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Sefton Council 

www.sefton.gov.uk

Town Hall
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To: All Members of the Council

Date: 11 September 2023

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

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Dear Councillor,

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and now enclose the following items which were unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda No.	Item
19.	Motion Submitted by Councillor Corcoran - Reform of the Criminal Justice System: Supporting the 'Face the Family' Campaign (Pages 261 - 262) Copy attached
20.	Motion Submitted by Councillor Corcoran - Hate Crime Ambassadors (Pages 263 - 264) Copy attached

Yours faithfully,

P. Porter

Chief Executive

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NOTICE OF MOTION

TO BE PUT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

Moved by: Councillor Jennifer Corcoran

Seconded by: Councillor Peter Harvey

**Reform of the Criminal Justice System:
Supporting the 'Face the Family' campaign**

Council notes that currently offenders can choose not to appear in court for sentencing, including hearing victim impact statements. This can add to families and victims' suffering, as they are deprived the opportunity of presenting victim impact statements with offenders present. This was highlighted recently when Thomas Cashman refused to appear in court after being found guilty of the murder of nine-year-old Olivia Pratt-Korbel.

Council further notes the 'Face the Family' campaign, coordinated by Radio City, which is calling for a change to the law to insist offenders come into court for sentencing, or face possible additional penalty. Local MPs, our PCC, and others are asking for the government to introduce a new law to make offenders be present in court. This could be done by including it in the Victim and Witnesses Bill currently going through Parliament. This includes a current online petition.

Council supports the call for this change in the law to make our criminal justice system more supportive of victims and states its support of the 'Face the Family' campaign.

Council therefore calls on the Leader and Chief Executive to write to the Justice Minister setting out the terms of this motion, stating our support for the campaign and urge him to bring forward legislation as soon as possible.

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SEFTON LABOUR GROUP

NOTICE OF MOTION

TO BE PUT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

Moved by: Councillor Jennifer Corcoran

Seconded by:

Hate Crime Ambassadors

This Council notes that

A hate crime is any behaviour that someone thinks was caused by hostility, prejudice or hatred of their:

- Disability (including physical impairments, mental health problems, learning disabilities, hearing and visual impairments)
- Gender Identity (people who are transgender, transsexual or transvestite)
- Race, skin colour, nationality, ethnicity or heritage
- Religion, faith or belief (including people without a religious belief)
- Sexual orientation (people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or heterosexual etc.)

It can include:

- name calling or verbal abuse
- graffiti or abusive writing
- damage to property
- threats or intimidation
- bullying or harassment
- physical attacks or violence, including sexual violence, arson and murder.

Anyone can be a victim of hate crime if they are targeted because of who they are, their friends or family or even who the perpetrator thinks they are.

If a court finds that any offence was aggravated by, or committed because of prejudice or hostility on any of the above grounds, then a more severe sentence can be imposed on the perpetrator.

Figures for hate crime, and non-crime hate incidents in Sefton (supplied by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) are as follows:

2020 – 589;
2021 – 654;
2022 – 756

Agenda Item 20

This shows a steady increase.

This Council believes that:

Hate incidents and hate crimes are still underreported

Although we cannot be sure whether the increase means more incidents, or an increase in reporting, we believe that hate crime has no place in our society.

This Council resolves to:

Condemn racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and hate crimes of any description;

Reassure our residents, workers and visitors that Sefton is a welcoming borough which strives to be diverse and tolerant;

Undertake Hate Crime Ambassador training to champion awareness, increase public confidence and support reporting in our communities, including how to report a hate crime, and third party reporting.

Source for definition

<https://www.merseysidepcc.info/get-involved/resources-campaigns/hate-crime/>