

Swale Borough Council Notes that White Ribbon Day 2024 was observed on 25th November and coincides with the United Nation's Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Council acknowledges the significance of this day in raising awareness about men's violence against women and girls, and the importance of prioritising Primary Prevention to stop violence from happening in the first place.

The council acknowledges the work of the community safety team and the use of safer streets funding to protect the health, safety and well being of women and girls in Swale, particularly those who are victims of domestic abuse. Council also acknowledges the incredibly hard work of the voluntary sector in Swale, in particular SATEDA, Clarion and New Leaf who continue to provide high quality services to some of Swale's most vulnerable women who have fled the most horrific circumstances.

The council recognises that the Autumn budget failed to recognise the need for funding to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls and expresses concerns that funding streams from the Police and Crime Commissioner are coming to an end.

The council recognise the ongoing need to address and prevent violence against women and girls, and the need to engage men and boys throughout society. This includes in education, in workplaces, communities and online.

The council acknowledges the critical role that we play in shaping and implementing policies that prioritise preventing violence against women and girls and helping to create a more equal society where all individuals, regardless of gender, can live freely without the fear of violence.

Council calls upon all Members to:

- Include the Primary Prevention of violence against women and girls within all policy and strategies across all the council's departments, alongside responses to gender-based violence.
- Develop and implement comprehensive Primary Prevention strategies involving and across all sectors of society, online and offline, including education, health care, the criminal justice system, transport industry, the third sector and private businesses.
- Reaffirm the councils commitment to implement Chapter 3 of the Istanbul Convention, which focuses on prevention measures, especially focusing on engaging men and boys through education, workplaces and leisure and sport organisations.
- To call on the Government to increase investment and statutory sources of funding for specialist organisations working on Primary Prevention initiatives aimed at addressing the underlying factors contributing to violence against women.

Council instructs the following:

The leader of the council, along with all group leaders, write to central government requesting further funding to tackle VAWG in Swale.

The Leader of the council, along with all group leaders write to SATEDA, Clarion and New Leaf thanking them for their hard-work and dedication in supporting victims of domestic abuse and victims of VAWG.

The council use social media to encourage men to take the pledge of the white ribbon campaign.

By endorsing this motion, we not only acknowledge the importance of White Ribbon Day 2024, but also reinforce our dedication to preventing men's violence against women and girls from happening in the first place.

Proposed: Cllr Tom Nundy

Seconded: Cllr Karen Watson