



Safe Haven

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Night Safety



City of Westminster



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Westminster City Council – Safe Havens

Westminster City Council has ambitious plans to make the city a safe and secure environment for women working, living and visiting our inclusive and dynamic city. Safe Havens are a safe space provided by businesses to actively support individuals in need. Help can include providing a place to go for a short break to charge phones, find some respite or wait for a taxi to get home safely. Whilst Safe Havens are not expected to provide specialist interventions, they are there to help signpost to any specialist or emergency services when necessary. We are encouraging businesses such as bars, pubs, restaurants, shops and stations to apply to be a Safe Haven.

How to apply to be a Safe Haven

Venues that are interested in becoming a Safe Haven can apply online:

www.westminster.gov.uk/night-safety/safe-havens/expression-of-interest

Applicants will be asked to confirm that they meet the criteria below. Applications will be reviewed by the Council who will engage with the venue to discuss their application and progression to the next stage of becoming a Safe Haven. The Council will consider the type of business operated at the premises, any security arrangements in place and training that is delivered to their staff as some of the key decision-making factors as to whether a premises will become a Safe Haven.

Why are Safe Havens important?



While Westminster is a popular destination for Londoners and visitors from across the UK, it can also be a dangerous place, for women in particular, as it has some of the highest levels of sexual offences in London.

Did you know that:

84%
of victims of sexual offences are women

There has been an **11% increase** in sexual offences in the borough (2020-2021)

39%
of sexual offences were committed in St James's and the West End.

These areas have the highest rates of sexual offences out of the 632 Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) wards, accounting for 3.2% of recorded sexual offences. Safe Havens are one part of our strategy to tackle sexual offences within Westminster. In some instances, a Safe Haven can be a point of safety for women to be able seek help and support, providing a temporary place for women to recover and safely make their way home.

SIGN UP NOW!



If you are interested in becoming a Safe Haven, please read our criteria list and sign up using our form: westminster.gov.uk/night-safety/safe-havens

Mandatory criteria

- The venue must hold Westminster City Council's Night Safety accreditation. Further information on this scheme can be found on our website:

🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/night-safety/womens-night-safety-accreditation

- Minimum of 2 staff during operating hours. At least one female member of staff should be present, and/or a dedicated night safety champion.

- Staff members present during operating hours must have completed the Council's free Anti-Sexual Harassment and Women's Vulnerability training that can be accessed on our website:

🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/night-safety/enhancing-womens-night-safety-training

- All staff employed at the premises must be aware of the Safe Haven scheme and how to deal with any requests for help or support.

- A clear written procedure for escalating those who need medical or emergency service assistance.

- Contact information for key services, including domestic and sexual abuse helplines for both women and men, Samaritans, Crimestoppers, Suzy Lamplugh Trust, and Victim Support.

- All staff must be visibly identifiable as staff members within the Safe Haven premises.

- An identified usable space as the Safe Haven area that is covered by CCTV.

- First aid kit and at least one member of staff who is a qualified first aider.

- Charging points and cables to enable the charging of different models of mobile phones.

- Public liability insurance that provides sufficient cover for the use of the building for this purpose.

- Must display branded signage (provided by the Council) as a registered Safe Haven so it can be clearly identified by individuals seeking the use of the Safe Haven.



Your business would be included as a delivery partner in communications and will also be included in any digital communications for the public to identify the location of the Safe Havens. We will ensure that other partners, including the City of London Police and The Metropolitan Police Service know about the Safe Haven and support it during their operational hours.

We need your support to be able to deliver Safe Havens across London to help tackle violence against women and girls in public spaces.

✉ If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing nightsafe@westminster.gov.uk



Escalation

We understand that in some instances, you may be required to escalate a situation and call emergency services such as 999. However, before you do, think about local services you are able to contact.

Services

We have provided a list of specialist services that you may reach out to that can help:

Emergency Services

999

This is the emergency number for police, ambulance, fire brigade and other services. This number should be used only when urgent attendance by the emergency services is required.

101

Use 101 when you want to contact the police, but it's not an emergency. It can be used to contact the police with a general enquiry or provide information about a crime committed.

111

This is a non-emergency medical number, for example, minor injuries or illnesses.

Domestic Abuse

Westminster Services:

Victim Support - 0808 168 9291

Angelou - 0808 801 0660 / 0208 741 7008 / angelou@advancecharity.org.uk

Freedom Programme - 01942 262 270 / help@freedomprogramme.co.uk

Advance Charity - 0800 059 0108

National Services:

The Freephone National Domestic Violence Helpline: (run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge) - 0808 2000 247

Women's Aid - helpline@womensaid.org.uk / Home - Women's Aid (womensaid.org.uk)

Forced Marriage Unit - 0207 008 0151 / fmu@fco.gov.uk

Female Genital Mutilation Helpline - 0800 028 3550 / www.childline.org.uk

Paladin (for stalking) - 0203 866 4107 / www.paladinservice.co.uk

NSPCC (for FGM) - 0800 028 3550

Karma Nirvana (for 'honour' based violence) - 0800 5999 247

Men's Advice Line - 0808 801 0327

Victim Support Helpline - 0808 168 9111

National LGBT + Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0800 999 5428 / help@galop.org.uk

LGBT + Hate Crime Helpline - 0207 704 2040 / HateCrime@galop.org.uk

Witness or have information related to domestic abuse:

Crime Stoppers - 0800 555 111

Mental health

National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK - 0800 689 5652

Papyrus HOPELINEUK - 0800 068 41 41 / 07860039967 (text) / pat@papyrus-uk.org papyrus-uk.org (provide confidential support for under-35s at risk of suicide and others who are concerned about them)

Relay UK - relayuk.bt.com (provides a talk/type relay service for anyone who has difficulty hearing or being understood when speaking over the phone)

Rethink Mental Illness - 0808 801 0525 / rethink.org (provides support and information for anyone affected by mental health problems)

Samaritans - 116 123 (freephone) / jo@samaritans.org (Samaritans are open 24/7)

Switchboard - 0300 330 0630 (Listening services, information and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people)

Drugs and Alcohol

Turning Point - 0207 498 2680



To find out more about our Women's Night Safety Programme, please scan the QR code below:

westminster.gov.uk/night-safety

✉ nightsafe@westminster.gov.uk

