



Council – 6 March 2025

Notice of Motion - International Women's Day 2025 "Accelerating Action on Violence Against Women and Girls".

Notice of Motion from Councillors Rob Stewart, Andrea Lewis, David Hopkins, Alyson Anthony, Louise Gibbard, Robert Smith, Elliott King, Hayley Gwilliam, Robert Francis-Davies, Andrew Stevens, Cyril Anderson, Erika Kirchner & Lesley Walton

Ahead of International Women's Day 2025, this Council pledges its ongoing commitment to a diverse, equitable and inclusive Swansea, and supports this year's IWD theme of "Accelerate Action".

This Council welcomes the UK Labour Government's commitment to halve Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in the next decade, and we recognise the important role of local government in turning the tide of VAWG in our communities.

We note in the UK an estimated one in four women experience domestic abuse in their lifetime and an average of one woman per week is killed at the hands of their male partner or ex-partner (ONS, 2023). Furthermore, annually, domestic abuse costs the public purse an estimated £78 billion per year (Women's Aid, ResPublica, 2023).

We note the national Women's Aid campaign which is calling on Councils to pass a 'Motion for Change' and welcome the opportunity to restate our dedication to addressing the epidemic of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV).

Swansea has a strong record on the pledges Women's Aid are asking Council's to make. We already:

- Work with survivors and local specialist services to understand the impact of VAWDASV in Swansea and have developed a strategy to address this;
- Ensure comprehensive education on healthy relationships is available in all schools across Swansea; and
- Have a Domestic Abuse Champion, to hold the council to account on these pledges and amplify the voice of survivors.

This Council commits to further action to tackle this important issue. We pledge to:

- Maintain partnership working with vital third sector organisations
- Continue the important work with young people of our community cohesion team in tackling misogyny
- Move our new 'Honour Based Abuse' forum forward with support from Council services and other stakeholders
- Lobby UK government, Welsh government and the police for harsher sentencing and for protection orders to be enforced