

**COUNCIL**

**25 JANUARY 2024**

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT: NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 4.8.12**

The following motion has been submitted, due notice of which has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

**White Ribbon Motion**

Across the UK misogyny, harassment and violence towards women and girls is endemic. The White Ribbon campaign is at the forefront of campaigning to both end domestic violence and to eradicate attitudes that condone domestic abuse. This motion highlights their work and how North Herts council can support them.

This Council notes that:

- ONS figures show that almost one in three women aged 16-59 will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, that two women a week in England and Wales are killed by a current or former partner, that over half a million women are raped or sexually assaulted each year and that a YouGov poll shows that a third of girls have experienced sexual harassment in schools;
- North Hertfordshire Council is proud to actively support organisations who have continually fought for the safety and protection of women.
- According to crime-survey and other government data, victims disproportionately come from demographic groups that already experience inequality and additional challenges in our society, including those who are mixed-race, have disabilities, or are transgender.

This Council further notes that:

- White Ribbon UK is the leading charity with a mission to end male violence against women and part of the global White Ribbon movement.
- White Ribbon Day is marked annually on 25<sup>th</sup> November, the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women, by encouraging men and boys to pledge never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women and to show this by wearing a white ribbon on the day and a week or two afterwards; and
- White Ribbon UK operate a system of male Ambassadors and female Champions all with the aim of encouraging men to take the pledge and help to eradicate male violence against women.

This Council believes male violence against women can never be condoned and North Hertfordshire Council should do everything in its power to ensure women are safe. As part of this, the council should facilitate and encourage participation by councillors and staff in the White Ribbon Campaign.

**This Council therefore resolves to:**

- 1) Encourage all male councillors to take the White Ribbon pledge to never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women.**
- 2) Work towards White Ribbon accreditation, joining the large number of public sector bodies that have already done so.**
- 3) Mark White Ribbon Day on 25 November each year (aim for 2024, if not 2025) and encourage participation among councillors, council staff and local organisations.**
- 4) Continue to work with organisations and support campaigns for the end of violence against women and the promotion of healthy relationships.**
- 5) Ask the leader and deputy leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education to request further work be done in support of all elements of this motion.**
- 6) Call out all forms of sexual objectification and all its negative outcomes and encourage others to do the same. Championing the wellbeing of everyone, particularly of women and girls, and encouraging the education of everyone, particularly of men and boys.**

**Proposed by: Councillor Sean Prendergast.**

**Seconded by: Councillor Alistair Willoughby.**