



Scoping Study

A Safety and Inclusivity
Study in Clondalkin within
the Context of Gender-based
Violence in Public Spaces.

2020

Acknowledgements

One hundred and fifty seven individuals and fourteen organisations participated in the study and made this report possible. I wish to thank you all for giving your time and sharing your knowledge and experiences to inform the study. To the North Clondalkin Community Safety Forum for coordinating focus groups and supporting the women's safety audits and to each of the women who participated in these, my sincere thanks.

Collectively, your contribution has provided the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the nature of the problem of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence within the context of gender-based violence in public spaces in Clondalkin and shape recommendations to address this.

My thanks also to the steering group for the study, Niall Noonan, Noreen Byrne, Rita Harte, Vivienne Glanville, Doreen Carpenter and Kevin Byrne. Your assistance, guidance and experience in helping to shape the initial survey, support participant engagement and inform recommendations helped to ensure the voice and needs of the community was to the fore.

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1. Introduction

This scoping study aims to gain a deeper understanding of the nature of the problem of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence within the context of gender-based violence in public spaces in Clondalkin.

The study was commissioned by South Dublin County Council (SDCC) through the €300k Have Your Say initiative. €300k Have Your Say is a participatory budgeting initiative which has been run by SDCC since 2017. It facilitates residents to develop project proposals for their local area and then vote on shortlisting proposals in order to select winning projects to be funded up to the value of €300,000.

The impetus for the study arose through the concerns of women who identified that they did not feel safe in public spaces in parts of Clondalkin. These concerns arose and were heightened following significant media reporting of a serious sexual assault in 2016.

This scoping study facilitated community exploration of the issues of safety and inclusivity of women through a gender equality lens. The study will be followed by a communications campaign by SDCC to progress the recommendation.

This report presents the findings from one hundred and fifty seven individuals and fourteen organisations. It presents the methodology and consultation process and provides a profile of the study area. It places the study in context providing an overview of policy and data and sets out the findings and strategies for locally-based responses.

2. Methodology and Consultation

2.1 Methodology

The study was conducted using a participatory research approach. This approach emphasises participation and action. It seeks to understand an issue from the perspective of those who are experiencing it and work with key stakeholders to develop actions in seeking to bring about change to the issues identified. A range of methodologies were involved including surveys, focus groups, one to one discussions and women's safety audits.

2.2 Approach

The study is underpinned by the belief that a rights-based approach to the safety and inclusivity of women is required. This approach was further underpinned by the principles and practices of community development using processes that are empowering, facilitative and collaborative. In practice these are:

- *Participation*: Recognising that the overall value of the study depended on the extent to which women were centrally and actively engaged in the process. This was a pivotal part of the study process.
- *Inclusivity*: The diversity among women was recognised and their voices sought to be included through creating the conditions for meaningful participation while protecting privacy and personal autonomy.
- *Equality*: All of the work was informed by a human rights, equality and anti-racism framework.

- *Collective action:* The work was conducted in a collaborative way with a broad range of individuals and organisations to inform the study and develop the recommendations.

2.3 Desk research

Desk research was conducted which involved a review of relevant national and international research and policy documents.

2.4 Ethics

A steering group was established to oversee, inform and guide the study. The group comprised South Dublin County Council, North Clondalkin Community Safety Forum, Ronanstown Women's Community Development Project, Clondalkin/Lucan Women's Network, the Clondalkin Traveller Development Group and Ronanstown Garda Station. Questionnaires to gather quantitative and qualitative data were tested with and approved by the steering group prior to use. One-to-one discussions and focus groups were undertaken with the highest levels of sensitivity and integrity by the researcher. In line with best practice, the researcher had previous experience of working with women and vulnerable groups in addition to conducting participatory research. Participation in the study was completely voluntary. All identifiable and confidential information was anonymised, with ethical standards and data protection requirements met in all records and related reports.

2.5 Consultation process

Surveys were disseminated for completion by individuals living or working in the study area or wider Clondalkin and by organisations based within or providing supports or services to individuals, families or groups in the study area. The surveys covered participant details, safety and inclusivity in public spaces, sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence and informing local responses and strategies. Initially some surveys were completed by participants in various locally-based organisations. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions the completion of surveys could not continue as planned and the majority of surveys were subsequently complete through an online survey monkey advertised on the web pages of locally-based organisations. One hundred and fifty one surveys from individuals and eleven surveys from organisations were completed and returned. Key findings from the data analysed were used to inform the framework for focus group discussions. The wide range of community, voluntary and statutory services based within and around the study area were invited to participate. Face-to-face meetings were held with seventeen locally-based organisations to discuss the study and how organisations might engage.

Focus groups

Five focus groups and two individual discussions with a total of twenty-three members of the community were facilitated through online discussion forums as face-to-face meetings were not possible due to Covid-19 restrictions. The focus groups examined key findings from the surveys with a particular focus on:

- locations of concern in relation to the safety of women;
- layout and features of locations as possible contributing factors to the lack of safety and inclusivity;
- types and prevalence of sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence against women;
- informing local responses and strategies.

A further focus group was facilitated with representatives of ten organisations and agencies to consider key findings to date, further scope recommendations and seek to identify potential delivery partners for the implementation of recommendations.

Women's safety audits

Two women's safety audits regarding locations of concern were conducted with women living and working in the study area. One during the day from 11am-12.30pm and one at night-time from 9.30pm to 11pm. This provided an opportunity to walk through the locations of concern with women and discuss safety issues specific to each location, how these issues present during the day or after dark and possible solutions.

2.6 Profile of participants

One hundred and fifty seven individuals participated in the study. 87% were female and 13% male. The majority (54%) lived in the study area and 29% both lived and worked in the area. With the exception of one respondent, all other participants either lived or worked in the wider Clondalkin area. 67% of those who lived in the study area had lived there for periods of time between 10 and 40 years representing vast knowledge of the area spanning decades.

Age profile of participants

- 45% aged between 40 and 54 years of age representing the largest cohort;
- 29% aged 25 to 39 years;
- 17% aged 55 to 70 years;
- 7% aged 20 to 24 years;
- 2% aged 17 to 19 years;*
- Just under 1% were over 70 years of age.

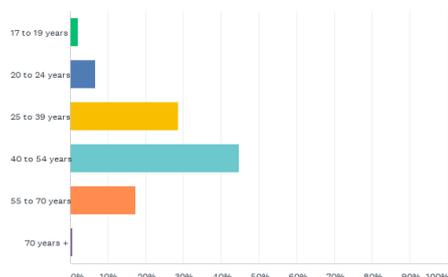


Figure 1: Age profile of individual participants

*While a low number of participants in the study (2%) were between the ages of seventeen and nineteen this should be seen in the context of the low numbers of women within this age group living in the study area. 3.7% of young women age sixteen to nineteen years live in Neilstown and only 2.3% live in St Ronan's, Wood Avens and Letts Field.

Participating groups and organisations

- 14 groups/organisations actively engaged in the process;
- 11 completed the survey;
- 10 participated in a focus group;
- The majority were based within the study area;
- Those based outside the study area provided supports and services to individuals, families or groups within the study area;
- All organisations collectively work with a broad range of target groups including; preschool, children with special needs, secondary students, youth, women's groups, Traveller

community, local authority tenants, migrant community, homeless, people with addiction, individual men and women, families and the community of North Clondalkin.

3. Profile of the Study Area

3.1 Clondalkin

Clondalkin is located in South Dublin County in the south west of Dublin and 11 kilometres west of Dublin City. The 2016 census shows that South Dublin County Council was the fourth largest local authority in the state in terms of population (278,749). Clondalkin village is recorded as one of Dublin's oldest historic villages dating back as far as the 8th century. 'There is a high concentration of structures considered to be of special architectural, historic, archaeological, artistic, cultural, social or technical interest in and around the centre of Clondalkin. In the 1960's and 1970's the village of Clondalkin was expanded as part of Dublin's Western Town Development, which focused on the areas of Tallaght, Lucan and Clondalkin'.¹ Clondalkin has significantly expanded over the decades with the development of many suburban neighbourhoods. The planned development for the Clonburris area will be a further expansion to the footprint of Clondalkin.

The South Dublin County Council *Development Plan* commits under the strategic goal to continue to build Clondalkin as a vibrant town 'to promote a high standard of urban design in urban centres that contributes to the creation of safe and attractive streets and spaces and creates desirable places to work, live and visit.'² The plan also notes that 'public open space should have active and passive recreational value and should enhance the identity and amenity of an area.'³

In 2016, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) recorded the population of Clondalkin at 55,641 and as the third largest community in South Dublin County. 'Clondalkin is a secondary administrative centre for South Dublin County Council. Its town centre includes shopping facilities, civic and administrative services and associated commercial, cultural and community facilities. Outside of the centre the area is characterised by low density suburban neighbourhoods that are based around a polycentric network of local retail centres.'⁴ Clondalkin is well served with community infrastructure including, community centres and halls, cultural facilities, library, religious buildings, health facilities, childcare centres, primary and secondary schools, open spaces and parks, sporting and recreational facilities. There are two local community safety forums, one which serves the South West Clondalkin area and the other which serves North Clondalkin. The latter is based in the study area and was actively involved in this study.

Public transport comprises the Kildare rail line linking Clondalkin to Dublin City Centre via Heuston Station. The Clondalkin/Fonthill station is located between Ronanstown and the Nangor Road. Located south east of Clondalkin village is the Luas Red Line, Red Cow stop. A number of bus routes operated by Dublin Bus and private operators service the area and provide connections to Tallaght, Blanchardstown and Dublin City Centre. However, there are areas such as Palmerstown Woods in North Clondalkin that have no direct bus service and areas, including Neilstown that are often left without public transport due to the withdrawal of services as a result of anti-social behaviour by a few which impacts on the entire community. North Clondalkin which comprises the neighbourhoods of Quarryvale, Rowlagh and Neilstown is separated from Clondalkin Village and Southwest Clondalkin by the Grand Canal and the Cork/Dublin railway line and this can create issues of separation for the community from the wider Clondalkin area.

¹ <http://www.southdublinhistory.ie/index.aspx>

² IBID- section 5 urban centres - UC1 Objective 4

³ IBID- Section 3.13 and 8.3

⁴ Dublin and Mid-East Regional Authorities-Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016-Regional Planning Guidelines Office (2008)

3.2 The study area

The study area is located within lower North Clondalkin and includes, the Neilstown Estate within the Clondalkin-Moorefield ED and the St Ronan's Estate, Wood Avens and Letts Field in Ronanstown which is part of the Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED. The Letts Field area is the location where a violent sexual attack on a woman took place and part of the impetus for this study.

The specific areas of focus for the study were the Neilstown Shopping Centre and adjacent areas, the residential areas of Neilstown, St Ronan's, Wood Avens and Letts Field and Collinstown Park which is the main park for the area. All adjacent public pathways, lane ways, green areas and roads were included. Initially Rowlagh shops was not identified for inclusion. However, as the study progressed the very high level of concern emerging about this area warranted an extension of the study area which subsequently included this location.

The vast majority of homes in the study area were built between 1961 and 1990.⁵ Most homes are adjacent to or facing onto small green areas with larger green spaces scattered across the community. There are two shopping and retail spaces the Neilstown Shopping Centre and the Rowlagh Shops and a broad range of community-based supports and services located throughout the area and on the periphery. The shopping areas and other services are also accessed daily by communities outside of the study area with the majority of people living in surrounding areas having to come into or pass through the study area to access services. A detailed demographic profile of the study area is contained in Appendix 1.

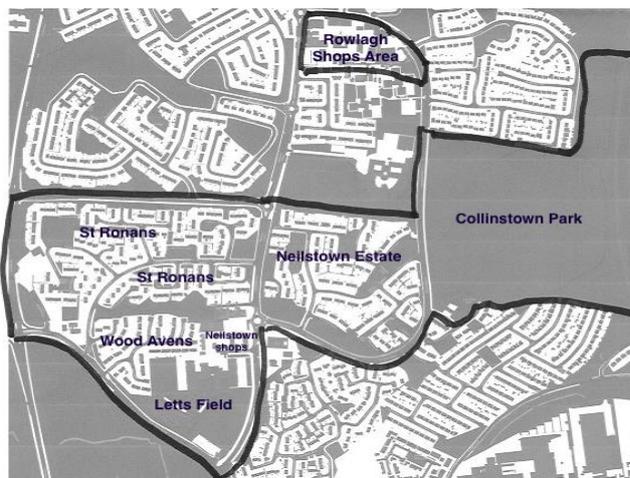


Figure 2: Map of study area

⁵ <http://census.cso.ie/sapmap>

4. Placing the Study in Context

Research shows women and girls fear and experience various types of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces. This takes the form of unwanted sexual remarks and touching, to rape. It is a universal issue that has no boundaries as it occurs in every community, class or culture and is perpetrated on streets, in parks, at shops and bus stops, in urban and rural areas. This negatively impacts on women and girls' freedom of movement, on their ability to access services or other opportunities and ultimately impacts their health and well-being.

Much of the discourse and policy focus has been on domestic violence with a later shift to include sexual violence. However, in more recent times with initiatives such as the *UN Women's Safe Cities Global Initiative* and through decades of lobbying from grassroots women's groups and movements, the focus now includes the issue of sexual harassment and women's safety in public spaces with a recognition that sexual harassment is a form of sexual violence.

4.1. Safety and inclusivity in public spaces

Public spaces are generally defined as areas of social interactions, accessible to all, where people can safely and equally access, gather and engage in activities. According to UNESCO and UN-HABITAT, access to public space is a human right.⁶

It is well documented that access to safe and inclusive public space is critical to enhance the quality of life in urban areas and that safety in public spaces can be determined by physical, social and personal factors. Feeling unsafe and experiences of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women has become more prevalent in public spaces. Research shows that 'women profess feeling more unsafe than men particularly in public spaces after dark'.⁷

Theorists including, Lefebvre 1991, Hayden, 1997 and Harvey 1990 have discussed how modern urban planning has become ideologically planned and designed in meeting the needs of capital in pursuit of profit over the social processes and needs of those that use the space.⁸ 'Planning has at times served to segregate and marginalise, delimit and exclude as much as it has opened up avenues for enhanced and expanded social life.'⁹

'Within urban areas, there are particular locations where incidents of violence against women and girls are more likely to occur. Although analysis of individual urban areas reveals city-specific hotspots, common trends have been identified. In particular, violence is more likely to happen in public spaces such as public sanitation facilities, schools, water and food distribution sites, open spaces like parks and fields, secluded areas such as narrow lanes, and drinking bars or areas where a lot of drug dealing or consumption takes place.'¹⁰ Sexual harassment in public spaces can be a feature of women's daily lives and as a result many women do not feel safe accessing public spaces within their own communities.

Research by the World Health Organisation (WHO) highlighted that gender-based violence in urban areas had doubled compared to rural areas since the late 1980's.¹¹ In further research, the WHO showed that urban women across the world as being at particular risk of gender-based violence. This

⁶ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/urban-development/migrants-inclusion-in-cities/good-practices/inclusion-through-access-to-public-space>.2012

⁷ Perkovic, (2007) Creating inclusive public space and why it matters: Citizenship, children, women, and that elusive question of safety

⁸ Zieleniec, A., (2018) j., Lefebvre's Politics of Space: Planning the Urban as Oeuvre..

⁹ IBID p 13

¹⁰ Fulu (2016) Born to be free: A Regional Study of Interventions to Enhance Women and Girls Safety and Mobility in Public Spaces

¹¹ World Health Organisation. See: http://www.who.int/social_determinants/publications/urbanization/factfile/en/

research was a major factor in UN-HABITAT's and UNIFEM's joint initiative in 2009, the *Global Programme on Safe Cities Free from Violence Against Women*.¹²

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in its report of July 2014 called on all members to 'develop and implement effective measures to make public spaces safe and accessible to all women and girls.'¹³ In Dublin City, a scoping study '*Challenging Sexual Harassment and Other Forms of Sexual Violence in Public Spaces*' showed that sexual harassment is a frequent and distressing occurrence for women and girls within the city. Urban design problems were identified as a major reason for women's fear in accessing public spaces. These include areas that are unkempt, dirty and unwelcoming, and with walls that obstruct people from view in public space.¹⁴

Well planned infrastructure and public spaces can contribute increasing safety and to reducing violence and sexual harassment against women. Within this, it is important to recognise that women are not a homogenous group and their diverse needs must be taken into account in seeking to ensure safety and inclusivity in public spaces.

4.2 Defining gender-based violence

Violence against women also known as gender-based violence, is violent acts that are primarily committed against women specifically because they are women. Gender-based violence is a structural violation of women's human rights and is now recognised as such by international human rights instruments.

The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women states that 'violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women' and that 'violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.'¹⁵ The UN defines gender-based violence as 'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including, threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.'¹⁶ This definition is also used by the EU.

'In private spheres violence against women and girls is now widely recognised as a human rights violation. However, violence in public spaces, especially sexual harassment, is still largely tolerated and can even be perceived as a social 'norm'. This serves to reinforce discriminatory attitudes and behaviours against women. Sexual Harassment is a form of sexual violence. Sexual harassment includes non-contact forms such as, sexual comments about a person's body or their appearance, wolf-whistling, sexually suggestive staring, following, stalking, or indecent exposure. Sexual harassment also includes physical contact forms, like someone purposely brushing up against someone else in public, grabbing, slapping or rubbing against another person in a sexual way. Some elements of sexual harassment may be covered within criminal law, however, many elements may require civic remedies, educational and administrative responses.'¹⁷

Violence against women is not confined to any specific group of women, culture or country. However, the different manifestations of violence against women and women's personal experience of it are influenced by many factors. These factors can include economic status, ethnicity, nationality, culture,

¹² (UN-HABITAT, 2010:13).

¹³ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: General recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19. 14/7/17

¹⁴ Bourke, J., Lalor, K., & Cuffe, C. (2015) Report of Scoping Study for Dublin City Council Safe City programme Challenging sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public.

¹⁵ Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women: Proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993

¹⁶ United Nations (1993) Declaration on the elimination of violence against women. New York: UN.

¹⁷ UN Women Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls Global Programme Glossary and Definitions of Key Terms, p 4-5

religion, class, age, sexual orientation or disability. In order to prevent violence against women, the underlying root causes of such violence and its effects need to be addressed.

Recognising violence against women including, the broader oppression experienced by women as a human rights violation, is a necessary prerequisite for understanding the broad context from which such violations against women are carried out. All research within a human rights framework highlights that the central premise of analysis of violence against women is that the specific factors and causes of this violence are grounded in a context of systemic gender-based discrimination against women. It is rooted in historical unequal power relations between men and women that pervades both public and private life.

4.3 The extent and impact of gender-based violence in public spaces

‘Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today.’¹⁸

According to statistics, 35% of women - 818 million women globally - over the age of 15 have experienced sexual or physical violence at home, in their communities or in the workplace.¹⁹ However, there remains a lack of legislation on sexual harassment in many countries with some countries only addressing sexual harassment through employment laws, despite the prevalence of gender-based violence and harassment in public spaces.

4.3.1 International perspective

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) are early benchmark documents on the issue of violence against women. Although not binding, the declaration was the first international text that dealt exclusively with violence against women. In 2011, the Council of Europe Convention on Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was adopted as the first legally binding treaty identifying violence against women as a human rights violation. The treaty known as the Istanbul Convention provides the basis for a legal framework to prevent, prosecute and seek to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

In 2013, the UN Commission on the Status of Women identified sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces as a key area of concern, and called on governments to take preventive measures. This call was further reiterated in the 2015-2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²⁰ Goal 5.2 includes the following target, ‘Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres’. Universal access to safe and inclusive public spaces is a key target under goal 11 which states, ‘Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.’²¹

However, the UN Women has argued that ‘progress on some fronts may be undermined by regression or stagnation on others, and potential synergies may be lost if siloed approaches to implementation take precedence over integrated, multi-sectoral strategies.’²² Four years into the delivery of the 2015-2030 SDGs, it could be said that some areas within the 2019 report heighten this concern. Reporting on Goal 5, the report notes, ‘despite some gains, discriminatory laws and social norms remain pervasive, along with harmful practices and other forms of violence against women and girls. Women and girls around the world continue to experience violence and cruel practices that strip

¹⁸ The Spotlight Initiative – To eliminate violence against women and girls.

¹⁹ <https://www.ituc-csi.org/gender-based-violence>

²⁰ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>

²¹ *IBID*

²² UN Women, 2018.

them of their dignity and erode their well-being. In too many countries, gaps in legal frameworks are failing to protect women's rights.²³

The most comprehensive survey at EU level examining the extent and impacts of violence against women was conducted by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 2014.²⁴ This survey included all 28 EU Member States and was based on interviews with 42,000 women on their experiences of physical and sexual violence, sexual harassment and stalking since the age of 15 years and over the previous year.²⁵ The results paint a very stark picture of the extent and nature of violence against women across the EU. Survey findings include:

- '33% of women (one in three women) have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15, corresponding to 62 million women across the 28 member states;
- 5% of all women have been raped;
- almost one in 10 women who experienced sexual violence by a non-partner, indicated that more than one perpetrator was involved in the most serious incident;
- 18% of women have experienced stalking since the age of 15 with 21% of women having experienced stalking reporting that it lasted for over 2 years.²⁶

The survey revealed that the emotional responses of women who had experienced the violence to include fear, anger and shame. It should be noted that a definition of violence was not provided during the FRA survey interview. 'This was to avoid restricting women's understanding of violence to a fixed definition. Rather, specific acts or situations involving different forms of violence were described in detail in the course of interviews. This sought to ensure the safety of interviewees when interviewers were first talking about the survey on people's doorsteps, which potentially could be in the presence of or overheard by others'.²⁷ Generally, the risk of exposure to sexual harassment was identified as above average for women aged between 18 and 39 years.

A European Parliament study in 2018 on bullying and sexual harassment in the workplace, public spaces and political life found that the *Me Too* movement, 'had gone beyond evidencing the magnitude and nature of the phenomenon of gender-based violence and harassment and had ignited debate about the underlying causes and possible responses. Looking at the reaction in nine EU countries (Sweden, Finland, UK, Spain, Italy, Poland, France, Denmark and Greece), the study concluded that the *Me Too* movement had led to the standards of what is considered acceptable being redrawn. The movement has also been credited with providing the momentum to push through new legislation in France outlawing street harassment ('wolf- whistling') and in Sweden, clarifying what qualifies as consent and removing the requirement of evidence of force and/or resistance to establish rape.²⁸

"However, both the European Parliament study and the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency caution that much remains to be done to arrive at a clear picture of sexual harassment across the EU, including capturing the voices of groups such as women with disabilities, Roma women and poor women, who have not been heard, to change attitudes, to bring about institutional change and to ensure that sexual harassment is addressed holistically, in connection with wider gender inequalities, particularly in view of the current backlash against gender equality both globally and within the EU itself.²⁹

²³ United Nations, (2019) Sustainable Development Goals Report: p 32-32

²⁴ Fundamental Rights Agency (2014), Violence against Women: every day and everywhere. <http://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2014/>

²⁵ IBID

²⁶ IBID

²⁷ IBID

²⁸ Shreeves, R., Prpic, M., (2019) European Parliament Research Service—Violence Against Women in the EU.

²⁹ Hoel, H, Varita. M., European Parliament - Bullying and sexual harassment at the workplace, in public spaces, and in political life in the EU.

4.3.2 Irish Perspective

‘The prevalence of sexual violence in Ireland is unknown. Incomplete evidence from crime statistics, previous research reports and service uptake figures is insufficient to understand the nature and extent of the problem and to plan and evaluate services and preventive interventions.’³⁰

Historically, in Ireland the issue of gender-based violence was both socially and legislatively ignored. Through decades of campaigning by grassroots women’s groups and movements the issue is now on the political agenda. The Report of the Task Force on Violence Against Women in 1997 reported that most attacks including, sexual violence occurred in a woman’s own home. This report placed the Irish discourse and policy focus on ‘domestic’ violence. Shortly following the report, the National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women was established in 1999.

In recent times through EU directives, international treaties and continued lobbying from women’s organisations some progress has been made on expanding the discourse to include sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence. Strategies have included; the establishment of the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based violence in 2007, two national strategies on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence which defined domestic and sexual violence as gender-based violence, the National Women’s Strategy (2007-2016) and the National Strategy for Women and Girls (2017-2020). The 2010 National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence did not specifically cover gender-based violence in the public sphere but did recognise sexual harassment as a form of sexual violence. In 2015, Ireland signed up to the Istanbul Convention. However, it was not ratified by the Irish government until 8th March 2019. A critical aspect of the Istanbul Convention is that it places the responsibility on the Irish state to prevent violence against women and to put in place the services required to support women who have been victims of sexual assault and violence.

Ireland’s last major national survey *Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (SAVI)* was conducted in 2002. It found that 42% of women had experienced some form of sexual abuse or assault in their lifetime.³¹ Prior to SAVI the prevalence of sexual violence against women in Ireland was unknown and undocumented. The main recorded figures of women who had experienced sexual violence were the low numbers who had reported to the Gardai or accessed support services. Many agencies including, the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) knew from their work that these numbers were not a real reflection of the scale of the problem and this was affirmed through the SAVI report.

47% of people who disclosed sexual violence through the SAVI study had never previously reported the abuse.³² Only 7.8% of women subjected to sexual violence reported it to the Gardai. Reasons given for non-reporting were shame, self-blame, not believing that the sexual violence was serious enough or a crime, or did not want anyone else to find out.³³ In looking at the impacts of sexual violence the survey found that ‘quarter (25%) of the women who had experienced sexual violence, reported having experienced symptoms consistent with a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at some time in their lives following, and as a consequence of their experience of sexual violence. Also, those who had experienced sexual violence were significantly more likely to have used medication for anxiety or depression or to have been a psychiatric hospital inpatient than those without such experiences.’³⁴

³⁰ McGee, H. et al. (2002) SAVI Report: Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland: Executive Summary

³¹ IBID p-xxxiii

³² IBID p-xxxvi

³³ McGee, H. et al. (2002) SAVI Report: Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland: p 124/127

³⁴ McGee, H. et al. (2002) SAVI Report: Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland: Executive Summary: p xxxvi

In November 2018, sixteen years after the SAVI report, the Irish government announced that a second major national study on sexual violence in Ireland would be carried out. The study is to be conducted by the CSO and it is expected that it will take up to five years to complete.

The criminal justice system in Ireland is a gruelling process for women who have experienced sexual violence and evidence shows that the conviction rate for rape and other sexual crimes is extremely low. In a recent report on the detection rates for crime published by the CSO, 'detection rates for sexual offences was only 11%, with only 351 offenses detected out of 3178 offenses reported'.³⁵ The DRCC's National Helpline reported that in 2017 they received 12,855 contacts (phone, email, text, social media). 79% of callers were female and trained volunteers attended the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit with 255 victims.³⁶ They further reported that they had 'almost 14,000 contacts, approximately 270 contacts every week in 2018 from people who had suffered rape and sexual violence and half-way through 2019, demand for the DRCC's services was higher than it has been for many years'.³⁷ The DRCC have also highlighted that there is a 'public health epidemic' of sexual violence, with a greater awareness of the problem and more people disclosing and seeking help.³⁸ There were 526 disclosures of sexual abuse made to the Women's Aid services in 2018, including 226 disclosures of rape,³⁹ and 2,945 sexual offences were recorded by An Garda Síochána in 2017.⁴⁰

While data on gender-based violence in Ireland has increased in recent years significant gaps remain. The gaps include adequate data collection regarding gender safety in urban areas which is critical in order to understand the nature and scale of the issue of safety and inclusivity in public spaces in Ireland. The CEDAW report on Ireland in 2017 noted that, 'the Committee remains concerned at the lack of gender-disaggregated data on gender-based violence against women.' A recent development in the recording of data is the CSO implementation of the national survey instrument on sexual violence. For the first time this has enabled official crime statistics to show how sexual violence impacts in a gendered way providing a breakdown of sexual violence victims by age, gender and the time between crimes and reporting.

In June 2017, the Department of Justice and Equality launched its new specialised Garda unit to tackle domestic violence and sex crimes. The Divisional Protective Services Unit (DPSU) was initially set up in four pilot areas, one of which was Clondalkin. It was planned that all 28 Garda Divisions in Ireland would have a DPSU by the end of 2018. However, despite the growing issue of sexual violence, at the time of this report only 10 units were in place within 9 Garda Divisions including two in Dublin.

³⁵ Lally, Conor., Irish Times – 3/12/19

³⁶ Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (2017) Statistics Supplement

³⁷ Gill, Ann Marie., Chairperson DRCC speaking at the launch of the DRCC Annual Report 2018- reported in the journal.ie- July 16th 2019

³⁸ Blackwell. N., DRCC Chief Executive speaking at the launch of the DRCC Annual Report 2018 –reported in the Irish Examiner -July 16th 2019

³⁹ Women's Aid (2018) Impact Report 8

⁴⁰ www.CSO.ie, 2017

5. Addressing Gender-based Violence in Public Spaces- Case Studies

Over the last number of years there has been a significant rise in awareness and global momentum to stop gender-based violence and sexual harassment and seek to create safe public spaces for all women and girls. The lack of comparable data across initiatives taken place internationally prevents identifying which initiatives work best. However, a brief overview of some case studies is provided below. Each of these case studies have the potential to be replicated and implemented within the study area.

UN Women's, Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces

UN Women's Global Flagship Programme, *Safe Cities and Safe Public Space* is helping to increase the number of public spaces and cities that are free from sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence.⁴¹ Since November 2010, UN Women have engaged bodies local and global to transform public spaces in 27 "champion" cities into more safe and inclusive spaces.⁴² Key strategies of the *Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces* initiative include four interconnected areas of interventions which are implemented by grass roots women and women's bodies, community partners and local and national authorities. The four areas are:

- (1) Generate Evidence and Build Partnerships for Change,
- (2) Develop and Implement Comprehensive Laws and Policies,
- (3) Invest in Safety and Economic Viability of Public Spaces and
- (4) Transform Social Norms.⁴³

The *Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces* global reports stress the need for legislation and policies that prevent and respond to sexual violence in public spaces.

Examining initiatives across 'champion' cities the report states, 'efforts like these are helping cities to tackle the normalisation of sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence, especially for women and girls living in the poorest neighbourhoods, or who are targeted because of their ethnicity, age, disability or sexual orientation'.⁴⁴ At the outset each participating city adapts a Global Framework which includes the four key strategies for intervention (identified above) and associated resource tools to their local context. Dublin City Council are part of the Safe City programme, in 2015, published a *Report of Scoping Study for Dublin City Council Safe City Programme, Challenging Sexual Harassment and Other Forms of Sexual Violence in Public Space*

Women's Safety Audits

Women's Safety Audits (WSA) are a key component of the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces programme. The WSA's were initially developed in 1989 by the Toronto Metro Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) in response to growing fear of crime among city residents. The WSA is a participatory process that facilitates the gathering of detailed information related to women's safety and mobility in public spaces whereby women and girls identify the factors that make them feel safe or unsafe in an identified area. It offers a practical means of understanding perceptions about safety and informing proposals for action through a gender equality lens. In practice, it involves a group of women walking around an area to observe, consider and record views about safety related issues as they appear, or they have experienced. The audit is facilitated and followed by a discussion on concerns of safety and inclusivity to examine changes needed to create a safer and more inclusive space. A meeting is then held with key stakeholders to identify potential partners to develop an agreed set of actions for responding to sexual harassment and violence against

⁴¹ UN Women – Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces: Global Results Report

⁴² IBID

⁴³ IBID

⁴⁴ IBID

women in the identified area. The process seeks to ensure that 'gender responsive locally relevant and owned interventions are developed and include a set of results with indicators that help to ensure shared accountability among programme partners.'⁴⁵ A WSA has been conducted as part of the consultation process for the Safety and Inclusivity Study in Clondalkin.

Delhi Safe City

In India the Delhi Safe City programme is one of the founding programmes of the UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Initiative. The Women's Safety Audit (WSA) process has been utilised in a number of areas and contributed to the implementation of the Delhi Safe City free of Violence against Women and Girls Programme. The WSA was a key mechanism in broadening the programme's outreach to women, local and state authorities, and the community in the prevention and response to sexual harassment and other forms of Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls. It was designed and implemented in three phases, first the walk around of an area noting factors which added to women feeling safe or unsafe in daytime and after dark. Second, providing training to other states on safety audit methodology and the concept of safety audit methodology was then adapted into a phone-based application. The prototype of the App called Safetipin was launched in 2013 by a company based in India, as a single App for crowdsourcing and data collection. Thirdly, from 2014-2015 an *Open Street Audit Mapping* (OSAM) was also adapted as a community-based communication tool to initiate conversations with men, boys, women and girls on women's safety and the use of public space.⁴⁶

Key outcomes included:

- 'The WSA has assisted in determining if public spaces are inclusive of all women regardless of class, ethnicity, age, sexuality, and disability, and have been used to engage migrant women, LGBT communities, women working at night, domestic workers and daily wage workers.
- The recommendations from the audit informed government level interventions, including budget allocations, and changes to infrastructure at city level to address women and girl's safety in public spaces.
- At national level, the WSA process was included in the 2016 National Policy for Women as a "mandatory requirement" for all urban plans and smart cities projects in the country to promote gender-sensitive infrastructure and facilities.'⁴⁷

Urban Planning

Evidence shows that safe, inclusive and well-planned urban developments, public spaces and infrastructure can reduce violence and harassment that women and girls experience. The City of Vienna has been proactively addressing the issue of gender-sensitive planning for almost three decades. The 1991 exhibition "Wem gehört der öffentliche Raum – Frauenalltag in der Stadt" (Who Owns Public Space – Women's Everyday Life in the City)⁴⁸ documented through photography, a day in the lives of eight different women and girls, from a young child, to a wheelchair user, to an active retiree showing a side to the city that was rarely considered. The exhibition led to public discussion around issues such as where women felt safe or unsafe, how they got around the city and more broadly, how women were included in the city. Following the exhibition, a postal survey was conducted which found that men and women's experiences of city living were different, and women's needs and experiences were being overlooked.⁴⁹ The exhibition and findings from the survey resulted in 'an explicit demand for a specific planning approach that would meet the needs of women as

⁴⁵ IBID

⁴⁶ Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces For Women and Girls Global Flagship Initiative: International Compendium of Practices: p22

⁴⁷ IBID: p23/23

⁴⁸ <https://www.wies.gv.at/stedtentwicklungsstudien/pdf>

⁴⁹ Hunt, E,(2019) City with a female face: How Modern Vienna was shaped by women

equally as men.⁵⁰ Subsequently, Vienna's urban planning processes were changed by bringing a gender equality lens to the planning and design processes. This has resulted in improved safety and ease of movement for women within the city of Vienna.

Between 2005 and 2010, all planning departments of the City of Vienna conducted gender mainstreaming pilot projects. These projects have included designing social housing and neighbourhoods to meet specific needs of women, improving street lighting, widened pavements, increasing seating and reshaping parks. 'The link between wider pavements, benches and gender might be obscure, but it is a question of ensuring equality of opportunity and access.'⁵¹ Eva Kail of Vienna city's strategic planning unit and one of the world's pre-eminent experts in gender mainstreaming stated, "lighting may not prevent sexual assault, but it can alleviate women's feelings of anxiety, improving their access to the city and when they are faced with a potential threat, lighting improves their ability to assess the situation."⁵²

An apartment complex Frauen-Werk-Stadt (Women-Work-City), a 357-unit complex developed by women and completed in 1997 was such a successful pilot it led to gender analysis requirements with all bids for city social housing contracts. Vienna's embedding of gender mainstreaming into urban planning was seen as a catalyst in sustainable urban planning and has since been adopted by other cities including, Barcelona, Berlin, Copenhagen and Stockholm. In 2008, the UN Human Settlements programme recognised Vienna's urban planning strategy as best practice.⁵³

Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Third-Level Education (ESHTE)

The ESHTE project was established in October 2016 and concluded in October 2019. It was a collaboration between four women's rights organisation from Ireland, Scotland, Cyprus and Lithuania⁵⁴ and includes the Women's Equality Commissioner from University Munich in Germany.⁵⁵ The National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi) was the project lead and set up a National Advisory Committee which comprised representatives from student unions, higher education institutes, non-governmental organisations and statutory agencies. The project aimed 'to prevent and combat sexual harassment and violence and build a culture of zero tolerance in universities and third level institutions throughout Europe, through building a feminist understanding and analysis of the causes and effects of sexual harassment and violence.'⁵⁶

It Stops Now

'It Stops Now' is a key campaign through the ESHTE project. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the prevalence of gender-based harassment and violence in third level education and seeks to engage both staff and students to combat all forms of harassment and violence against women students.⁵⁷ The campaign included the development of a video, posters and stickers which were disseminated to third level institutions, hosting workshops and webinars covering areas such as consent and sexual violence and the law and held a conference in Dublin in March 2019 bringing together key stakeholders to explore approaches to combating sexual violence and harassment in higher education. An 'It Stops Now' Website and a Europe wide adaptable toolkit were also developed. The website which was launched in April 2018 provides a 'one stop shop' for those committed to addressing sexual harassment and violence against women necessary to ensure women's safety, and

⁵⁰ STADTENTWICKLUNGSPPLAN(2013) Gender mainstreaming in Urban Planning and Urban Design

⁵¹ Hunt, E,(2019) City with a female face: How Modern Vienna was shaped by women.

⁵² IBID

⁵³ <http://unhabitat.org/>

⁵⁴ National Women's Council of Ireland, Rape Crisis Scotland, Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies Cyprus and Women's Issues Information Centre Lithuania.

⁵⁵ <https://www.itstopsnow.org/>

⁵⁶ IBID

⁵⁷ IBID

their full and equal participation in third level institutions. The toolkit which is available on the NWCi website is a resource tool to support third level institutions in developing a zero tolerance approach to sexual violence and harassment on campus. It covers areas including understanding sexual violence and harassment; research and data collection; policies and disclosures and campaigning for change. The toolkit can be adapted and used in a range of settings.⁵⁸

No Excuses Campaign

In 2019 the No Excuses Campaign was launched in Ireland as part of the second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and gender-based Violence. The initiative was a response to harassment asking, “Does Ireland Have a problem?”. The initiative sought to reach a national audience through a high impact media campaign using outdoor social and digital advertising, radio, cinema and television. The advertisements included both female and male victims and perpetrators, showed many different aspects of sexual violence and harassment and called on society to stop excusing sexual harassment and sexual violence. The campaign had three core aims:

- To increase the awareness of sexual harassment and sexual violence.
- To bring about a change in long established societal behaviours and attitudes.
- To activate bystanders with the aim of decreasing and preventing this violence.

The ultimate goal of the campaign is to reduce and prevent the incidences of sexual harassment and sexual violence and thereby make Ireland a much safer society’.⁵⁹

The campaign has an interactive website providing information on key areas in relation to sexual harassment and violence including, what is sexual violence, consent, staying safe on line, how to help and become an ally and how to get help.

⁵⁸ https://www.nwci.ie/images/uploads/It_Stops_Now_Toolkit

⁵⁹ www.gov.ie/NoExcuses

6. Study Findings

Three crucial findings were established from the study. Firstly, specific locations of concern for the safety and inclusivity of women have been identified. Secondly, there is an alarming high prevalence of sexual harassment and a high level of fear of other forms of sexual violence within the study area. Thirdly, a coordinated multiagency response is needed to enhance safety and inclusivity for women in public spaces within the study area.

The following sets out the key findings from the consultation process. The findings from both individuals and organisations are presented collectively given that there was strong consensus across the areas explored.

6.1 Safety and inclusivity in public spaces

The majority of participants identified the same specific locations of concern in relation to the safety and inclusivity of women in public spaces within the study area. 79% of individuals and 78% of organisations identified that the safety concerns were current issues.

Layout and features:

The layout and features of locations of concern along with social factors contributed to the lack of safety for women. These included physical features such as the overall design and layout of the shopping areas, lack of or poor lighting and isolated walkways, hidden spaces in bushes and fences along main roads, overgrown trees and shrubbery that block visibility, lack of infrastructure such as CCTV and public transport and poorly maintained areas. Social factors such as the gathering of large groups, particularly at night, and anti-social behaviour in large open spaces impact on safety and inclusivity. In line with other studies this research found that Women fear accessing public spaces where there is poor lighting, where the areas are 'unkempt, dirty and unwelcoming'.⁶⁰

Despite repeated requests for the installation of lighting and the maintenance of trees and overgrowth of green areas, 84% of individuals and 78% of organisations were not aware of any actions taken to address these concerns.

Avoiding locations of concern:

64% of individuals and 56% of organisations stated from their knowledge or experience, women were staying at home or staying away from identified locations, particularly in the evenings or at night, as many women were fearful to walk alone due to fear for personal safety. *"I have on many occasions been too afraid to go out to study or leisure activities in the evening/night. I have often had to take a taxi to get home safe but I cannot afford this."* This was described as a form of self-censorship by women seeking to remain safe in public spaces within their own community. In describing some of

⁶⁰ Bourke, J., Lalor, K., & Cuffe, C. (2015) Report of Scoping Study for Dublin City Council Safe City Programme Challenging sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public. Dublin City Council, 2015.

the concerns participants stated, *“lots of women don’t even go to the shops at night because of the gangs outside shops.”*

“Some women will not go to the local shops after dark, not because they have experienced an incident of sexual harassment but because of hearing things or seeing things during the day that gives a perception that the area is unsafe.”

“I know plenty of women, me included, who do not go out early morning or after dark on our own due to safety concerns.”

Organisations further highlighted women’s concerns for safety in the following ways: *“The Neilstown and Rowlagh shops can be very intimidating at night-time with lack of lighting in parts, rubbish dumping and gangs hanging around.”*

“Because of previous attacks women are more aware that they can be unsafe particularly young women who generally do not walk alone at night time in the area.”

It was also reported that fears can be exacerbated due to unreliable public transport. *“Some of our participants are loath to come to activities after dark, particularly when the public transport can be unreliable.”*

6.2 Specific locations of concern

Six specific locations of concern have emerged from the study findings. Five of the areas were identified by both individuals and organisations. These are the Neilstown Shopping Centre and adjacent areas, the ‘Black Lane’(from the back of Neilstown Shops to Ronanstown Garda Station) , Letts Field area, Collinstown Park and the areas around Rowlagh Shops. The Neilstown Road (from the front of St Peter Apostle School to the junction of Newlands Road) was identified by individuals but not organisations. The safety and inclusivity issues in relation to each of the identified locations of concern are outlined below.

Neilstown Shopping Centre: There was significant concern at the lack of lighting around the Neilstown shopping centre, the car park to the front and the area to the back of the shops. *“The open spaces beside the shopping centre is not safe, there is no lighting in front of the shops and it can be pitch dark even before 5pm in Winter.”* The shopping centre was described as *a different world after dark*, almost pitch dark and an area seen and experienced by many as unsafe for women. Contributing factors included, insufficient lighting in the carpark and along the sheltered areas directly in front of the shops. *“The back area of the shopping centre is not visible to anyone, I would not feel safe to cut through this area but especially not at night.”* *“ This area is another world after dark, it just doesn’t feel safe, even the chipper closes early.”* *“There is very low Garda presence.”* It was reported that large groups of mainly teens and young adults *hang around* the shops, with evidence of anti-social behaviour, experiences of or witnessing intimidating behaviour including sexual harassment identified as been *“normalised among the groups hanging about.”* In addition, issues of sexual activity and drug taking and drug dealing were also reported. The areas to the back of the shops are *unlit, under-used and unsafe*. Many women who drive will not use the parking spaces at the back of the shops

particularly after dark. *“Once the boxing gym is closed no one can see what’s happening around there.”*

Organisations reported hearing from people engaging in their services of experiencing or witnessing incidents of sexual harassment around the shops particularly after dark and further highlighted *“the level of groups that congregate around the Neilstown shops could pose a safety concern for women.”* The tension between *groups* or *gangs* hanging around was also named as a factor seen as unsafe for women and an issue that needs to be further explored. *“Gangs hanging around can get up to 40+ people, they can be oblivious to their behaviours but may not be aware of the impact of this.”*

Some of the safety concerns particularly in relation to the layout, the lack of lighting and groups gathering were easily identifiable at night-time during the women’s safety audit of the areas around the Neilstown shops.



Back of Neilstown shops at night (summertime 10.30pm)

The black lane: The *walkway* which runs from behind the Neilstown shops and out towards the Ronanstown Garda Station was described by individuals and organisations as an area not used by many women after dark due to safety concerns which are particularly heightened once evening time falls. *“Even as a young confident woman who knows the area well, I would not use that path after dark.”* The pathway described as *unpleasant, eerie and too dark at night* is a shorter route to the shops, other services and areas to and from Wood Avens and parts of St Ronan’s. However, women described taking the long route to the shops rather than using this shorter route once it gets dark. *“The black path is too dark at night and needs lights, I would go the long way round to the shops before using that path, it’s not overlooked and not safe to use.”* The vast majority of the pathway is not overlooked and where it is overlooked it is only from the back of houses quite a distance from the path. Apart from a light near the start of the path at Neilstown shops and on the public road at the opposite end, there is no lighting for the length of the pathway. As a result visibility is extremely poor at night or from around 4pm in the winter. The lane has a CCTV that does not work and is boarded by green spaces with overgrown shrubbery creating *“hidden areas”* to both sides and is often a location for dumping. Concerns for personal safety and fears of attack prevent many women using this path after dark and for some women at times during the day if walking alone. *“It’s the fear of not been seen if something happened, fear of the unknown and what could happen.”*

During the night-time women’s safety audit of the black path, in the space of a few minutes an individual male walked past and two males cycled past. This in itself is not a cause for concern.

However, due to the darkness of the pathway the individuals (whether male or female) were not visible to the group of women until they were a few feet away and this lack of visibility caused safety concerns with women experiencing a heightened level of fear.



The black lane at night-time.

Neilstown Road: The section of Neilstown Road from the front of Neilstown shopping centre to the junction of Newlands Road was described by individuals as, *“a long stretch of road, not overlooked for most of it”*, with *“areas off it that are hidden”* and *“the bus stops at the end do not feel safe to wait alone at.”* These issues were identified as contributing factors to fear of attack and result in women avoiding the area particularly after dark. The green area to the side of the credit union and the side road between the Childcare Centre and St Peter Apostle School were also named as areas of concern. The side road was described as an area *“where groups can hang around and sexual harassment happens as they egg each other on.”* Public transport has often been cancelled along this road due to anti-social behaviour which further contributes to the lack of safety for women along this specific part of Neilstown Road.

Letts Field area: This area is located at the junction of Neilstown Road and Newlands Road and was named as a location of major concern. The serious sexual assault which took place there in 2016 remains a significant factor in the high level of fear for the safety of women four years on. Although houses have been built on part of the land, participants identified it as an *ongoing area of concern*, and due to the sexual assault many women identified that they still avoid this area for fear of attack. The lands beside the houses are unkempt and overgrown causing poor visibility from the houses and main roads. As described by individuals, *“the building of houses has not reduced the fear of attack, more needs to be done to make the area safer.”* *“My daughter is nearly six feet tall and you wouldn’t be able to see her with the height of the weeds that grow along there, it’s not safe, especially for women.”* Organisations stated, *“due to concerns of safety women and young girls still avoid this area”* and that *“the areas around the new houses need to be developed.”* While a walkway has been located to the right of the houses around a space which is planned for development as a junior playing pitch there is only lighting at both ends and none either sides of the walkway.

The section of Newlands Road running in front of Letts Field, from the Ronanstown Garda station to Neilstown Bridge was named as a no go area for women walking alone due to the waste ground to one side, with gaps and hidden areas of access and very poor lighting. Women articulated *“not been able to walk safely”* and being *“fearful of possible attackers been able to hide and escape.”* Although

only a very short distance to the Ronanstown Garda station, this does not reduce fears, “even with my dog, I would not walk that area.” “If anything was to happen to a woman there, even screaming would not carry to the Garda station.” It was also emphasised that “lots of women are approached along there, as a 66 year old woman its very scary for me.” The area was ultimately described as off limits for some women. “When driving over the Neilstown bridge, once I get to the junction of Letts field I feel different, become hyper vigilant due to the rape there, the fear of attack is still there, even when I am in the car.”



Waste ground on Newlands Road opposite Letts Field.

Rowlagh Shops: The areas surrounding the Rowlagh shops particularly to the back of the shops are of significant concern to individuals and organisations. The overall layout and design of the shops was described as a *planning disaster*. Concerns were expressed about cars being able to drive up to the front door of the shops located at the back where large groups *hang around* and anti-social behaviour is evident. The areas around the shops were reported as *highly congested* with people, cars and anti-social behaviour making the area unsafe for women during the day and at night time. The back of the shops was described as “*too much out of sight from the main roads with a lot going on in such a small area.*”

The walk through/archway from Neilstown Road into the back area of the Rowlagh shops has an entrance door to apartments over the shops. This walkway was deemed to be so unsafe that some women won't even use it during the day. Women reported fear and intimidation in this area through experiences of and witnessing sexual harassment on a daily basis. It was described as *an area with a pressure pot atmosphere* and high levels of visible drug dealing daily. “*The environment is that fearful,*

its tangible, connected with the high level of drug dealing, many muggings in the archway even during the day and experiences of intimidation and sexual harassment.”



The entrance to archway at back of Rowlagh shops out to Neilstown Road..

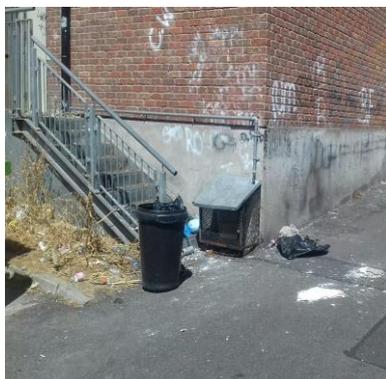
Women described avoiding this area after dark and at times during daylight if they were alone, particularly if there were large groups of males “*hanging around*”, or if conflict had erupted which was noted as a regular occurrence in this area, often drug related. *“If I need to go to the health centre which is at the back of the shops I would not use the short cut through the arch, I would go the long way around the shops to try stay safe.”*

“I run in and out as quickly as possible for fear of getting caught up in something.”

Fear and intimidation were described through experiences of sexual harassment including sexual comments and gestures. *“I was going to the Chinese with my daughter (20 years of age) when we arrived she was too frightened to get out of the car due to the level of the crowd hanging about. Some of the gang came up to the car making sexual gestures and comments, this was frightening.”*

The overall area was described as, *“an example of bad planning that ignored the needs and voice of the community.”*

During the women’s safety audits, it was evident that the archway from Neilstown road into the back of Rowlagh shops/Chaplain’s Court was as dark in daylight as it was at night when public lights were on. The darkness at the back of the shops, the back of the shop windows blocked up by bricks, rubbish strewn about and large groups congregating were all discussed during the women’s safety audit as contributing to this areas been seen or experienced as an unsafe space.



Back areas at Rowlagh shops

Collinstown Park: Concerns raised in relation to Collinstown Park included, the lack of lighting throughout the park and the overgrowth in some areas and at some entrance/exit gates which impeded visibility and contributed to safety concerns. The gathering of groups of young men in particular at specific parts of the park including entrance/exit points and the high level of visible drinking, drug taking and drug dealing which was noted to have increased during Covid-19 restrictions created unsafe spaces for women's personal safety. While some women identified feeling safe when using the park at any time many identified that the fear for safety and fear of attack prevented them from using the park alone and particularly at night. *"The park is poorly lit at night time and doesn't feel safe to walk around." "I wouldn't use it after dark for fear of been attacked."*

"I am well known in the area, walk my dog daily and still wouldn't walk in and around Collinstown Park for fear of attack, even with my dog."

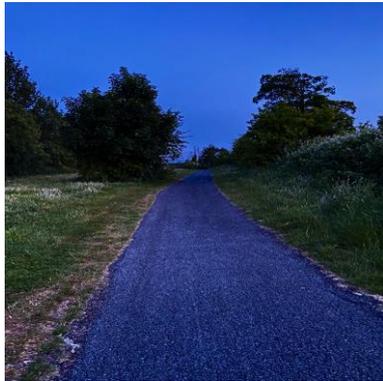
Women also reported fear and intimidation through experiences of sexual harassment, incidents of been shouted at of a sexual nature, experiencing sexual remarks and gestures, been indecently flashed at and being inappropriately stared at while walking through the park.

Concerns around the *gap gate* at the Palmerstown Woods entrance/exit was described as, *"too dark, often gangs hanging around, I cannot use this route to Neilstown shops for fear of safety."* *"The gap gate at Collinstown Park, Palmerstown Wood entrance was installed for safety reasons, but has only encouraged groups to congregate there often lighting fires and intimidating women trying to come through."*

The Collinstown Road path linking Neilstown and Palmerstown woods was also identified as an area avoided by women. *"Using this way, it takes approx. five to ten minutes to get to the shops, going the long way takes around twenty to twenty-five minutes, but it feels safer."*

During the women's safety audit, the concerns in relation to the lack of lighting and the impacts of this were evident. It was also evident that the park is a significant amenity for the community and that the installation of lighting along with better park maintenance would increase access and greatly enhance safety and inclusivity for women. The development of a new playground and teen space within the Park had started at time of this study with anticipation that this may enhance safety

particularly during daylight hours. However, the need for a park warden was highlighted during the safety audit.



Pathway in Collinstown Park in the evening



Overgrowth at an entrance/exit gate to Collinstown Park

Locations outside of study area:

A number of locations outside of the study area were repeatedly identified in relation to concerns for the lack of safety and inclusivity of women. Although these areas are not a focus of the study, they are noted below for possible further examination.

Palmerstown Woods/surrounding areas: *“Walking from Palmerstown Woods to Ronanstown Women’s CDP at night is very dark, no lights, fear of been attacked.” “Bus routes have been cut and walking from B&Q/Liffey valley to Palmerstown Woods is dangerous and you have a fear of attacks.”*

Balgaddy and Balgaddy Park: *“These areas experience ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour”* and are described as too dark and unsafe.

Fonthill Road: From the entrance to the retail park down to the junction of Newlands Road, *“areas which are not overlooked, visibility is poor with parts blocked by overgrowth and hidden areas on both sides.”*

Quarryvale Shops and Quarryvale Park: An area described as too dark at night due to poor lighting even on roads around houses. *“An area that seems neglected by the local authority”* and *“the levels of dumping gives sense of it not been safe”*.

6.3 Sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence

55% of individuals and 70% of organisations identified that sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence against women in public spaces within the study area had come to their attention.

Others identified personal experiences of sexual harassment in the following ways: *“My own*

daughters have experienced verbal sexual harassment, as have I when walking in the area day and night."

"It can be intimidating at the shops, groups of young men blocking the way and commenting on how women dress, young women particularly."

"Sometimes lads act out in front of friends shouting obscenities at women, this largely goes unchallenged."

Organisations highlighted awareness of the following issues:

"Young women being exploited to perform sexual acts in Collinstown Park".

"Young woman feeling anxious about dressing in certain ways because they might attract the wrong attention."

"We hear of young women in particular paying for cocaine by having sex, sometimes if not always this is not consensual."

"Recently a Mum told us of how a group of lads grabbed her daughter from behind and groped her breasts and genital area. The mum informed the Garda."

Prevalence and types of sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence:

Participants were asked based on their own knowledge or experience how frequently they would estimate incidents of sexual harassment or forms of sexual violence occurring in the study area. 31% of individuals stated that from their experience or knowledge sexual harassment against women took place on a daily or nightly basis and a further 24% of individuals and 33% of organisations estimated it took place on a weekly basis within the study area.

In describing the types of sexual harassment against women in public spaces, all participants described non-contact forms of sexual harassment including, offensive remarks about physical appearance, sexually suggestive comments or 'jokes', and wolf whistling as the most prevalent. Offensive remarks about clothing worn and inappropriate staring were also prevalent. 42% of individuals reported women being followed, while 17% of individuals and 50% of organisations stated

indecent exposure as other types of non-contact sexual harassment. 12.5% of individuals named women been stalked as a further form of sexual harassment.

50 % of organisations and 31% of participants identified non-consensual contact such as pinching, grabbing, slapping or kissing as forms of sexual harassment against women within the area.

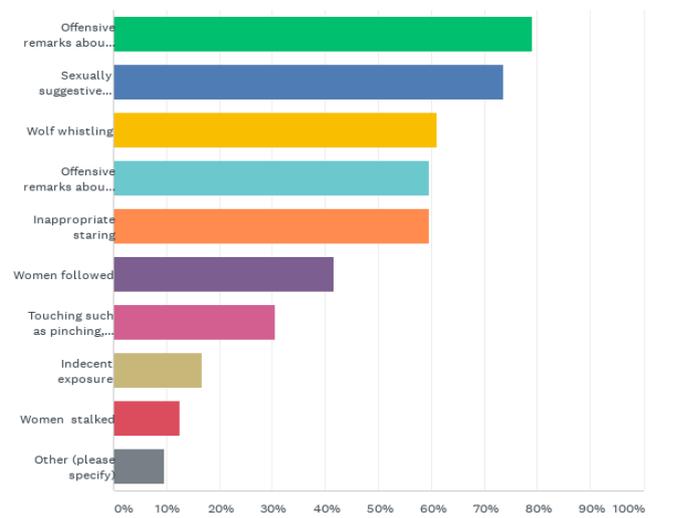


Figure 3: Types of sexual harassment against women occurring in public spaces within study area as identified by individuals.

44% of participants stated they were aware of rape having occurred within the area. When exploring this further, the vast majority of participants were relating to the case from 2016. This particular attack heightened concerns for personal safety in the area which evidently continues today. 46% of individuals are concerned for their safety due to the threat of sexual violence or attack. *“I know that due to fear of being attacked myself and other women stay away from the area at Letts Field where there was a brutal rape a few years back, parts of that area are still unsafe.”*

While women of all ages can be subject to sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence, women between the ages of 17 and 39 were seen as particularly vulnerable.

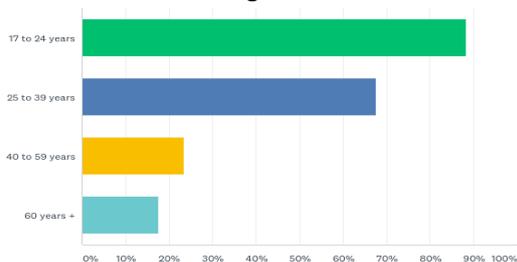


Figure 4: age groups identified as most vulnerable to sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence

67% of organisations and 49% of individuals reported that sexual harassment was also an issue in the area for girls under 17 years of age. In addition, organisations expressed concern at *how normalised* sexual harassment can be amongst younger people.

During focus group discussions it was stated that women from particular groups including women with a disability, women with substance misuse issues, the LGBTI community and women from ethnic

minority groups were more vulnerable to sexual harassment due to the additional levels of exclusion and discrimination they experience.

Participants identified that women can be subject to sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence within the study area at any time of the day and night. However, the most dangerous times were between 9pm to 5am and 6pm to 9pm.

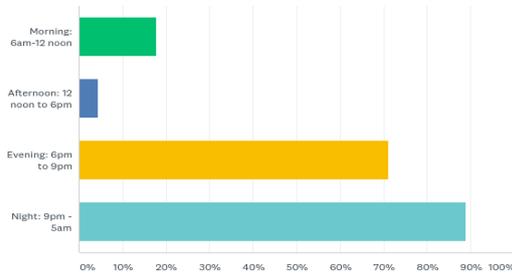


Figure 5: Identified times of concern re safety for women

Reporting:

58% of individuals stated that they were unsure if women disclosed incidents of sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence to friends, family member or co-workers. 29% were aware that women had disclosed this to a friend or family member, while 8% of individuals and 22% of organisations stated they were aware that women did not report their experiences of sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence to friends, family or co-workers. In looking at why women may not disclose experiences of sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence issues such as embarrassment, shame, self-blame, stigma and fear of being judged or not been taken seriously were highlighted in the following ways: *“A woman might feel ashamed or embarrassed even though it’s not her fault.”* *“Some women may be unaware of how serious sexual harassment is or even recognise incidents as sexual harassment.”* *“It can be the fear of not been believed and being stigmatised.”*

When asked if people were aware if women had reported incidents to the Garda, 64% of individuals were unsure, while 19% of individuals and 33% of organisations identified they were aware women did not report to the Garda. In exploring possible reasons as to why women may not report to the Garda, individuals identified concerns in relation to *‘an unsupportive system’*, a sense of stigma and shame, fear and little evidence of perpetrators been held accountable. *“From experience, its traumatic going through the details with the Garda, only for noting to come of it.”*

“If there was more evidence of consequences for perpetrators, victims might be encouraged to report.”

“There is no faith in the system, women are out under the spotlight and the one that is judged.”

“There is a sense of shame and stigma and a fear of not been believed.”

Through focus group discussions the issue of gang-led intimidation was also raised as a possible reason of non-reporting with fear of repercussions.

One organisation reported, *“Even women I have worked directly with would not get involved in the study due to fear, not because something may have happened to them directly but due to what they hear and the associated fear.”*

Supports and Services:

It emerged that individuals do not have the information regarding organisations who provide key supports and services locally.

78% of participants were not aware of any supports or services within Clondalkin to support women who had been subject to sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence. This is a worrying finding given that issues of sexual harassment are prevalent on a daily basis in the area.

67% of organisations identified that they provided *informal* supports and services and 11% identified they provided *formal* supports and services to women who had been subject to sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence within the study area. These supports and services were named as, one-to-one supports, brief interventions, information, signposting and referrals to relevant organisations including Garda, Women’s Aid and the Rape Crisis Centre.

6.4 Informing local responses and strategies:

Notwithstanding the fact that issues of safety and inclusivity of women within a context of gender - based violence needs to be addressed at national and systemic levels, the following proposals were developed by individuals and organisations to inform responses and strategies that could be implemented locally. Proposals have been grouped under the areas of education and awareness, communications campaign, enhancing infrastructure and collective action.

Education and awareness

The provision of training and education for the community and agencies on promoting a zero tolerance strategy and a focus on the following areas:

- What is sexual harassment and its impacts.
- Reporting issues of sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence.
- Challenging the social normalisation of sexual harassment especially among younger people.
- Workshops on consent, harassment and grooming.

The need to target and engage men was also highlighted. *“Engage men and boys by tailoring training and messages to challenge gender stereotypes and unequal gender roles.”*

Training should be designed and implemented for organisations to support women and young girls who report experiences of sexual harassment and provide clear referral pathways. *“Training for all key workers to know how to support and or refer women who have experienced sexual harassment.”*

All information, training and supports need to be culturally appropriate and reflect the diversity of women.

Raising awareness of the issues and impacts of sexual harassment *“through a local community campaign and workshops was recommended to explore attitudes, beliefs and culture in the community and state agencies around sexual harassment.”* The information on what is sexual harassment and the supports available should be advertised in public places such as community centres, projects, shops and churches. Sexual safety campaigns including, no means no should also be run locally.

Through the focus groups some agencies reported not been aware of the high prevalence of sexual harassment in the area and the need now *“to highlight and address this at all levels”*.

The need to have a female Garda available at all times in the local Garda station was recommended as an important measure for women to be able to speak about and report these issues. There was little awareness among participants of the location of the DPSU in Clondalkin. A communication and information strategy is needed to highlight awareness of the DPSU and create links with community.

Communications campaign

It was recommended that the communications campaign to be delivered by SDCC should be part of a wider community strategy and not a stand-alone initiative. The development and implementation of the campaign should be in collaboration with community groups and all communication materials such as leaflets, posters and social media advertisements should be developed in full consultation with the community. *“The key message needs to be that sexual harassment is not ok and there is zero tolerance as sexual harassment or sexual violence is unacceptable on every level.”*

Strategies proposed for the campaign include:

- a clearly visible and identifiable poster campaign across the area;
- leaflets delivered door-to-door highlighting the issues and contacts for all supports and
- a social media campaign involving, local men and women of different ages that is creative, interactive with a high impact.

A range of mechanisms to communicate the message were named as follows:

- public poster campaign to educate people on the issues and the impacts;
- communicate messages on beer mats in pubs” and bus shelters and other key points throughout the community;
- short video clips and social media pieces with young people to communicate messages in a way that engages them.

Enhancing infrastructure

The layout of spaces to the back of the shopping areas and in particular, Rowlagh shops, need critical attention. *“Safety for women cannot begin to be improved unless the problems with the physical spaces around the shops are addressed.”* Increasing visibility in poorly lit and *hidden* areas through the

installation of public lighting and enhancing security measures including more visibility of Garda and installation of CCTV were recommended.

Collective action

Proposals for developing strategies for collective actions included:

- A multi-agency approach to engage with the wider community is required to achieving success.
- Liaise with public transport as stoppages affect the whole community and can add to lack of safety for women.
- Develop structures to support and ensure the inclusion of all women and in particular vulnerable women.
- Building on the work of existing groups such as the safety forum and supporting the work of groups already working on the issues of safety within the community.
- Establish a coordinating group to support the implementation of an overall strategy.

7. Analysis of finding

The study found consensus between individuals and organisations regarding specific locations of concern and key physical and social factors which significantly contribute to the lack of safety and inclusivity of women. The findings provide a robust message that critical safety issues impacting on women locally are neglected. This is evidenced through calls for improvements to physical factors such as public lighting being ignored and the extent of self-censorship among women, who are refraining from going out to specific areas particularly after dark due to safety concerns. This infringes on women's right of access and directly impacts their health and wellbeing which can no longer be ignored.

Non-consensual contact such as pinching, grabbing, slapping or kissing are types of sexual harassment which have become normalised behaviours within the study areas and mainly go unchallenged. There is a prevalence of non-contact forms of sexual harassment including, offensive remarks about physical appearance or clothing worn, inappropriate staring and wolf whistling towards women on a daily basis. This exacerbates the high level of fear amongst women for personal safety and fear of attack or sexual violence. These intolerable conditions cannot be allowed to continue and statutory bodies in particular have an obligation to ensure this is addressed.

While all women can be vulnerable to sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence, the study found that women with substance misuse issues, from the LGBTI community and ethnic minority backgrounds who experience additional layers of exclusion and discrimination are particularly vulnerable. Any strategies to enhance safety and inclusivity must reflect diversity of need and be culturally appropriate. Furthermore, given that the study identified sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence also impacts on females under seventeen years of age and that one in every ten women in the study area are recorded as having a disability, it is imperative that their specific needs are considered within the development and implementation of strategies.

There is an issue of non-reporting of sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence to an Garda Síochána or disclosing to friends, family or co-workers. This is further compounded by the fact that the majority of individuals are not aware of any supports or services within Clondalkin to support women who have experienced sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence. Mechanisms must be found to support women to report incidents of sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence in public spaces. In addition, effective systems across services need to be put in place to ensure women are aware of supports and services available and how to access them.

A range of proposals have been scoped out to inform a locally-based strategy that seeks to address the issues of safety and inclusivity. However, the need to secure resources for delivery of actions is a challenge for organisations. Opportunities for the implementation of strategies start by ensuring that the information from the study is presented to relevant key forums and decision making structures. These were named as the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee, the Drug Task Force, the Local Policing Forum and the Joint Policing Committee, the SDC Partnership, SDCC Local Community Development Committee, Youth Services and the Health Services Executive. A further opportunity is the expressed interest from some locally based organisations to become *delivery partners*. These opportunities must be built on while seeking to secure the engagement of all key stakeholders as tackling issues of sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence in the study area will require a collective community and multi-agency response.

8. Conclusion

The key findings of this study will be of no surprise to many women in the study area, in particular those who have experienced issues of safety and inclusivity in public spaces within the context of gender-based violence, or others who have sought to raise the issues and seek solutions. Sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence have negatively impacted on women's daily lives and curtailed their freedom of movement within their own community.

The lack of lighting, poor lighting and overgrowth of green areas must be addressed urgently by the local authority. The requests for these actions by the community can no longer be ignored. Unkempt areas must be tackled between the local authority, local businesses and management company's where necessary, as areas neglected are setting a tone of fear.

Addressing the physical factors alone may alleviate some concerns, however, it will not remove or reduce all concerns for the safety and inclusivity of women. This must be matched with a commitment for change in attitudes and behaviours through a robust strategy to address the social and personal factors. Such a strategy must be delivered in a targeted and inclusive way to secure the engagement of key audiences and accessibility for vulnerable individuals and groups. The SDCC communication campaign should be part of this wider strategy and must be developed in full consultation with the community, without which an opportunity for the sustainability of actions will be missed.

The proposed strategies to tackle key issues of safety and inclusivity in public spaces at local level can only be achieved through an investment of resources. At the time of concluding this study Ireland was beginning to re-open following restrictions due to Covid-19. With cutbacks in government spending being signalled, there is a fear that community supports and infrastructure will once again be subjected to cuts. However, reports have highlighted the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified domestic and gender-based violence globally. Furthermore, collective strategies or funding to tackle sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women in public spaces have not been to the fore in Clondalkin in recent years. It is imperative that this is now addressed and the safety and inclusivity of women prioritised.

While local strategies are vital to address localised physical and social factors infringing on the safety of women, alone they will not bring about the systemic changes required. Nationally, gender proofed, protection and preventative strategies must be developed. Changes to legislation and policy are also needed to ensure that sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence are no longer tolerated or seen as a 'norm' at any level.

9. Recommendations

The following recommendations were informed by the study process and proposals scoped out by individuals and organisations. They are not listed in order of priority.

Strategies	Potential Delivery Partners
<p>1. Communications Campaign</p>	
<p>To highlight key findings from the study and seek support in addressing same at local level SDCC should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a steering group to ensure the communications campaign is developed in collaboration with community-based organisations and implemented as part of the proposed wider strategy. • Raise awareness of this report through presenting key findings to key for a and decisions making structures. <p>The campaign should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope out key messages and identify the range of audiences to maximise effectiveness. • Use a range of mechanism’s that are creative and interactive including, social media, vox pops, short video clips and involve youth and younger adults to communicate issues and strengthen engagement for high impact. • Be inclusive of the wider community recognising that over 20% of households in the study area have no internet access. 	<p>SDCC & community organisations</p>
<p>2. Infrastructure</p>	
<p>To improve visibility, enhance access and increase safety and inclusivity in public spaces, SDCC and other stakeholders should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the installation or upgrading of lighting in the following areas (exploring the option of sensor lighting): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neilstown Shopping Centre – the front and back. ○ Rowlagh shops – back areas and side entrances. Improve lighting in archway during daytime. ○ Collinstown Park - around the pathways and at entrance/exit gates. ○ The black lane – ensuring the length of the laneway is lit particularly at night. ○ Letts Field area – from the bus stops opposite houses to the junction of Neilstown Road. • Cut back overhanging trees and overgrowth to shrubbery and greenery in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Along Collinstown Road and Neilstown Road where trees are blocking lights and visibility and shrubs are encroaching on pathways. ○ Both sides of land bordering the black lane. ○ The Collinstown pathway linking Palmerstown Woods and Neilstown. ○ At Collinstown & Palmerstown Wood entrance and exit gates to Collinstown Park. • Remove unused shipping containers from Collinstown Park: 	<p>SDCC, local businesses and management companies.</p> <p>SDCC</p> <p>SDCC</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore the option of a street art project on the remaining containers. • Install bus shelters with lighting and real time bus timetables for bus stops at the end of Neilstown Road just before the junction with Newlands Road: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Convene a meeting with bus service providers to discuss alternatives to withdrawing bus services. • Explore the possibility of installing safety buzzers linked to Garda stations as an alternative to repairing or replacing CCTV currently not working around the area (an example of this is currently used on the grounds of TU Dublin Grangegorman). 	<p>Youth Services</p> <p>SDCC & bus service providers</p> <p>SDCC, an Garda Síochána, local businesses.</p>
3. Planning and Development	
<p>All planning and development initiatives for the area should be gender-proofed to ensure women and girls have safe and secure freedom of movement. Immediate interventions to achieve this should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultation process should be facilitated to examine in detail the needs and opportunities to address the significant safety and inclusivity issues around the Rowlagh shops and develop a plan for addressing same with associated timelines. • The appointment of park wardens for the new play areas in Collinstown Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SDCC in collaboration with other bodies should explore the employment of local people for such posts similar to a previous Training and Employment programme for general operatives within the SDCC parks department. 	<p>SDCC, business and NCCSF</p> <p>SDCC SDCC & SDC Partnership</p>
4. Empowerment, Collective Action and Supports	
<p>To ensure all women have access to information on sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence, know how and where to report incidents and or access supports and services all stakeholders should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a reclaim the streets/safe public spaces campaign that builds a collective community approach to prevent and tackle sexual harassment and promote a culture of zero tolerance – ensuring access for all women and cultural appropriateness. • Adapt the ESHTE programme and It Stops Now campaign to meet local needs. • Develop and implement a younger women and girl’s safety programme for under 17 years (recognising ethical considerations and children first). • In collaboration with the DPSU explore the establishment of a text-based emergency help line. 	<p>SDCC & Community organisations</p> <p>CYPSC & Youth Services</p> <p>Garda & key stakeholders</p>
5. Education and Awareness	
<p>Raise awareness of issues and impacts of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence through a gender equality lens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing information and training to all organisations on first step response /support and signposting to women disclosing sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence (an existing body in the community may already be equipped to provide this). 	<p>HSE, Women’s Aid, CLWN</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing age appropriate training, workshops, webinars and information on issues including safety and inclusivity of women in public spaces, tackling the ‘normalisation’ of sexual harassment, gender inequality and impacts of sharing images on social media platforms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Seek to engage men and women of different ages and backgrounds via schools, youth services, community bodies etc. 	
6. Implementation	
<p>Develop a multi-agency approach to ensure stakeholder engagement and support for the effective implementation of agreed strategies and actions through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a coordinating group to oversee the implementation of the overall strategy. SDCC should ensure representation from key stakeholders such as local residents, community groups, education providers, businesses, SDCC, Garda, HSE etc. • Resourcing and appointing a lead agent for coordination of the working group – (this could potentially be a sub group of the NCCSF if resources are provided as there is a direct fit with their remit and the recommendations. • Provide a commitment to a level of financial resources to support implementation of the overall strategy which can be used as leverage for matched funding from other bodies. 	<p>SDCC</p> <p>SDCC & NCCSF</p>
7. Further research	
<p>To examine key issues which emerged but were outside the remit of this study, further studies should be undertaken to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the locations identified outside of the study area where concerns were expressed in relation to the safety and inclusivity of women. (Locations are listed in section 6.2). • Examine the tension between <i>groups of young people hanging around</i> versus <i>gangs</i> and how this is perceived or experienced in relation to safety and inclusivity. 	<p>SDCC</p> <p>SDCC, Youth Services, NCCSF and Drug Task Force.</p>

Appendix 1: Demographics of study area

The following sets out key data on the demographic profile of the study area. The data unless otherwise stated was sourced from the Census of Population 2016.

3.3.1 Population

The population of Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED is 4069 with 29.3% living in the study areas. The population of the Clondalkin-Moorefield ED is 6376 with just over 10% living in the study area. This is consistent with the statistics for the wider Clondalkin area and South Dublin County. 3.7% of young women age 16 to 19 years live in the Neilstown estate which is marginally higher than Clondalkin-Morefield ED at 3.2% and higher than Clondalkin and South Dublin at 2.6% and 2.5% respectively. St Ronans, Wood Avens and Letts Field have the lowest percent of young women age 16 to 19 years compared to Clondalkin and South Dublin County.

There are 36.6% of females over the age of 20 years of age living in the study area which is marginally higher than Clondalkin at 35.8% and South Dublin County at 35.1%. Women between the ages of 20 and 39 years account for just under 29% of all women in the study area. This is an important statistic when looking to develop strategies to address safety and inclusivity given that research shows women within the age group of 18-39 years are 'in general' at higher risk of sexual assault or harassment.

Classification	South Dublin County	Clondalkin	Clondalkin-Moorefield ED	Neilstown Estate	Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED	St Ronans, Wood Avens, Letts Field
Population	278,767	55,641	6376	653	4096	1193
Male	48.9%	48.9%	48.9%	48%	48%	49%
Female	51.1%	51.1%	51.1%	52%	52%	51%
Females age 16 years to 19 years	2.5%	2.6%	3.2%	3.7%	3.4%	2.3%
Females over 20 years of age	35.1%	35.8%	34.5%	36%	35.8%	36.8%
Females 20-39 years	15.3%	16.4%	16.2%	13.6%	16%	15.5%

3.3.2 Ethnicity

According to Census 2016, 42,497 people were classified as 'white Irish' representing 77.2% of the total population. This is slightly lower than for South Dublin at 77.8%. This is significantly higher in the study areas of Neilstown Estate at 92% and St. Ronan's, Wood Avens and Letts Field at 90%.

In the ED's of Clondalkin-Moorefield and Clondalkin-Rowlagh, Travellers make up 1.6% and 1.1% respectively which is higher than the state average of 0.7%. The percentage of Travellers recorded for the study areas is significantly lower with 0% in Neilstown Estate and only 0.1% in St. Ronan's, Wood Avens and Letts Field. However, anecdotal evidence would suggest this to be higher as identified by organisations working with women and families from the Traveller community living in the study areas.

1.4% of the population in the study areas classified as 'Black or Black Irish' live in Neilstown and 1.5% in St Ronan's, Wood Avens and Letts Field. This is slightly lower than the state average of 1.9% and more than 50% lower than the population for Clondalkin at 3.5% and South Dublin at 3.3%.

The population recorded as 'Asian or Asian Irish' residing within South Dublin was 4.1%, almost double of the State average of 2.1%. However, the population of this cohort is significantly lower in the study areas with 0.2% recorded for Neilstown Estate and 0.6% for St. Ronan's, Wood Avens and Letts Field.

Classification	Dublin South County	Clondalkin	Clondalkin-Moorefield ED	Neilstown Estate	Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED	St Ronans, Wood Avens, Letts Field
White Irish	77.8%	77.2%	82.9%	92%	88%	90%
White Irish Traveller	0.8%	1.2%	1.6%	0%	1.1%	0.1%
Other white	9.3%	10.2%	5.2%	1.1%	3%	2.1%
Black or Black Irish	3.3%	3.5%	2.06%	1.4%	1.3%	1.5%
Asian or Asian Irish	4.1%	2.6%	3.2%	0.2%	0.6%	0.6%
Other	1.9%	1.6%	0.85%	0.6%	1%	1.1%
Not stated	2.8%	3.7%	3.7%	4.3%	4.7%	4.4%

3.3.3 Employment and Unemployment

According to the Census, during the period 2011-2016 the number of people classified as 'at work' for the Clondalkin area in 2016 was 23,153 an increase of 1,354 from 2011. This represents 41.6% which is marginally lower than the national average of 42.1%. The Clondalkin-Moorefield ED recorded an increase of 334 from 2,070 in 2011 to 2,404 in 2016. With the Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED recording an increase of 208 for persons at work from 1,248 in 2011 to 1,456 in 2016. The population recorded as 'unemployed having lost or giving up previous job' was 4,288 (10%), for Clondalkin, 502 (15.5%) for Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED, 620 (12.6%) for Clondalkin-Moorefield ED, 85 (16.1%) for Neilstown Estate and 118 (12.5%) for St. Ronan's, Wood Avens and Letts Field. All of these are significantly higher than the 7.6% recorded for South Dublin. Persons recorded as 'looking after family/home' ranged from 8% in South Dublin to 9.6% in Clondalkin-Moorefield ED and those classified as 'retired' accounted for 11.4% in Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED and 9.6% in Clondalkin-Moorefield ED both lower than the 12.7% recorded for South Dublin. Neilstown Estate had the highest recorded number of persons classified as 'retired' at 18.2%. However, these figures as reflected in the table below may now be dramatically changed following the effects of Covid-19 Pandemic.

Principal Economic Status	SDCC	Clondalkin	Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED	Clondalkin-Moorefield ED	Neilstown Estate	St Ronans, Wood Avens, Letts Field
At work	42.8%	41.6%	35.5%	37.7	39%	35.8&
Looking for first regular job	0.95%	1.2%	1.3%	1.7%	1.7%	0.74%
Unemployed having lost or giving up previous job	7.6%	10%	15.5%	12.6%	16.1	12.5%
Looking after home/family	8%	8.3%	8.49	9.6%	9%	9.4%
Retired	12.7%	10.7%	11.4%	9.6%	18.2%	12.6%
Unable to work due to permanent sickness/ disability	3.9%	5.4%	8.2%	6.1%	7.4%	9.2%

3.3.4 Educational Attainment

Just over 12% of the population across the study area left school before 15 years of age. This is twice the number for Dublin South and significantly higher than the numbers for the wider Clondalkin area. The St Ronans, Wood Avens and Letts Field small area population had 21.4% of people aged 15 years and older still at school which was significantly higher than Clondalkin at 12.2% and South Dublin at 13.7%. They also had 23.3% of the population over 15 years of age still in other forms of education. Again this is significantly higher than Clondalkin at 11.1% and South Dublin at 9.4%. However, they had the lowest percent of population with a post graduate diploma or degree at 0.6% compared to Clondalkin at 4.4% and South Dublin at 8.8%.

classification	South Dublin	Clondalkin	Clondalkin-Moorefield ED	Neilstown Estate	Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED	St Ronans, Wood Avens, Letts Field
Left education before 15 years of age	6%	7.2%	10.4%	13.6%	11.4%	14.3%
15 yrs and over still at school or college	13.7%	12.2%	14%	10%	12.3%	21.4%
15 yrs and over in other form of education	9.4%	11.1%	12.5%	9%	12.3%	23.3%
Hold ordinary degree or national diploma	7.5%	5.6%	3.6%	1.1%	2.2%	2%

Hold post graduate diploma or degree	8.8%	4.7%	2.4%	0.7%	1%	0.6%
Hold Doctorate (Ph.D) or higher	0.8%	0.4%	0.2%	0%	0%	0%

3.3.5 Health

According to the Census, less than 30% of men and women in the study areas were recorded as having very good health. It showed that 36,426 people in South Dublin County reported having a disability, equating to 13.1% of the population, marginally lower than the national average. However, this is also significantly lower than the percentage of population in the study areas recorded as having a disability. St. Ronan's Estate, Wood Avens and Letts Field reported 21.7%. Almost one in every ten women in the study area reported having a disability. This is a significant statistic requiring consideration in relation to seeking to address safety and inclusivity of women in public spaces.

Classification	SDCC 278767	Clondalkin 55641	Clondalkin- Rowlagh ED 4096	Clondalkin- Moorefield ED 6376	Neilstown Estate 653	St Ronans, Wood Avens, Letts Field 1193
Very good health - Female	29.7%	28.1%	25.9%	28%	26.3%	23.7%
Very good health - Male	29.7%	27.7%	25.2%	27.7%	25.2%	26%
Bad health - Female	0.7%	0.8%	1.4%	1.1%	1.4%	1.6%
Bad health - Male	0.6%	0.7%	1.3%	0.8%	1.5%	1.8%
Disability - Female	6.8%	7.5%	9.8%	8.5%	9.8%	10.8%
Disability-Male	6.3%	6.9%	9.2%	7.3%	9.3%	10.9%

3.3.6 Areas of Disadvantage

South Dublin County is classified as the tenth most affluent local authority (LA) area from the 31 LA's in the country. However, this masks pockets of disadvantage scattered throughout the LA area. In Clondalkin there are 23 areas categorised as 'very disadvantaged' and one area categorised as 'extremely disadvantaged'. The Pobal HP Deprivation Index has a Relative Index Score and set of factors that are measured to calculate levels of disadvantage/affluence. A minus prefix indicates that the figure is below the affluence baseline, 0 to -10 indicates marginally below average, -10 to -20 indicates disadvantage, -20 to -30 indicates very disadvantaged and -30 and lower indicates extremely disadvantaged. Unemployment over had decreased for both men and women in both ED's and five of the six small areas within the study area.

Over the period 2011 to 2016 there was worsening levels of disadvantage for most of the areas. The HP Index shows Clondalkin-Morefield ED was classified as disadvantaged in 2011 and again in 2016 with a deprivation score of -11.17 in 2011 and -12.6 in 2016. The Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED was also classified as disadvantaged over both periods with a deprivation score of -17.22 in 2011 and -17.55 in 2016. Of the six small areas within the study one was classified as marginally below average for the periods 2011 and 2016. Four areas were classified as disadvantaged in 2011 and one was classified as very disadvantaged. However, in 2016 all of these five areas were classified as very disadvantaged.

Pobal HP Index	Relative Index score 2011	Relative Index score 2016
Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED - ID 3009	-17.22	-17.55
Clondalkin-Moorefield ED - ID 3008	-11.17	-12.6
Neilstown Estate - SA267051006	-19.40	-21.16
Neilstown Estate - SA267051007	-19.10	-25.33
Wood Avens, Letts Field - SA267052001	-9.10	-7.82
St Ronans - SA267052002	-19.90	-21.23
St Ronans - SA267052003	-18.10	-20.10
St Ronans - SA267052004	-20.10	-23.75

Households with no car or internet access:

According to the Pobal HP Index households with no car is 34% in the Neilstown Estate and 27.7% in St Ronan's, Wood Avens and Letts Field. Households with no internet access range from 20% in Neilstown to 23.6% in St Ronan's, Wood Avens and Letts Field. This highlights that on average one in five households are in an adverse position in a time that is increasingly reliant on internet access and this was further heightened during Covid-19. This will need to be taken into consideration when developing responses to address safety and inclusivity particularly if using strategies that include social media.

Classification	Clondalkin-Rowlagh ED	Clondalkin-Moorefield ED	Neilstown Estate	St Ronans, Wood Avens, Letts Field
Households with no motor car	28.2%	23.8%	34%	27.7%
Households with no internet access	19.6%	15.4%	20%	23.6%

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