

Request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Meeting: June 3rd , 2021

Subject: Anti-Asian Racism – gender-based data collection

Motion for Women's Advisory Committee to Consider:

It is recommended that Women's Advisory Committee recommend Executive Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council request the Chief Administrative Officer, through the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Programme, to consider the impact of anti-Asian¹ racism on women's experiences of safety in public spaces and explore ways to identify and collect race-based data about these experiences.

Reason:

Recently, the Government of Canada stated that " Now, more than ever, and not just during Asian Heritage Month, we need to raise awareness of the challenges faced by these communities across Canada and to confront and denounce all forms of anti-Asian racism and discrimination."²

According to a March 2021 report by the Chinese Canadian National Council's Toronto Chapter, more than 1,150 anti-Asian attacks were reported in Canada between February 2020 and March 2021. 59% of those who reported self-identified as women, which greatly outpaced men and diverse gender identities in reporting racist incidents.³

I have reached out to HRP regarding the number of anti-Asian incidents, the HRP responded that the number is not readily available. The data on Anti-Asian racism incidents in the Halifax region is limited. Furthermore, there is no gender-specific data available regarding racism incidents. Lack of data creates problems for advocates and civic leaders to make a case for more resources to address anti-Asian racism.

As part of the duties of WACH, the Committee may advise the municipality on matters relating to its participation in the UN Safe Cities Safe Public Spaces programme. The Public Safety Office is currently conducting a scoping study to understand the nature of the issues and what works to address them. It is crucial and timely to consider the impact of anti-Asian racism on women's experiences of safety in public spaces and explore ways to identify and collect race-based data.

¹ HRM's Asian Heritage Month definition includes East Asia, Southern Asia, Western, and Southeast Asia. <https://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/celebrating-culture/>

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/asian-heritage-month/anti-asian-racism.html>

³ <https://www.ccntoronto.ca/oneyear>

Outcome Sought:

HRM, through the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Programme⁴, could consider the impact of anti-Asian racism on women's experiences of safety in public spaces and explore ways to identify and collect race-based data about these experiences.

Collecting this data would help to achieve one of the goals of the UN Safe Cities programme. "Develop an expanded view of safety by supporting a gender approach across all municipal departments' planning. This includes urban planning, public infrastructure and economic development."

The data may show how anti-Asian racism impacts women's safety in Halifax. For example, the data may quantify and qualify anti-Asian racism incidents experienced by women in the Halifax region".

Christine Qin Yang, Vice Chair of Women's Advisory Committee

⁴ <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/public-safety>