



Women's Equality Party Conference

26 November 2022

Title: **Funding crime prevention**

Proposed by: **Mandu Reid, Leader of the Women's Equality Party**

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Type of motion: **Special debate**

Motion text:

1 Conference notes that women's trust in police has hit rock bottom following the:

- 2 • murder of Sarah Everard by a serving police officer;
- 3 • discovery that two police officers took photos of murdered sisters Nicole Smallman and Bibaa
- 4 Henry and shared them in a WhatsApp group;¹
- 5 • allegations that resulted in ten charges being brought against PC Matthew Tregale, including
- 6 sexual assault, attempted rape and false imprisonment;²
- 7 • decision to strip-search a 15-year-old black girl at her school without an adult present;³
- 8 • findings that only 6 out of 104 women who reported police perpetrated domestic abuse would
- 9 feel confident to report again;⁴
- 10 • investigation by the Independent Office for Police Conduct, which found that police officers
- 11 exchanged highly offensive racist, sexist and homophobic messages and that these incidents
- 12 were "not isolated or simply the behaviour of a few bad apples"⁵

13 It further notes that:

- 14 • only 2.9% of all sexual offences and 1.3% of rapes in England and Wales result in a charge,
- 15 despite the highest ever number of cases being reported.⁶

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-59474472>

² <https://news.sky.com/story/matthew-tregale-devon-police-officer-accused-of-attempted-rape-false-imprisonment-and-sexual-assault-12659567>

³ <https://chscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Child-Q-PUBLISHED-14-March-22.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-super-complaints-force-response-to-police-perpetrated-domestic-abuse/police-perpetrated-domestic-abuse-report-on-the-centre-for-womens-justice-super-complaint>

⁵ <https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Operation%20Hotton%20Learning%20report%20-%20January%202022.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-year-to-september-2021-data-tables>



16 Conference believes that:

- 17 • unchecked institutional misogyny and racism prevents the police from being able to play an
18 effective role in detecting and deterring violence against women and girls;
19 • police leaders have shown that they are incapable of delivering the reform required;
20 • there are multiple factors that increase men's perpetration of, and women's risk of experiencing,
21 violence that need to be tackled in order to end violence against women and girls.

22 I call on Conference to debate the following proposal as a possible solution to address this:

23 Metro Mayors and Police (and Fire) and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales should redirect
24 the majority of the council tax precept (totalling £4.9bn in 2022-23) towards violence prevention
25 programmes, specialist women's services, social welfare and / or trauma informed initiatives.

Motion rationale:

26 Following the murders of Sarah Everard, Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry, there were a number of
27 high-profile revelations that demonstrated the scale of police perpetrated abuse. The response from
28 politicians and police (such as increased CCTV, street lighting and nightclub patrols) failed entirely to
29 tackle the root causes of violence against women and girls, and came before any work had been done
30 to properly confront police failings – including the institutionalised racism and misogyny underpinning
31 them. That is why I called on government to *stop managing violence and start preventing it*.

32 The Women's Equality Party was created with six core goals. We always understood that in order to
33 make real progress on any of our goals, we needed to make progress on all of them. Violence against
34 women and girls is both a cause and consequence of women's inequality, and that is why a criminal
35 justice response should never be the main response to it.

36 There is a range of factors that increase men's perpetration of, and women's risk of experiencing,
37 violence that need to be tackled in order to end violence against women and girls. Yet the
38 Conservative government has shown its intention to return to austerity with deep cuts to social welfare
39 and public services, further driving the inequalities that enable violence against women and girls to
40 thrive. In the face of this, we must unapologetically call for increased investment in prevention.
