

'ARE YOU OKAY?'

Street Harassment Campaign Pack



**IF YOU SEE
STREET HARASSMENT...
DONT WATCH IN SILENCE.**

**ASK
'ARE YOU OKAY?'**

ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales. CIO No. 1173349



Summer 2022



Are you okay?' Street harassment campaign

Our campaign uniquely targets **bystanders** (those people who witness street harassment) be those Neighbourhood Watch members or not. We were founded on the importance of bystanders taking action when they witness a crime or incident - it's our bread and butter.

We are sometimes falsely thought of ONLY addressing crimes such as burglary or vehicle crime. That's only a small part of what we do. **Street harassment is embedded amongst all communities – as are we – and we have a responsibility and we have the capacity to address that.**

Our campaign focuses on **one simply act that all bystanders can do** that has a large impact on those suffering from street harassment.

For those that can and want to do more, we offer the opportunity to learn and do more actions to address the issue. **See the Street Harassment Volunteer Toolkit.**

Individually we can stand up against street harassment but together we can change the way society accepts it.

By street harassment we mean unwanted behaviour in public areas that includes, but is not exclusive of, unsolicited sexualised or offensive comments or gestures, unwanted whistling or honking, so-called 'catcalling', indecent exposure, stalking or being followed, intrusive staring, persistent sexual advances, unwanted touching, being insulted or shouted at, or feeling physically threatened.



Are you okay?' Street harassment campaign

Street harassment is an issue for all people – not just those who experience it. Everyone should be able to feel safe in public spaces without the fear of being harassed.

For those who experience street harassment, it is often not an isolated incident. We know the long-term impact can be detrimental to their mental health and change their behaviour. It limits their ability to be in public spaces. They often feel guilty and ashamed, putting the blame on themselves.

Witnessing street harassment and not safely intervening, sends the message to those experiencing it that its okay and society normalises it. Ongoing acceptance of street harassment contributes to a toxic culture.

SEE SOMEONE BEING
HARASSED IN PUBLIC?

WHEN YOU FEEL SAFE, ASK THEM...

'ARE YOU OKAY?'

THOSE THREE LITTLE WORDS
LET THEM KNOW
YOU STAND BY THEM, AND THAT
STREET HARASSMENT IS NEVER OKAY.

IF YOU SEE IT. ASK IT.



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We can all do this small yet powerful act, so our campaign targets ALL those who witness street harassment. By asking 'Are you okay?' we become **active bystanders** safely intervening on behalf of someone.

SEE SOMEONE IN PUBLIC BEING
HARRASSED?



WHEN YOU
HEAR THEM
ASK THEM

Are you okay?

THOSE THREE LITTLE WORDS

LET THEM KNOW

YOU STAND BY THEM, AND THAT

STREET HARASSMENT IS NEVER OKAY.

IF YOU SEE IT, ASK IT.

NEIGHBOURLY - COMMUNITY FOCUSED - INCLUSIVE - PROACTIVE - TRUSTED - COLLABORATIVE

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Are you okay?' Street harassment campaign

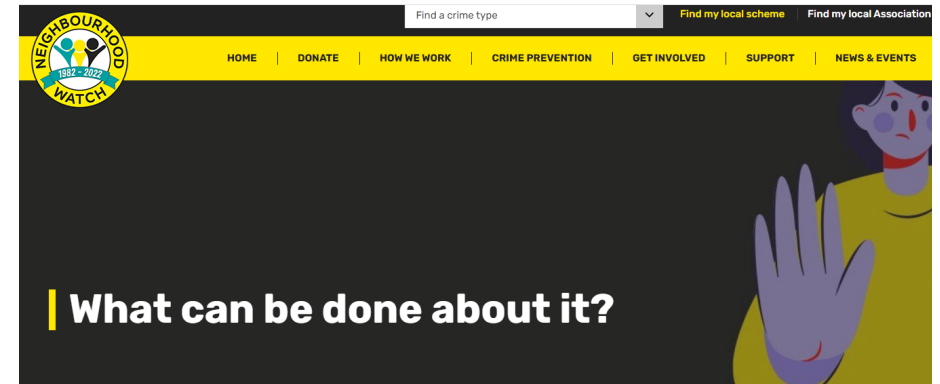


The campaign is an awareness raising and behaviour change campaign that directs people to our [Street Harassment website pages](#) to learn more about the issue and how everyone can actively, simply and safely play a part in addressing it.

We invite you to support our campaign using any of our variety of offline and online resources. You can use these at any point.

The following pages are also useful:

- [Being an active bystander](#) (to understand what being an active bystander means)
- [Community Safety Charter](#) (anyone can sign up to our Charter)
- [ARE YOU OKAY? Campaign](#) (for those wanting to share the campaign)



Home > Crime prevention > Crime types > Street harassment > What can be done about it?

Share page <

Often people are so resigned to constant harassment and abuse that they believe it is something they must put up with, as though it's part of daily life. Everyone needs to make it clear that they find all forms of harassment unacceptable and take a stand against it.

Witnessing street harassment and not safely intervening sends the message to those experiencing and perpetrating it that it's okay and that society considers the behaviour acceptable.

Acceptance of street harassment contributes to a toxic culture that perpetuates inequality by denying equal access to public spaces. Public spaces should be safe and inclusive for all.

What can I do if I see it happen?

Street harassment

Understanding street harassment

What can be done about it?

Report and support

BREAK OUT

Are you okay?' Street harassment campaign



Download the following resources to raise awareness and help change behaviour

VIDEOS

- ['Are you okay?' video landscape](#)
- ['Are you okay?' video portrait](#)

PRESENTATION

- [Understanding Street Harassment Powerpoint presentation](#)

PRINTABLES

- [A4 printable posters](#)
- [Printable flyers](#)



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Download the following resources to raise awareness and help change behaviour

Facebook / Instagram

- [Text-only image](#)
- [Bystander image 1](#)
- [Bystander image 2](#)
- [Bystander image 3](#)
- [Bystander image 4](#)
- [Bystander image 5](#)
- [Bystander image 6](#)
- [Bystander image 7](#)
- [Bystander image 8](#)
- [Bystander image 9](#)
- [Bystander image 10](#)
- [Bystander image 11](#)
- [Bystander image 12](#)

Twitter / LinkedIn

- [Text-only image](#)
- [Bystander image 1](#)
- [Bystander image 2](#)
- [Bystander image 3](#)
- [Bystander image 4](#)
- [Bystander image 5](#)
- [Bystander image 6](#)
- [Bystander image 7](#)
- [Bystander image 8](#)
- [Bystander image 9](#)
- [Bystander image 10](#)
- [Bystander image 11](#)
- [Bystander image 12](#)



All channels

- ['Are you okay?' video for social](#)

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Are you okay?' Street harassment campaign

Suggested copy for social media posts – please feel free to use these or adapt them to suit you

- The UK is facing an epidemic of violence against women and girls. Together we need to make it clear that all forms of harassment are unacceptable and take a stand against it. If you see someone being harassed on the street, when it is safe to do so, ask them #AreYouOkay? This lets them know that you stand by them and that #StreetHarassment is never okay!
www.ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment
- See someone sexually harassed in public? When it is safe to do so, ask them #AreYouOkay? This lets them know that you stand by them and that #StreetHarassment is never okay! www.ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment
- See someone physically threatened in public? When it is safe to do so, ask them #AreYouOkay? This lets them know that you stand by them and that #StreetHarassment is never okay! www.ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment
- Honking or whistling at someone in public areas when they don't want it is #StreetHarassment. If you see it, ask the person experiencing it, #AreYouOkay? This lets them know that you stand by them. Find out more ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment
- We are calling on everyone to stand up against street harassment. There are many ways we can all do this safely irrespective of age, gender, race, or ethnicity. Start with asking #AreYouOkay? when you witness someone who has experienced it. There is more you can do though – have a look at www.ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment



Are you okay?' Street harassment campaign

Suggested copy for social media posts – please feel free to use these or adapt them to suit you

- Often victims are so resigned to constant street harassment that they believe it is something they must put up with. We don't think this is right. If you see someone being harassed on the street, when it is safe to do so, ask them #AreYouOkay? This let's them know that you stand by them and that #StreetHarassment is never okay! www.ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment
- 82% of women and 42% of men feel fairly or very unsafe walking alone in a park or open space after dark (Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Feb – March 2022). 50% of all women feel unsafe in a quiet street close to home, 48% on public transport and 45% in a busy public space. If you see someone being harassed on the street, when it is safe for you to do so, ask them #AreYouOkay? This let's them know that you stand by them and that #StreetHarassment is never okay! www.ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment
- The cumulative effect of unwanted sexualized comments and gestures in public spaces can cause the person being harassed to feel a heightened sense of anxiety, or to be “on edge” at all times. It limits their ability to be in public. Someone may avoid leaving their home for fear of being harassed, impacting on access to employment, education and public spaces. We have a collective responsibility to stand up against harassment. If you witness it, ask the victim #AreYouOkay? This let's them know that you stand by them and that #StreetHarassment is never okay! www.ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment

Please use #AreYouOkay?, tag Neighbourhood Watch Network and link to ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment in all your posts

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