



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

**Item No. 12.2.2**  
**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:** **Information Resources to Support Safety of Women of Asian Descent**

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**ORIGIN**

June 3, 2021 special meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee, Item 9.2.2.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Administrative Order Number 2019-004-GOV, respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality section 6 (e):

Duties of the Committee

6. The Committee shall advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on matters related to women as follows:

(e) advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that 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.

## **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 provision of information resources to support the safety of women of Asian descent in public spaces in the Halifax region.

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: Information Resources to Support Safety of Women of Asian Descent

A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://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

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Item No. 9.2.2

Request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Agenda Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: June 3rd , 2021</b>		
<b>Subject: Information Resources to Support Safety of Women of Asian Descent</b>		
<b>Motion for Women's Advisory Committee to Consider:</b>		
<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>		
<p><b>Reason:</b> 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." <sup>1</sup></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 Strategy<sup>2</sup> 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>		

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

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/Diversity%20%26amp%3B%20Inclusion%20Framework\\_Final%20Version%20Aug%203\\_External.pdf](https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/Diversity%20%26amp%3B%20Inclusion%20Framework_Final%20Version%20Aug%203_External.pdf)

**Outcome Sought:**

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. <sup>3</sup>

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. <sup>4</sup>

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.

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

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

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