

Request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration		
<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
Date of Meeting: June 3rd , 2021		
Subject: Information Resources to Support Safety of Women of Asian Descent		
Motion for Women's Advisory Committee to Consider:		
<p>It is recommended that the Women's Advisory Committee recommend Executive Standing Committee request a staff report on the provision of information resources to support the safety of women of Asian descent in public spaces in the Halifax region.</p>		
Reason:		
<p>According to Project 1907's research document "National Collaboration of Data Collection on Anti-Asian Racism", there is rising anti-Asian racism in Canada, especially toward women. Almost half of the incidents happened in public spaces, such as public streets, sidewalks and parks since the beginning of COVID-19.</p>		
<p>Recently, the federal 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." ¹</p>		
<p>There are limited information resources to support those who are targeted directly and impacted indirectly by anti-Asian racism. Considering the current situation of rising anti-Asian racism and looking through the gender lens, it is crucial that HRM provides resources for women of Asian descent to report discrimination or harassment in public spaces.</p>		
<p>HRM launched its inaugural Public Safety Strategy² in 2017 which prioritizes ensuring safe spaces and strengthening communities. This motion aligns with the strategy ensuring the safety of women in public spaces in the Halifax region. Furthermore, the proposed motion aligns to HRM's Diversity and Inclusion Framework goal to provide accessible information and communication within the organization and externally for people living in the Halifax region.</p>		
Outcome Sought:		

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/asian-heritage-month/anti-asian-racism.html>

² https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/Diversity%20%26amp%3B%20Inclusion%20Framework_Final%20Version%20Aug%203_External.pdf

The City of New York provides a toolkit for addressing anti-Asian bias, discrimination, and hate. The toolkit includes an infographic that advises members of the public how to report discrimination or harassment. The graphic is available in 21 languages.³

The City of Toronto launched a social media campaign in October 2020 to bring attention to the need to combat racism in Toronto, including anti-East Asian racism. Information and resources to educate Torontonians about anti-East Asian racism are available on the campaign website.⁴

HRM could adopt these ideas and provide information resources (e.g. an infographic) for the public in the most common languages spoken by the Halifax region's Asian communities.

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

³ <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cchr/community/stop-asian-hate.page>

⁴ <https://www.toronto.ca/news/city-of-toronto-launches-call-to-action-against-east-asian-racism/>