



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 12.2.1
Executive Standing Committee
July 12, 2021

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of the Executive Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: **(Original Signed)**

Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair, Women's Advisory Committee

DATE: June 3, 2021

SUBJECT: **Anti-Asian Racism – gender-based data collection**

ORIGIN

June 3, 2021 special meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee, Item 9.2.1.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order Number 2019-004-GOV, respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality section 8:

Duties of the Committee

8. The Committee may advise the municipality on matters relating to its participation in the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Programme.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that 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-Asian racism on women's experiences of safety in public spaces and explore ways to identify and collect race-based data about these experiences.

BACKGROUND

The Women's Advisory Committee received a request for a Committee consideration form from Christine Qin Yang, Vice Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee to consider recommending Regional Council 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 about these experiences through the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Programme.

For further information, refer to the Attachment 1 of this report.

DISCUSSION

The Women's Advisory Committee considered a Committee consideration form and approved the motion as outlined in 'Recommendation' section of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk consideration is not outlined in the consideration form.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the July 29, 2020 direction of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under section 14 of the Emergency Management Act, Women's Advisory Committee meetings are being held virtually.

A meeting held on June 3, 2021 was livestreamed and video recording is available at Halifax.ca.

The agenda and reports of the Women's Advisory Committee are posted on Halifax.ca, and draft minutes of the meeting will be made available on Halifax.ca within three business days.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications are not identified.

ALTERNATIVES

The Women's Advisory Committee did not provide alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – A request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration entitled: Anti-Asian Racism – gender-based data collection

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.490.6517

Attachment 1



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Item No. 9.2.1

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: 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-Asian ¹ 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>