

Amended Motion for Full Council on Thursday, 20th October 2022.

Amendment to the Labour and Co-operative Party motion from Cllr Abby King

Proposer: Cllr S Jenkins (Runnymede Independent Residents' Group)

Seconder: Cllr V Cunningham (Conservative and Unionist Party)

**Title: Tackling ~~violence~~ discrimination against women, ~~and girls~~, men and boys:
Considering acts of Making misogyny and misandry a hate crime.**

Motivation:

This motion is being brought forward ~~by the Runnymede Labour & Co-operative Group~~ to support Runnymede Borough Council's response to a national rise in discrimination ~~violence~~ against women, ~~and girls~~ men and boys.

This council notes:

Women, ~~and girls~~, men and boys ~~around the borough~~ are all subject to harassment and abuse due to their gender. In 2021, there were 20 counts of violence and sexual offences for every 1,000 residents, a number higher than in previous years¹.

Misogyny disproportionately affects those from minority communities. The Fawcett Society notes that 'Not including misogyny within the hate crime framework ignores the experiences of women who are subject to hatred based on multiple factors'².

This is supported by observations from the All Party Parliamentary Group on Hate Crime, which noted that current legislation does not allow for the 'intersectionality' of hate crime statistics to be recorded, meaning that 'the picture that authorities have lacks depth and subtlety'³.

Misandry also affects men and boys in similar fashion. In a recent Crime Survey of England and Wales, 10,000 hate crimes were reported by men.⁴ Additional research shows that 1 in 20 men have experienced male rape and that 4 in 5 men do not feel able to report it because 'they didn't think the Police could help'.⁵

Cuts to police budgets and a decline in community policing in the last ten years have led to a rise in unsolved hate crimes, a reduction in policing capacity to respond to antisocial behaviour and a lower number of sexual and harassment crimes having perpetrators brought to justice

The Council Believes that:

Misogyny and misandry should be recorded as a hate crime and policing resources should be increased nationally to levels above those seen in 2010, to ensure that police forces are able to deal with these new responsibilities.

¹ Brighton Analytics Limited, 2022

² Fawcett Society, 2022

³ Hate Crime Statistics, House of Commons Library, 2021

⁴ Fawcett Society, 2019

⁵ Rape Crisis England and Wales: Statistics about sexual violence and abuse, 2022

It is encouraging to see the support we have seen from our Borough Commander at Runnymede Police in responding to specific violence against women and girls.

~~The Government was wrong to whip against an amendment to classify misogyny as a hate crime.~~

The Council Resolves That:

(1) Runnymede is committed to ending hate crime in all its forms and will work with organisations, including, for example, such as Women's Aid and Pride in Surrey amongst other organisations for a safer Runnymede.

~~(2)~~ (2) The Leader of the Council along with the Chairman of Crime and Disorder Committee invite both the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner and the Runnymede Borough Commander to the next meeting of Crime and Disorder Committee that they are both available to attend in order to brief the Committee as to their current action plan to tackle discrimination against women, girls, men and boys, and to discuss what further steps can be taken and how Runnymede can support these steps at a local level. ~~through the crime and disorder committee, commission a report within the priorities of the Borough Commander, to crack down on hate crime in the Borough and learn how lessons from victims of abuse can improve the Council direct response and its joint work with Runnymede Police.~~

~~(3) The Leader of the Council writes to our local MP, calling on them to lobby for misogyny to become a hate crime.~~