

## Overview

Rape Crisis Tyneside & Northumberland (RCTN) and the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioners Office have been working with key stakeholders and subcontractors to develop and deliver a campaign aimed at supporting women's safety in public spaces. The campaign has been rooted in research and is a response to the needs of women and girls who have experienced sexual harassment in public spaces and professionals working in the Violence Against Women & Girls space. The campaign launched on 14th July 2023 and will be evaluated in September 2023 in line with the project end date.

The campaign is a feature of a broader [Safer Streets](#) programme, funded by the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioners Office via the Home Office.

## What is the campaign?

The campaign is a social media video campaign which consists of four videos, which are a minute and a half long, depicting women's experiences of sexual harassment and how the everyday actions of men can be humiliating and traumatising for women.

## Who has been involved?

Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland and the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioners Office are incredibly grateful to the women who have been involved in the focus groups, as their experience and expertise have been vital to this campaign. Several organisations have been involved and are thanked, such as Harbour, Women's Workshop, It Happens Here Newcastle, researchers from Northumbria University, Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland staff, volunteers, and clients and volunteers at Women's Street Watch.

## Key quotes..

- 'All I kept thinking was they can't do anything worse to me than what has already happened'.
- 'I kept myself busy when I was on the bus, so he didn't talk to me. I was scared that when I got off the bus, he would get off the bus and follow me'.
- 'In Blyth, a man in a van asked for my number in traffic, and all the cars around were then looking at me.' 'I felt so embarrassed; I felt so shameful'.
- 'When men do this, I don't bother telling people as it is so common'.
- 'Harassers know they're in a position of power, and that is why they keep pushing'.
- 'If you wear something a little bit tighter or short, men believe that you have done that for their attention, not because you like it'.
- 'I was sexually harassed in my school uniform'.
- 'Men sexually harass plus-size women because they think they're easy'.
- 'I miss the innocence I had'.

- ❑ 'I am left with a choice. Conform and not have to live like this anymore or stand my ground and be put down'.
- ❑ 'Women feel incredibly unsafe, and it is so scary to think that women do not trust the police and won't go to the police due to fear'.
- ❑ 'When I am with my kids in the dark, I make us run when no one is around in case anything happens'.
- ❑ 'It is going to take more murders of women for this to be taken seriously.'
- ❑ 'The wolf whistle is planting the seed for further sexually violent crimes.'
- ❑ 'It makes them (Women) reduce themselves, and women have to double check everything that they are doing'.
- ❑ 'If something were to happen, then the first question would be, why were you out of the house that late?'
- ❑ 'Men who don't commit sexual violence are glorified'.

## Key stats..

In the UN Women UK report 'Prevalence and reporting of sexual harassment in UK public spaces' 2021.

### They found the following:

**71%** of women of all ages in the UK have experienced some form of sexual harassment in a public space.

This number rises to **86% among 18-24-year-olds**, and only **3% of 18-24-year-olds** reported having not experienced any of the types of harassment listed.

The report also found that the most common form of sexual harassment was **catcalling/wolf whistling at 51%**, being stared at **44%** and **unwanted touching or groping 37%**. (All ages)

Women aged between 18-24 reported that **catcalling** was the most prolific, with **72%** reporting that they had experienced it.

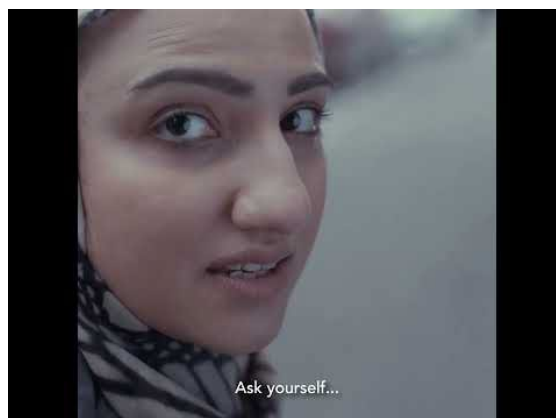
Watch the videos (and access resources) here: <https://rctn.org.uk/campaigns/it-all-adds-up/>

Or watch using the links below..

### Jude's Story



### Maryam's Story



Ella's Story



Caitlyn's Story

