

HOW TO GUIDE: MEETING MY MP



Campaign Overview

From parks, university campuses and bus stops to our local high streets, girls across the UK are facing harassment every day. They're being followed, shouted at, touched, groped and grabbed – and they want it to stop. This relentless harassment is holding girls and women back – impacting their mental health, restricting their freedom and making them feel unsafe. This has to end.

Harassment of girls is going unreported and unpunished. It's time to make it a crime. That's why [Our Streets Now](#) and [Plan International UK](#) came together to launch the **#CrimeNotCompliment** campaign to call for public sexual harassment to be made a crime.

Why it is important to get MPs on board

In order to strengthen the law on public sexual harassment, Our Streets Now and Plan International UK have commissioned leading human rights lawyers to develop a cutting-edge legislative solution – a draft bill. If passed by the UK Parliament, this bill would become law and create effective, unprecedented protection for girls and women from public sexual harassment in the UK.

But we won't be able to get this important bill passed without widespread support from Members of Parliament (MPs) – that's where you come in. We need as many people as possible to contact their local MP and ask for their support.

How to meet with your MP

STEP 1

Find out who your MP is and their constituency contact details by entering your postcode [here](#).

STEP 2

Contact your MP via email or telephone and ask to meet with them to tell them about the campaign. They will likely have 'constituency surgery hours' – this is time set aside for MPs to meet with their constituents to talk about issues that matter to them. You may be asked to book an appointment. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is unlikely that you will be able to meet your MP in person and so we advise that you meet with your MP virtually via a video call, and ensure to follow all government coronavirus advice. Do let us know when you get your meeting booked in on supporterquestions@plan-uk.org and if you would like any support.

STEP 3

Prepare in advance what you want to say. Here is some guidance:

The problem: Explain that the issue of public sexual harassment is widespread and is having a huge impact on girls and holding them back. New statistics from the campaign show that half of all UK girls experienced harassment this Summer.

Make it personal: If you feel comfortable, then share why this issue matters to you and how it has impacted you. You could get creative and draw a map of your local streets, for example your route to school or work, to show where you feel harassment most commonly occurs. Or if you are a parent, you could share how this issue makes you feel – new national statistics from the campaign show 80% of parents in the UK worry their daughter will experience public sexual harassment during her lifetime.

The Solution: Explain that current UK legislation is not fit for purpose and is leaving girls unprotected. Across the world, a number of countries have put in place specific legislation to address public sexual harassment in its entirety, but the UK is lagging behind. But the #CrimeNotCompliment campaign is presenting an opportunity to catch up in the form of a parliament-ready bill. Share with your MP this [briefing document](#) which outlines more details.

Ask for their support: Make sure you end by asking your MP for their support to ensure this important bill gets passed. We are currently working towards getting the bill introduced as a Private Members Bill. Ask if your MP supports the campaign and if they will use their position to support a change in the law. Ask if they can spread the word with their colleagues and on social media.

There is lots more information and tips on contacting your MP in Plan International UK's '[Act For Girls: Influence](#)' guide.

Follow up

It is vital to remember to follow up after your meeting:

- Email your MP to thank them for their time, summarise the meeting and to specify any actions they have agreed to take.
- Email the campaign on supporterquestions@plan-uk.org and let us know how you got on.
- Share on social media using #CrimeNotCompliment and tag your MP to spread the word about your meeting.

And well done! A huge thank you for being a vital part of the #CrimeNotCompliment campaign. Please don't hesitate to get in touch at the above email address if you have any questions. And [click here](#) for more ways you can support the campaign.

Yes, you did it!

