

‘Glasgow Times’ Action Not Words Campaign – Motion as adjusted approved.

15 Councillor Lana Reid-McConnell, seconded by Bailie Anthony Carroll, moved that:-

“Council notes with grave concern the shocking increases in reported rapes and sexual crimes in Glasgow over the past five years. Council further notes that while increases are being seen in every part of the city and that most crimes are carried out in domestic premises by perpetrators who are known to their victims, there are specific safety concerns in relation to public spaces and in the City Centre and this merits a bespoke approach.

Council recognises that rape, sexual assault and other sexual offences are overwhelmingly committed by men against women, and that this includes men across society regardless of race, religion or immigration status. Council believes that all men have a role to play in ending male violence against women.

Council welcomes the Glasgow Times' Action Not Words campaign which it has launched in response to this growing concern.

Council also welcomes the announcements in the recent Programme for Government, including the First Minister's personal leadership on this issue, proposals for a Misogyny Bill, a public health campaign promoting positive male behaviours, multi-year funding for third sector partners supporting survivors of gender based violence which has been a key ask of the Sisters Against Cuts campaign, and emergency funding for services like the ASSIST advocacy service, which is vital and should also be a priority for mitigating actions to address any potential workforce issues arising from implementation of the council's new pay and grading scheme.

Council recalls its unanimously-agreed motion of 3rd April 2025 entitled Women's Safety in Glasgow which included a long list of actions and commitments on this issue. Council therefore agrees that a report be brought to an appropriate committee within the next meeting cycle updating on all of the agreed actions and any other work which is underway in relation to women's safety.

In addition to that, Council agrees:-

- That women's safety needs to be a partnership working priority across the Council family and other city partners and requests the Chief Executive lead a piece of work with the Corporate Leadership Team and Community Planning Partners to take a data- and evidence- led review of existing actions and identify what more needs to be done.
- To write to Police Scotland requesting further insight on data and trends to inform the above work, including analysis of historic vs current offences, as well as requesting an immediate review of resources within City Centre policing and additional proactive action to support women's safety.

- To write to the Scottish Government requesting further detail on the plans announced in its Programme for Government and how these will impact Glasgow, in particular how they will ensure sustainable funding for organisations in Glasgow which support women affected by violence, recognising they fulfil a vital role which public agencies, including the Police, cannot.
- To renew its support for the White Ribbon Scotland campaign and to relaunch this in Glasgow, encouraging all male councillors, staff and citizens to pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about men's violence against women in all its forms."

Bailie McTaggart, seconded by Bailie McCabe, moved as an amendment:-

(1) after paragraph four insert two new paragraphs

Council further notes:-

- The work already underway through the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership Strategic Plan 2025-2030 and the implementation of the Council's unanimously agreed Women's Safety in Glasgow motion of April 2025.
- Glasgow's commitment to "Embed gender equality into council impact assessments, budgets, data collecting and strategies including, but not limited to, the new City Development Plan
- Glasgow Community Fund 2026-29 priority of Challenging Violence Against Women and Girls providing lifelines, advice, and paths to emotional and physical well-being for families and individuals affected by domestic abuse and gender-based violence, equipping affected women and girls with the resources needed to exit dangerous situations, build confidence, and thrive independently
- Physical improvements already delivered through city investment programmes, including enhanced lighting and accessibility improvements in public parks and spaces across Glasgow.
- The establishment of Glasgow's Night-Time Economy Commission and the recruitment of a Night-Time Economy Manager to improve safety, accessibility and confidence in the city centre after dark.
- The continued work of Glasgow City Council, Police Scotland and community partners through initiatives such as Ask for Angela, Best Bar None, Nitezone and wider training programmes to tackle violence against women and improve safety in licensed premises and public spaces.
- The Scottish Government's longstanding Equally Safe strategy, internationally recognised Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Act 2021, plans for a dedicated Sexual Offences Court and wider victim-centred justice reforms.
- The Scottish Government's record investment in services supporting women and girls through the Delivering Equally Safe Fund and Victim Centred Approach Fund, including multi-year funding certainty for frontline organisations supporting survivors of gender-based violence.

Council recognises that while reported levels of sexual violence remain deeply concerning, violence against women and girls is a societal issue rooted in inequality and male violence, requiring a preventative, public health and whole-system approach.

- (2) delete the second sentence in the original paragraph five that begins with:

“Council therefore agrees that a report be brought to an appropriate committee within the next meeting cycle updating on all of the agreed actions and any other work which is underway in relation to women's safety.

- (3) delete the first two bullets bullet in paragraph six that beings with:

“That women's safety needs to be a partnership working priority across the Council family and other city partners.... and replace with the following:-

- To support ongoing work through the strategic plan commitment to “Embed gender equality into council impact assessments, budgets, data collecting and strategies,...” and the city's feminist planning and urbanism programmes to ensure that women and girls' lived experience informs the design of public spaces, transport connections, lighting improvements and future developments such as a future Private Lanes framework.
- To welcome the forthcoming update report on delivery of the April 2025 Women's Safety in Glasgow motion and request that it includes progress on the implementation of the Glasgow Women's Safety Action Plan and associated partnership activity.
- To continue supporting the work of the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership, Community Planning Partners, Police Scotland, the NHS and third sector organisations in delivering a coordinated response to violence against women and girls.

- (4) insert a new bullet after these and before the third original bullet beginning with “To write to the Scottish Government requesting further detail...”

- To welcome the Scottish Government's Programme for Government commitments on tackling violence against women and girls, including the proposed Misogyny Bill, public awareness campaigns, sustainable funding for specialist services and measures to improve justice outcomes for survivors.

Bailie Jenkins, seconded by Bailie Siddique, moved as an amendment:-

- (1) In paragraph beginning with “Council recalls its unanimously-agreed motion” insert a new paragraph to read:

“Council further notes that many women and girls continue to report concerns regarding safety within parts of the city centre and believes that previous commitments and strategies must now be matched by visible action and measurable outcomes. Council recognises that women should not have to

alter their behaviour, avoid particular areas or make alternative travel arrangements due to concerns about personal safety.”

(2) After the ask beginning with “That women’s safety needs to be a partnership working priority across the Council family” insert a new bullet point, to read:

- To assess environmental measures which can improve women’s safety and confidence in public spaces, including lighting, maintenance standards, visibility, CCTV coverage and other features of the built environment, and to identify priority improvements in locations where women report feeling unsafe with initial findings reported to the appropriate committee within one month.”

(3) After ask beginning with: “To write to Police Scotland requesting” insert a new bullet point to read:

- “To engage directly with women and girls, together with specialist organisations supporting survivors of violence against women and girls, to ensure that lived experience informs the development, delivery and evaluation of future safety initiatives and to report the findings of this engagement to the appropriate committee before the end of the Council term.”

(4) Insert two new bullet points to read:

- To engage with Education Services, schools and relevant partner organisations, and to consult female pupils and staff on their experiences, concerns and perceptions of safety, in order to ensure that the Council's work to tackle violence against women and girls includes preventative education and awareness-raising with children and young people, promoting healthy relationships, respect, equality and the challenging of misogynistic attitudes.”
- That the report to committee includes measurable indicators of progress, details of actions delivered since the Council motion of 3 April 2025, an assessment of their effectiveness, identification of any gaps in provision where further action may be required and is presented within one month.”

During the debate Councillor Reid-McConnell, Bailie McTaggart and Bailie Jenkins, with the approval of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendments resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

“Council notes with grave concern the shocking increases in reported rapes and sexual crimes in Glasgow over the past five years. Council further notes that while increases are being seen in every part of the city and that most crimes are carried out in domestic premises by perpetrators who are known to their victims, there are specific safety concerns in relation to public spaces and in the City Centre and this merits a bespoke approach.

Council further notes that many women and girls continue to report concerns regarding safety within parts of the city centre and believes that previous commitments and strategies must now be matched by visible action and measurable outcomes. Council recognises that women should not have to alter their behaviour, avoid particular areas or make alternative travel arrangements due to concerns about personal safety.

Council recognises that rape, sexual assault and other sexual offences are overwhelmingly committed by men against women, and that this includes men across society regardless of race, religion or immigration status. Council believes that all men have a role to play in ending male violence against women.

Council welcomes the Glasgow Times' Action Not Words campaign which it has launched in response to this growing concern.

Council also welcomes the announcements in the recent Programme for Government, including the First Minister's personal leadership on this issue, proposals for a Misogyny Bill, a public health campaign promoting positive male behaviours, multi-year funding for third sector partners supporting survivors of gender based violence which has been a key ask of the Sisters Against Cuts campaign, and emergency funding for services like the ASSIST advocacy service, which is vital and should also be a priority for mitigating actions to address any potential workforce issues arising from implementation of the council's new pay and grading scheme.

Council further notes:

- The work already underway through the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership Strategic Plan 2025-2030 and the implementation of the Council's unanimously agreed Women's Safety in Glasgow motion of April 2025.
- Glasgow's commitment to "Embed gender equality into council impact assessments, budgets, data collecting and strategies including, but not limited to, the new City Development Plan"
- Glasgow Community Fund 2026-29 priority of Challenging Violence Against Women and Girls providing lifelines, advice, and paths to emotional and physical well-being for families and individuals affected by domestic abuse and gender-based violence, equipping affected women and girls with the resources needed to exit dangerous situations, build confidence, and thrive independently
- Physical improvements already delivered through city investment programmes, including enhanced lighting and accessibility improvements in public parks and spaces across Glasgow.
- The establishment of Glasgow's Night-Time Economy Commission and the recruitment of a Night-Time Economy Manager to improve safety, accessibility and confidence in the city centre after dark.
- The continued work of Glasgow City Council, Police Scotland and community partners through initiatives such as Ask for Angela, Best Bar None, Nitezone and wider training programmes to tackle violence against women and improve safety in licensed premises and public spaces.

- The Scottish Government's longstanding Equally Safe strategy, internationally recognised Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Act 2021, plans for a dedicated Sexual Offences Court and wider victim-centred justice reforms.
- The Scottish Government's record investment in services supporting women and girls through the Delivering Equally Safe Fund and Victim Centred Approach Fund, including multi-year funding certainty for frontline organisations supporting survivors of gender-based violence.

Council recognises that while reported levels of sexual violence remain deeply concerning, violence against women and girls is a societal issue rooted in inequality and male violence, requiring a preventative, public health and whole-system approach.

Council recalls its unanimously-agreed motion of 3rd April 2025 entitled Women's Safety in Glasgow which included a long list of actions and commitments on this issue. Council therefore agrees that a report be brought to an appropriate committee within the next meeting cycle updating on all of the agreed actions and any other work which is underway in relation to women's safety.

In addition to that, Council agrees:-

- That existing work is already underway within the Council to tackle violence against women and girls and any future work should build upon this
- That women's safety needs to be a partnership through the existing Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership; working priority across the Council family and other city partners and requests the Chief Executive lead a piece of work with the Corporate Leadership Team and Community Planning Partners to take a data- and evidence- led review of existing actions and identify what more needs to be done.
- To support ongoing work through the strategic plan commitments and the city's feminist planning and urbanism programmes to ensure that women and girls' lived experience informs the design of public spaces, transport connections, lighting improvements and future developments such as a future Private Lanes Action framework.
- To instruct officers to build on the Private Lane Toolkit by developing a cross-service "Lanes Action Framework", bringing together planning, community safety, cleansing, policing, and economic development, to:
 - Identify high-risk and high-priority lanes,
 - explore sustainable funding approaches
 - Coordinate interventions deliver targeted, practical improvements.

And further instructs the Chief Executive to report back to the appropriate committee by the end of December 2026 with the findings of this work, including an updated assessment of the lane network, identified priority interventions and a delivery framework with resource implications

- To assess environmental measures which can improve women's safety and confidence in public spaces, including lighting, maintenance standards, visibility, CCTV coverage and other features of the built environment, and to

identify priority improvements in locations where women report feeling unsafe with initial findings reported to the appropriate committee within one month.”

- To welcome the forthcoming update report on delivery of the April 2025 Women's Safety in Glasgow motion and request that it includes progress on the implementation of the Glasgow Women's Safety Action Plan and associated partnership activity.
- To continue supporting the work of the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership, Community Planning Partners, Police Scotland, the NHS and third sector organisations in delivering a coordinated response to violence against women and girls.
- To write to Police Scotland requesting further insight on data and trends to inform the above work, including analysis of historic vs current offences, as well as requesting an immediate review of resources within City Centre policing and additional proactive action to support women's safety.
- To engage directly with women and girls, together with specialist organisations supporting survivors of violence against women and girls, to ensure that lived experience informs the development, delivery and evaluation of future safety initiatives and to report the findings of this engagement to the appropriate committee before the end of the Council term.”
- To write to the Scottish Government requesting further detail on the plans announced in its Programme for Government and how these will impact Glasgow, in particular how they will ensure sustainable funding for organisations in Glasgow which support women affected by violence, recognising they fulfil a vital role which public agencies, including the Police, cannot.
- To renew its support for the White Ribbon Scotland campaign and to relaunch this in Glasgow, encouraging all male councillors, staff and citizens to pledge never to commit, condone
- To engage with Education Services, schools and relevant partner organisations, and to consult female pupils and staff on their experiences, concerns and perceptions of safety, in order to ensure that the Council's work to tackle violence against women and girls includes preventative education and awareness-raising with children and young people, promoting healthy relationships, respect, equality and the challenging of misogynistic attitudes.”

The motion, as adjusted, was thereafter unanimously approved.

Adjournment.

16 In terms of Standing Order No 5 (12), the time being after 1630 hours, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting, the remaining items of business being 8(d), 8(e), 8(f), 8(g) 8(h) and 8(i).