

HALIFAX

Supporting the Safety of Asian Women and Non- Binary Residents & Race, Gender and Equity-Based Data

**Information Report to
Executive Standing Committee**

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Background

- Motion originated with the Women's Advisory Committee

THAT the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council request the CAO, through the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Program, 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.

THAT the 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.

Overview

- Current state
- What we heard from community
- What other municipalities are doing
- What we are doing
- Future considerations

Current state

- Data is one piece of the puzzle in helping the municipality understand and respond to safety needs and experiences of a diversity of residents
- Currently, we don't collect data in a way that allows us to understand and respond to these issues meaningfully
- Although WACH, D&I/ANSAIO and SCSPS program are making inroads on these issues, we don't have strong relationships with Asian communities in HRM

Community engagement



Photo credit: Mo Phùng

We engaged with women and gender non-conforming people of East Asian and Southeast Asian descent to discuss anti-Asian racism and safety in public spaces

Insights shared lay a foundation for future collaboration to address these issues with residents of Asian descent

Potential resources

- Public art installations
- Public education campaigns
- Bylaw changes to address street harassment
- Development of community reporting platforms for racism and harassment

An HRM specific response

- To meaningfully implement any such resources in HRM, we need to:
 - Build stronger relationships with women and non-binary residents from diverse Asian communities in HRM
 - Work in close collaboration with Asian communities to implement the resources
 - Addressing issues of safety and racism alongside communities who have been marginalized requires resources to build and sustain trust and collaboration and currently we don't have those resources

What we are doing

- SCSPS program will lead development of a community-led process to develop resources to support the safety of Asian women, non-binary and gender-diverse people in public spaces
- SCSPS program will work with Transit to integrate messaging to address anti-Asian racism and hate into future Anti-Discrimination Transit Code campaign
- D&I will continue work to develop a multi-lingual policy for municipal communications and materials

What we are doing

- SCSPS Program will continue to work with Business Units to explore ways to incorporate voluntary data initiatives regarding women and gender-diverse people's experiences in public spaces
- The Women and Gender Equity Strategy will provide data from conversations with communities across HRM and identify priorities for action

Future considerations

There are key municipal data collection processes that, **if enhanced and resourced**, could be sources of robust disaggregated race, gender and other equity-based data:

- The Resident Survey
- Reports of violence, harassment and safety concerns made to 311
- 20 Year Community Vision

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Questions?

Please feel free to contact:

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