

COUNCIL

21 JULY 2022

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION 2

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR JOHN LANCASTER

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR EMMA REID-JONES

Istanbul Convention - Ending Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Motion

In 2012, the UK signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, known as the Istanbul Convention.

The Convention compels states to prevent violence against women, protect its victims and prosecute the perpetrators, whilst establishing robust monitoring to ensure the effective implementation.

This Council welcomes the UK Government's commitment to ratify the Istanbul Convention by 31st July 2022. This has taken over 10 years, but is a welcome step toward ending all forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Delete

However, it is extremely concerning that this UK Government is not ratifying all aspects of the Istanbul Convention. The UK Government have refused to include provisions aimed at protecting migrant women and children. The reservations that come with this Government's proposed ratifications will undermine the safety of migrant survivors.

And replace with:

The UK Government is committed to tackling violence against women and girls, as seen in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which already meets or exceeds almost all the articles in the Istanbul Convention. The Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Review of 2020 found key barriers to migrant victims accessing support. The Government consequently launched the £1.5M Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) scheme in order to address gaps in funding and support further research into future solutions.

This motion calls on the Council to recognise that:

The protection from violence against women applies to all women

The protection from domestic violence applies to all victims

Delete

The reservations that this UK Government have attached with the proposed ratifications is contrary to the work undertaken through the Cardiff Race Equality Taskforce and the Community Safety Partnership that is supported by this Council

The inclusion of the reservations placed on article 4(3) and 59, whereby a migrant survivor would be excluded from life-saving support, goes against the principles of equality and non-discrimination

And replace with:

Articles 4(3) and 59 of the Istanbul Convention are recorded as being “under review” pending the evaluations and findings of the SMV scheme.

Further, that this Council will:

Delete

Write to the UK Government requesting full ratification of the Istanbul Convention

Write to Welsh Government requesting support for full ratification of the Istanbul Convention reflecting Wales’s ambition to become the world’s first Nation of Sanctuary

Commit to use its full powers to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women, domestic violence and sexual violence.

The Amended Notice of Motion to read:

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2020 found key barriers to migrant victims accessing support. The Government consequently launched the £1.5M Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) scheme in order to address gaps in funding and support further research into future solutions.

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The protection from violence against women applies to all women.

The protection from domestic violence applies to all victims.

Articles 4(3) and 59 of the Istanbul Convention are recorded as being “under review” pending the evaluations and findings of the SMV scheme.

Further, that this Council will:

Commit to use its full powers to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women, domestic violence and sexual violence.