy.

This council will work with voluntary organisations, such as Women’s Aid, to promote the wider campaign to address violent acts perpetrated against women.

We will ensure that Belfast City Council has an up-to-date Anti-Harassment Policy in place for all council facilities and council run events. This council believes that this should set a precedent for all hospitality venues, workplaces, and events within this city to do the same.

This council will issue a commitment that elected representatives and officers of all genders will engage in training delivered by Raise Your Voice on the realities facing victims of sexual harassment and gender violence.”

Proposer: Councillor Mulholland

Seconder: Councillor Groogan

(To be debated by the Council)