

Women's safety in Glasgow – Motion as adjusted approved.

10 Bailie Siddique, seconded by Councillor Pidgeon, moved that:-

"Council recognises that women's safety is a fundamental right and that no woman or girl in Glasgow should feel unsafe in public spaces, workplaces, or on public transport. However, evidence continues to show that many women do not feel safe, particularly at night.

Council acknowledges that International Women's Day 2025, themed #AccelerateAction, provided an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements while also recognising the urgent need to improve women's safety. Across Glasgow, various organisations marked the occasion, including the Glasgow University Students' Representative Council's Brewing Connections event, Smart Works Scotland's collaboration with Hobbs Glasgow to support women in employment, and the Mitchell Library's Spectacular Scottish Women creative writing workshop. While these initiatives are welcomed, Council recognises that symbolic events alone are not enough to address the deep-rooted issues affecting women's safety.

Council notes with deep concern that Police Scotland has lost approximately 575 officers since 2020, including around 63 officers in Glasgow, significantly reducing visible policing in communities. At the same time, budget cuts at Glasgow City Council mean that while CCTV continues to operate 24/7, it is no longer monitored around the clock, resulting in slower response times and increased vulnerability in critical situations. These cuts have heightened safety concerns, particularly for women, and threaten to undermine efforts to address harassment, anti-social behaviour, and violence.

Council also notes the findings from the Safe Glasgow Partnership, which show that domestic violence against women in Glasgow has increased by 41.2% when compared to the PYTD, and by 47.7% compared to the five-year mean. Rape has increased by 40.6% compared to PYTD and by 50.6% from the five-year mean. Sexual assault has increased by 28.1% PYTD and by 25.1% compared to the five-year mean. These alarming trends reinforce the need for urgent and sustained action.

Council is deeply alarmed by global statistics that highlight the scale of violence against women. The 2023 UN Femicides Report revealed that 85,000 women were intentionally killed by men, with 60% of these cases involving perpetrators who were partners or family members - demonstrating that much of this violence occurs within the home.

Council believes that addressing women's safety must be a city-wide priority and that urgent action is needed to restore confidence in public spaces. It is unacceptable that women are being forced to modify their behaviour - changing routes, avoiding certain areas, or feeling unable to travel alone - because of inadequate public safety measures.

Council recognises that women's safety is directly linked to the primary prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), which requires tackling the root cause of gender inequality. Furthermore, it is vital to recognise the intersectionality of women's experiences. Women of colour, disabled women, LGBTQ+ women, and other marginalised groups often face compounded discrimination and additional barriers to safety and support. Their voices must be included in the development of policies and services to ensure an inclusive and equitable response.

Therefore, Council resolves to:

- Develop a Glasgow Women's Safety Action Plan, bringing together key partners - including the Council, Police Scotland, public transport providers, businesses, and community organisations - to identify and implement practical safety improvements.
- Conduct a city-wide consultation to gather direct input from women and local groups on key safety concerns and potential solutions, ensuring inclusive outreach to women of colour and other marginalised groups.
- Work with Police Scotland to protect frontline policing levels in Glasgow.
- Consider how support services for women can be strengthened to ensure that they are accessible and inclusive.
- Promote bystander intervention and workplace safety initiatives, encouraging businesses, hospitality venues, and public spaces to adopt measures such as the Ask for Angela scheme.
- Explore the introduction of a Glasgow Women's Safety Charter, setting clear commitments for organisations across the city to create safer environments for women.
- Agree that Glasgow City Council and Police Scotland should organise an emergency summit on violence against women and girls to coordinate immediate and long-term actions.
- Call on the Scottish Government to provide targeted additional support to areas experiencing high levels of violence against women and girls.
- Call for the establishment of specialist units dedicated to the reduction of violence against women and girls, and that this initiative be incorporated into the next Police Plan for Glasgow."

Bailie McTaggart, seconded by Bailie McCabe moved as an amendment to delete all and replace with the following:

"Council believes that violence against women and girls (VAWG) is both a cause and a symptom of gender inequality and that prevalence statistics show that women and children are disproportionately affected by men's violence. Council further believes that to make sense of the nature and scale of VAWG and to understand how we can stop it, it is essential to understand it as being caused by

men's behaviour in the context of systems and cultures in which inequality between men and women remains deeply rooted.

Council regrets that great deal of the conversation around VAWG that has emerged in recent years has centred on framing VAWG as an issue of individual women's 'safety' that can be addressed through measures such as CCTV and street lighting; measures we know do not address the root causes of VAWG, particularly given that the majority of perpetrators of VAWG are known to the victim or survivor, as stated by the End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW) a leading coalition of more than 120 specialist women's support services, researchers, activists, victims and survivors and NGOs working to end violence against women and girls in all its forms.

Council is deeply alarmed by global statistics that highlight the scale of violence against women. The 2023 UN Femicides Report revealed that 85,000 women were intentionally killed by men, with 60% of these cases involving perpetrators who were partners or family members-demonstrating that much of this violence occurs within the home.

Council also notes the findings from the Safe Glasgow Partnership, which show that reported domestic violence against women in Glasgow has increased by 41.2% when compared to the PYTD, and by 47.7% compared to the five-year mean. Reported rape has increased by 40.6% compared to PYTD and by 50.6% from the five-year mean. Reported sexual assault have increased by 28.1% PYTD and by 25.1% compared to the five-year mean. These alarming trends reinforce the need for urgent and sustained action to address the root causes of VAWG. However, Council also recognises that increased reporting can also be an indication of crimes against women being recorded more rigorously and welcomes that crimes against women, which always took place but were hidden, are now made visible and discussed more openly and that activities such as stalking, revenge porn, and 'upskirting' are now recognised and recorded as offences. Council commends the work of women's support organisations, including partners in the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership, whose campaigning over many years has played a vital role in pushing VAWG further up the public agenda and encouraging women to report crimes against them.

Council believes that women's safety is a fundamental right and that, while the vast majority of VAWG takes place in or near domestic dwellings, it is also important that no woman or girl in Glasgow should feel unsafe in public spaces, workplaces, or on public transport. However, evidence continues to show that many women do not feel safe, particularly at night. Council believes that it is unacceptable that women feel forced to modify their behaviour - changing routes, avoiding certain areas, or feeling unable to travel alone - because of inadequate public safety measures harassing, threatening or violent male behaviour in public spaces. While recognising that it is not places themselves that make women unsafe, Council nonetheless acknowledges that inclusive urban planning measures can help to increase women's confidence in public spaces and commends the ongoing work of the Feminist Urban Planning working group, which is exploring ways to make Glasgow feel safer and more inclusive for women and other groups such as LGBTQ+ people, disabled people and people of colour.

Council acknowledges that International Women's Day 2025, themed #AccelerateAction, provided an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements while also recognising the urgent need to improve women's safety. Across Glasgow, various organisations marked the occasion, including the Glasgow University Students' Representative Council's Brewing Connections event, Smart Works Scotland's collaboration with Hobbs Glasgow to support women in employment, and the Mitchell Library's Spectacular Scottish Women creative writing workshop. While these initiatives are welcomed, Council recognises that symbolic events alone are not enough to address the deep-rooted issues affecting women's safety.

Council recognises reaffirms that women's safety is directly linked to the primary prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), which requires tackling the root cause of gender inequality. Furthermore, it is vital to recognise the intersectionality of women's experiences. Women of colour, disabled women, LGBTQ+ women, and other marginalised groups often face compounded discrimination and additional barriers to safety and support. Their voices must be included in the development of policies and services to ensure an inclusive and equitable response.

Therefore, Council resolves to:

- Implement the GVAWP city wide strategic plan and implementation plan is now realigned to the Equally Safe refresh and the Scottish Government/ COSLA's commitment to preventing and eradicating violence and addressing the underlying attitudes and systems that perpetuate it.
- Continue to act upon the findings of the GVAWP funded Wise Women led 2021/2 women's safety survey developed in collaboration with Commonplace and Glasgow Girls Club and focus groups of women, most recently this work influencing the development of Where We Stop and Sophie's Stop.
- Welcomes the has creation of a dedicated a funding stream for VAW in the latest Glasgow Community Fund (GCF), and commits to building on the expertise of the existing VAW funded projects.
- Commends Glasgow city Council achieving the Equally Safe at Work Development award in 2024, and how the Council is now working towards the Equally Safe at Work Bronze award that focuses on
 - Promoting gender equality.
 - Preventing gender-based violence.
 - Fostering a safe and inclusive workplace culture.
- Notes that the GCC Feminist Urbanism supported by a cross-party Political Oversight Group work sets a clear commitment to create safer environments for women and girls.

- Notes that the Scottish Government has provided £2,074,875.47 funding from the Delivering Equally Safe, (DES) investing in VAW services in Glasgow, and that DES funding has been confirmed for 26/26 and 26/27 from the DES, and the Scottish government has also appointed a Sustainable Funding Project Board to oversee the development of a sustainable funding model for violence against women and girls' services."

Councillor Bruce, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, moved as an amendment that:

- (1) at the second paragraph between "women in employment," and "and the Mitchell Library's", insert "Women on Wheels and Sunny Cycles hosted their first Ride Bright event that saw over 100 women and non-binary people cycle together at night in Glasgow to highlight the issue of safety for women whilst they cycle,";
- (2) at the third paragraph:
 - (a) remove "with deep concern";
 - (b) replace ", significantly reducing visible policing in communities. At the same time, budget cuts at Glasgow City Council mean that while" with "and that while"; and
 - (c) remove final sentence beginning "These cuts have...";
- (3) after the fifth paragraph ending "...within the home.", insert the following 3 new paragraphs:

"Council recognises that men and boys have a responsibility to prevent violence against women and girls, and believes that educating boys and young men about issues like misogyny, consent and healthy masculinity is crucial. Council welcomes recent progress in the delivery of gender equality education initiatives but recognises that more must be done to prevent gender-based violence in schools. Council therefore regrets that the Scottish Government has further delayed introduction of revised Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood guidance, the draft of which emphasised the importance of consent.

A report by Young Women UK found that young women who had experienced misogyny were five times more likely to suffer from clinical depression and experience long term impact. Council acknowledges the dire need to invest in our mental health services to provide immediate support whilst tackling education around the issue.

Council notes that at the recent IJB budget meeting, there were significant cuts across mental health services including the counselling service offered at the Sandyford Clinic in Glasgow, which supports survivors of rape and sexual abuse and has a significant waitlist. Council acknowledges that there is a high demand for these specialist services.";

- (4) at the seventh paragraph, remove the opening sentence beginning “Council recognises that...”, and replace with the following:

“Council agrees that Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality, rooted in harmful social norms and patriarchal structures that perpetuate male power and control.”; and

- (5) at the list of resolutions,

- (a) at the first resolution, remove “bringing together key partners - including the Council, Police Scotland, public transport providers, businesses, and community organisations - ” and replace with “together with the Glasgow Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership (GVAWP)”;

- (b) at the second resolution, between “consultation” and “to gather”, insert “on the Glasgow Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership’s strategy”;

- (c) remove the following resolutions:

- Work with Police Scotland to protect frontline policing levels in Glasgow.
- Explore the introduction of a Glasgow Women’s Safety Charter, setting clear commitments for organisations across the city to create safer environments for women.
- Agree that Glasgow City Council and Police Scotland should organise an emergency summit on violence against women and girls to coordinate immediate and long-term actions.
- Call on the Scottish Government to provide targeted additional support to areas experiencing high levels of violence against women and girls
- Call for the establishment of specialist units dedicated to the reduction of violence against women and girls, and that this initiative be incorporated into the next Police Plan for Glasgow. ; and

- (d) add the following new resolutions to the end of the list of resolutions:

- Write to the Scottish Government to call for more targeted additional support to both Glasgow City Council and to areas experiencing high levels of violence against women and girls services in the city.
- Write to the Scottish Government to table the Misogyny Bill before the end of this parliamentary term which proposes to criminalise abusive and humiliating behaviour directed at women and girls.
- Write to the Education Secretary affirming Glasgow City Council’s view that the finalised RSHP guidance should be introduced before the start of the new school year.

- Write to the Scottish Government outlining the devastating impact that closing the Sandyford's Counselling Service will have on its service users.
- Support the provision of improved training for school staff to engage with children and young people on issues of misogyny, gender-based violence and gender inequality.
- Bring forward a Glasgow City Council delivery plan for the "Preventing and responding to gender based violence: a whole school framework" to the Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee.
- Introduce a Healthy Masculinity Action Plan for boys and young men with a focus on healthy emotions, positive male role models, and constructive conflict resolution. This should include: promoting the uptake of in-school mental health services amongst boys and young men and a review of how RSHP is effectively delivered, to be informed by young people's views."

During the debate Bailie Siddique, Bailie McTaggart and Councillor Bruce, with the agreement of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendments resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

"Council recognises that women's safety is a fundamental right and that no woman or girl in Glasgow should feel unsafe in public spaces, workplaces, or on public transport. However, evidence continues to show that many women do not feel safe, particularly at night.

Council believes that violence against women and girls (VAWG) is both a cause and a symptom of gender inequality and that prevalence statistics show that women and children are disproportionately affected by men's violence. Council further believes that to make sense of the nature and scale of VAWG and to understand how we can stop it, it is essential to understand it as being caused by men's behaviour in the context of systems and cultures in which inequality between men and women remains deeply rooted.

Council notes that CCTV and street lighting are essential. However, there are other causes of VAWG, particularly given that the majority of perpetrators of VAWG are known to the victim or survivor, as stated by the End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW) a leading coalition of more than 120 specialist women's support services, researchers, activists, victims and survivors and NGOs working to end violence against women and girls in all its forms.

Council acknowledges that International Women's Day 2025, themed #AccelerateAction, provided an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements while also recognising the urgent need to improve women's safety. Across Glasgow, various organisations marked the occasion, including the Glasgow University Students' Representative Council's Brewing Connections event, Smart Works Scotland's collaboration with Hobbs Glasgow to support women in employment, Women on Wheels and Sunny Cycles hosted their first Ride Bright event that saw over 100 women and non-binary people cycle together at night in Glasgow to highlight the issue of safety for women whilst they cycle, and the

Mitchell Library's Spectacular Scottish Women creative writing workshop. While these initiatives are welcomed, Council recognises that symbolic events alone are not enough to address the deep-rooted issues affecting women's safety.

Council acknowledges that Police Scotland has lost 63 officers in Glasgow reducing visible policing in communities and that while CCTV continues to operate 24/7, it is no longer monitored around the clock, resulting in slower response times and increased vulnerability in critical situations. Feedback has shown these cuts have heightened safety concerns, particularly for women, and threaten to undermine efforts to address harassment, anti-social behaviour, and violence.

Council also notes the findings from the Safe Glasgow Partnership, which show that domestic violence against women in Glasgow has increased by 41.2% when compared to the PYTD, and by 47.7% compared to the five-year mean. Rape has increased by 40.6% compared to PYTD and by 50.6% from the five-year mean. Sexual assault has increased by 28.1% PYTD and by 25.1% compared to the five year mean. These alarming trends reinforce the need for urgent and sustained action.

Council is alarmed by global statistics that highlight the scale of violence against women. The 2023 UN Femicides Report revealed that 85,000 women were intentionally killed by men, with 60% of these cases involving perpetrators who were partners or family members-demonstrating that much of this violence occurs within the home.

However, Council also recognises that increased reporting can also be an indication of crimes against women being recorded more rigorously and welcomes that crimes against women, which always took place but were hidden, are now made visible and discussed more openly and that activities such as stalking, revenge porn, and 'upskirting' are now recognised and recorded as offences. Council commends the work of women's support organisations, including partners in the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership, whose campaigning over many years has played a vital role in pushing VAWG further up the public agenda and encouraging women to report crimes against them. However, violence against women and girls continue to remain underreported.

Council recognises that men and boys have a responsibility to prevent violence against women and girls, and believes that educating boys and young men about issues like misogyny, consent and healthy masculinity is crucial. Council welcomes recent progress in the delivery of gender equality education initiatives but recognises that more must be done to prevent gender-based violence in schools. Council therefore regrets that the Scottish Government has further delayed introduction of revised Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood guidance, the draft of which emphasised the importance of consent.

A report by Young Women UK found that young women who had experienced misogyny were 5 times more likely to suffer from clinical depression and experience long term impact. Council acknowledges the dire need to invest in our mental health services to provide immediate support whilst tackling education around the issue.

Council notes that at the recent IJB budget meeting, there was significant cuts across mental health services including the counselling service offered at the Sandyford Clinic in Glasgow, which supports survivors' rape and sexual abuse and has a significant waitlist. Council acknowledges that there is a high demand for these specialist services.

Council believes that addressing women's safety must be a city-wide priority and that urgent action is needed to restore confidence in public spaces. It is unacceptable that women are being forced to modify their behaviour—changing routes, avoiding certain areas, or feeling unable to travel alone—because of inadequate public safety measures.

Council recognises that women's safety is directly linked to the primary prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), which requires tackling the root cause of gender inequality. Council agrees that Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality, rooted in harmful social norms and patriarchal structures that perpetuate male power and control.

Furthermore, it is vital to recognise the intersectionality of women's experiences. Women of colour, disabled women, LGBTQ+ women, and other marginalised groups often face compounded discrimination and additional barriers to safety and support. Their voices must be included in the development of policies and services to ensure an inclusive and equitable response.

Therefore, Council resolves to:

- Implement the updated GVAWP city wide strategic plan and implementation plan that is now realigned to the Equally Safe refresh and the Scottish Government/ COSLA's commitment to preventing and eradicating violence and addressing the underlying attitudes and systems that perpetuate it.
- Continue to act upon the findings of the GVAWP funded Wise Women led 2021 /22 women's safety survey developed in collaboration with Commonplace and Glasgow Girls Club and focus groups of women, most recently this work influencing the development of Where We Stop and Sophie's Stop
- Welcomes the creation of a dedicated a funding stream for VAW in the latest Glasgow Community Fund (GCF), and commits to building on the expertise of the existing VAW funded projects.
- Commends Glasgow city Council achieving the Equally Safe at Work Development award in 2024, and how the Council is now working towards the Equally Safe at Work Bronze award that focuses on promoting gender equality, preventing gender-based violence, fostering a safe and inclusive workplace culture.
- Notes that the Scottish Government has provided £2,074,875.47 funding from the Delivering Equally Safe, (DES) investing in VAW services in Glasgow, and

that DES funding has been confirmed for 26/26 and 26/27 from the DES, and the Scottish government has also appointed a Sustainable Funding Project Board to oversee the development of a sustainable funding model for violence against women and girls' services.

- Agree to a refresh of the Glasgow Women's Safety Action Plan.
- Conduct a city-wide consultation on the Glasgow Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership's (GVAWP) strategy to gather direct input from women and local groups on key safety concerns and potential solutions, ensuring inclusive outreach to women of colour and other marginalised groups.
- Consider how support services for women can be strengthened to ensure that they are accessible and inclusive.
- Promote bystander intervention and workplace safety initiatives, encouraging businesses, hospitality venues, and public spaces to adopt measures such as the Ask for Angela scheme.
- Agree that Glasgow City Council in conjunction with MARAC, GVAWP and Police Scotland organise an event to consult stakeholders on how to more effectively combat Violence against Women and Girls.
- Call for the enhancement of specialist units dedicated to the reduction of violence against women and girls, and that this initiative be incorporated into the next Police Plan for Glasgow.
- Write to the Scottish Government for more targeted additional support to both Glasgow City Council and to areas experiencing high levels of violence against women and girl's services in the city.
- Write to the Scottish Government to encourage them to table the Misogyny Bill before the end of this parliamentary term which proposes to criminalise abusive and humiliating behaviour directed at women and girls before the end of this Parliamentary term.
- Write to the Education Secretary affirming Glasgow City Council's view that the finalised RSHP guidance should be introduced before the start of the new school year.
- Write to the Scottish Government to encourage them to table the devastating impact that closing the Sandyford's Counselling Service will have on its service users.
- Support the provision of improved training for school staff to engage with children and young people on issues of misogyny, gender-based violence and gender inequality including commissioning the development of suitable training modules to help staff engage with pupils.

- Bring forward a Glasgow City Council delivery plan for the “Preventing and responding to gender based violence: a whole school framework” to the Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee.
- Introduce a Healthy Masculinity Action Plan for boys and young men with a focus on healthy emotions, positive male role models, and constructive conflict resolution. This should include: promoting the uptake of in-school mental health services amongst boys and young men and a review of how RSHP is effectively delivered, to be informed by young people’s views.
- Building on the groundbreaking Education Services Girls4Equality work as discussed at the 13th March 2025 Committee and continue to engage and consult with girls regarding their experience of misogyny and similarly to Glasgow’s pioneering Period dignity work co-create a response with them and boys based on their feedback."

The motion, as adjusted, was unanimously approved.