

End abortion clinic harassment

Over the last week, Liberal Democrat MPs have been introducing seven Bills that tackle challenges facing women and girls in the UK and beyond.

Today I'm tabling my Bill, which would **prohibit anti-abortion protests within 150 metres of abortion clinics**:

My Bill will protect all women, all over the country, from harassment and intimidation.

Protest (Abortion Clinics) Bill

A Bill to prohibit anti-abortion protests within 150 metres of abortion clinics; and for connected purposes.

In no decent, caring society should the steps of an abortion clinic have become the place for debate.

Women should not be subjected to harassment for seeking legitimate health care.

Last year, following increased intimidation outside a BPAS (British Pregnancy Advisory Service) clinic in my Ward in Richmond Park, I led the council in implementing a exclusion zone outside the clinic.

Now, it's time for the Government to step in and ensure buffer zones are extended right across the country.

Women should not be subjected to harassment for seeking legitimate health care.

Protesting at abortion centres is nothing more than bullying. The Bill [@sarahjolney1](#) is tabling today will protect all women, all over the country, from harassment and intimidation.
pic.twitter.com/96ZBiQmCMt

– Liberal Democrats (@LibDems) [March 11, 2020](#)

This form of protest is nothing more than bullying women when often they are at their most vulnerable.

The current method of introducing 'safe zones' is not a long-term solution; it creates a postcode lottery while the costs for implementing and upholding them uses up precious local government resources.

The law is failing women. My Bill, which has cross-party support, will protect all women, all over the country, from harassment and intimidation.

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

How to find candidates

Want to find more (and more diverse) candidates in your area? Watch this quick webinar with Daisy Cooper for tips, tricks and strategies to recruit the right people!

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

Countdown to Conference: Update from the FCC and amendments selected for debate

The Federal Conference Committee met on Sunday, 8th March to review the amendments, emergency motions and topical issues submitted for Spring Conference. We also discussed the most recent guidance with regards to COVID-19, and a few other reports back from the Federal Board.

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

Planning to speak at conference? Here's what you need to know:

Speaking at conference can seem like a daunting process at first, but it's really easy – and it's your chance to make your mark on the party and party policy.

What's more, some debates are very much decided by what the speakers say.

Here's what you need to know before speaking at conference:

- [How debates work](#)
- [How to complete a speaker's card](#)

When you're ready, you can also submit a speaker's card online here:
<https://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card>

[Go to Source](#)


Author:

IWD 2020: Providing specialist support for survivors of sexual violence

Making access to support services a right for victims of sexual violence and abuse a right was one of the recommendations of the [2018 APPG on Sexual Violence](#).

Yet two years on, and throughout the UK survivors are **still being told** that they have to be added to **shamefully long waiting lists**, or that **waiting lists are closed**. The situation is abhorrent.

The Istanbul Convention says there should be at least **150 Rape Crisis Centres** in England and Wales, but currently there are **only 44**.



**“NO SURVIVOR SHOULD
BE TURNED AWAY FROM
ACCESSING THE
SUPPORT THEY NEED,
WHEN THEY NEED IT.”**

- MUNIRA WILSON

#IWD2020

Fern Champion, a campaigner fighting to enable all survivors of sexual violence to access specialist counselling services, said that:

*“Survivors of sexual violence have been let down time and time again by a series of governments who have failed to take the **under-funding** of rape support services seriously. Two years ago I found myself **unable to get onto a rape crisis waiting list** and it is utterly shameful that there are **still women in that position today.**”*

Cases like that of Fern Champion show the **shocking reality**: the level of funding for rape crisis centres and refuges is **completely inadequate**, leaving survivors **vulnerable**.

The Tories’ failure to act to improve the system shows **callous disregard** for those people affected by domestic violence and abuse.

No survivor of sexual abuse or domestic violence should be left without access to specialist support.

Today, [@munirawilson](#) is introducing a Bill that would make this vital support a right, not a privilege. Learn more
↓ <https://t.co/cPB6p07I3T>

– Liberal Democrats (@LibDems) [March 10, 2020](#)

No survivor of sexual abuse or domestic violence should be left without access to specialist support. This is non-negotiable and my Bill would make it a right, not a privilege.

I am urging the Government to show **real leadership**, take this Bill forward and ratify the Istanbul Convention – signed in 2012 – as a matter of **urgency**.

Victims of Abuse (Support) Bill

*A Bill to establish a **right** to specialist **sexual violence and abuse support services** for victims of sexual, violent and domestic abuse; and for connected purposes.*

No survivor of sexual abuse or domestic violence should be left without access to specialist support. This is non-negotiable and **this Bill would make it a right, not a privilege**.

I hope to see the Conservatives take forward my Bill in supporting these vulnerable women have **the best chances in life**.

Liberal Democrats will **continue to fight** to secure a guarantee of specialist support for anyone affected by domestic violence or sexual abuse.

[Go to Source](#)

Author: