

Amendment to MOTION 12.2 ON VIOLENCE, ABUSE, AND INTIMIDATION IN POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING

Proposer: TBC

Secunder: TBC

Additions underlined

Deletions struckthrough

This council notes:

1. That in the recent UK General Election campaign, parliamentary candidates reported an increase in abuse, intimidation, and harassment.
2. In Article 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998 that everyone has the right to freedom of expression.
3. Those targeted in our borough were disproportionately women of colour, with Member of Parliament for Poplar and Limehouse Apsana Begum and Liberal Democrat candidate in Bethnal Green & Stepney Rabina Khan, receiving intimidation, harassment and abuse whilst campaigning.
4. MP for Bethnal Green and Stepney Rushanara Ali received death threats, intimidation and harassment during the campaign which resulted in her needing police protection when in public in her constituency.
5. In the last eight years, two MPs have been murdered in the United Kingdom, Jo Cox and Sir David Amess.
6. That political violence continues to rise with all politicians facing increasing levels of violence, harassment and abuse.
7. Research from Amnesty International^{al} found that women in politics are 27 times more likely to face online abuse compared to male counterparts.
8. On Tuesday 9th July 2023, LBTH Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed the safety of Women during election campaigns during item 9: 'Women's Safety Action Plan Response Progress'.
9. The Chair and members of LBTH Overview and Scrutiny Committee condemned the intimidation of Women during the general election campaign.

This council believes:

10. That the intimidation, harassment and threats against candidates in the recent UK General Election must be condemned.
11. That whilst we may disagree with individuals' political beliefs and stances, political violence of all types should not be tolerated or excused.
12. That the ability to freely debate and challenge each other's political views and opinions is a cornerstone of democracy.
13. That abuse, harassment and intimidation can act as a precursor to physical violence and leads to disenfranchisement and is therefore anti-democratic.
14. That Black, Asian and ethnically minority women in politics receive a disproportionate amount of online and public abuse.
15. Violence against women in politics discourages many women from entering the political arena.
16. As local leaders, council members have a responsibility to lead by example in our own behaviour as well as call out all forms of abuse and intimidation.
17. That social media companies should be doing more to curb the online abuse and harassment of political figures on their platforms.

This council resolves:

18. To provide bystander training to members and officers to strengthen their ability to call out abusive behaviour.
19. To sign up to the LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign and adopt the toolkit to create a culture of safety and respect.
20. To continue to support the ongoing work and measures being taken by the Council's *Women's Commission* to promote and protect women's voices in the political arena.
21. To continue to work closely with the Metropolitan Police; its Tension Monitoring Group; and to deploy the additional Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers [THEOs] to protect and promote women in politics.
22. To examine whether the council and its partners ~~have robust enough processes~~ can strengthen its processes to protect women from violence, intimidation and harassment during election campaigns.