We are deeply saddened by the tragic and senseless murder of Sarah Everard and the devastation her death has caused to her family and friends.

The outpouring of grief, of women sharing their experiences of feeling unsafe, and the subsequent vigil at Clapham Common caused many of us to spend time reflecting on our own safety and vulnerability. It is not only cis women who are impacted, but also and especially trans women, non-binary and gender non-confirming people who experience the same violence, fear, harassment and misogyny.

Sarah Everard’s death is one in a long line of women who have died as a result of gender-based violence, which also took the lives of Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman last year. Three women die each week as a result of domestic violence.

We all play a part in keeping each other safe and making each other feel safe. We can, and we should, take an active role in making change by speaking up as allies – and that goes for all of us.

Practical steps men can take include:

- Giving women space, especially after dark
- Not engaging with a woman when she is on her own
- Being mindful not to block entrances and exits on roads, trains or other public transport
- Being an active bystander through challenging inappropriate behaviour or comment
- Raising your sons to respect women and have good boundaries.

Above all, understanding that women are made to feel unsafe and feel concern for the safety of our friends. Listen to your friends and colleagues, take this fear seriously and consider what you can do to make society a safer place for women and trans, intersex and gender non-conforming (TIGNC) people.

Support, resources and further reading

If you have experienced bullying or harassment, you can speak to one of City’s Harassment Advisers and report it through our You Report We Support tool.

If you would like to speak to somebody at City, you can contact our Student Counselling team or our Chaplaincy team.

For further support, you can contact Victim support, rape crisis helpline or the Samaritans.

If you want to educate yourself further on this topic, here is a link to the Violence against women reading list from the Equality and Human Rights commission.

This message is from:

CityUniWomen
LGBTQ+ Network
Religion & Belief
FACE (Family and Carers Exchange Network)
Network for Racial Justice
Disability Network