

# 'Neglect' death of son restrained by police

By **John Twomey**

A MOTHER whose son died after police restrained him in the street for 13 minutes claimed she had been robbed of justice yesterday. Leon Briggs, 39, cried out, "Please help me!" when officers held him in a "dangerous position" on the pavement. He was taken to a police station and put in a cell where he was later found unconscious. The father of two later died in hospital. Margaret Briggs claimed her son, who had mental health problems, had been unlawfully killed by

police in Luton, Bedfordshire, in November 2013. However an inquest in Milton Keynes recorded a conclusion of death "contributed to by neglect". Mrs Briggs, 67, slammed the decision. She said: "During this inquest, we have heard evidence that has convinced my family and me that Leon was unlawfully killed by the police. This should have been the verdict today."



Cry for help...Leon Briggs, 39

# New laws needed now so women will feel safe on Britain's streets

TIME TO END ABUSE AND FEAR

By **Steph Spyro**

PRITI Patel is calling on women to share their experiences of abuse and violence as she considers a new law to end public sexual harassment. The Home Secretary reopened a survey on the issue in response to the public outpouring around women's public safety following the killing of Sarah Everard. Yesterday Ms Patel said: "So many of you have bravely shared your own experiences of harassment, abuse and violence online over recent days. "So today I am reopening our nationwide call for views on tackling violence against women and girls. "The Government is listening." The initial plea from the Home



Enough is enough... harassment is endemic on streets



Dame Cressida Dick on patrol in Clapham, south London, last night

**DAILY EXPRESS CRUSADE**  
**KEEP WOMEN SAFE ON OUR STREETS**

Office for evidence as part of its Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021-24 was open for 10 weeks until February 19. An online survey forming part of the survey received more than 15,000 responses. The Home Secretary is now seeking further views from anyone over 16, including people who have experienced violence, those who work with survivors and relevant professionals. Men and boys – including those who have been victims of violence and abuse – are also encouraged to fill in the questionnaire. The move follows the alleged kidnapping and murder of 33-year-old Sarah Everard after she walked home across a London park. Ms Patel went on: "Everyone should be free to walk our streets without the slightest fear. With Sarah and her family in my thoughts and prayers, I will continue to do all I can in my role as Home Secretary to

protect women and girls." A staggering 97 per cent of women in the UK aged between 18 and 24 have been sexually harassed in public places, figures released this week by UN Women showed. Now the Express is throwing its weight being calls to stamp out public sexual harassment with better education for boys and new legisla-

tion. Campaigners are calling for public sexual harassment to be made a specific criminal offence. Our Streets Now and children's charity Plan International UK are running the Crime Not Compliment crusade. Maya Tutton, 22, founded Our Streets Now with her sister Gemma, 16, after both experienced street harassment. She said: "We've

really welcomed the news that the Government is looking at this. The Home Secretary said we need streets to be safer for women, but until that legislation is in place, they won't be." The sisters, who live in south-east London, started their campaign two years ago. University student Maya's first experience of street harassment was when she was still at school,

while Gemma's was aged 11. Maya said boys must be taught it is not acceptable, adding: "Girls need to know that it's never their fault." She believes the shame and victim-blaming was "really, really clear" in the case of Sarah, who went missing after leaving a friend's house in south London at 9pm on March 3. Maya added that people should

not have been questioning why the victim was out at night, adding it's "as though women don't have the same fundamental rights to navigate public space as any other citizen". Yesterday evening Met Police Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick joined a reassurance patrol on Clapham Common, near where Sarah vanished. For women, street harassment is an endemic nightmare. Andrea Simon, director of End Violence Against Women, said: "Women 'safety plan' – text their friends in advance, walk with their keys in their hands, avoid empty rail carriages or poorly lit areas. "But we rarely hear about what drives perpetrators to harm women and what needs to be put in place to stop this behaviour. "We need solutions that target the behaviour of perpetrators, not those which focus on the actions of women who are attacked."

● Fill in the survey at [www.gov.uk/government/consultations](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations)

**DAILY EXPRESS VOTE** Should public sexual harassment be made a specific offence?

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## Lessons for boys will help end this

By **Steph Spyro**

THE Our Streets Now campaign is pushing for public sexual harassment to be made a criminal offence and for the issue to be part of the secondary school curriculum. The law would cover unwelcome and unwanted attention, sexual advances and intimidating behaviour that occurs in public spaces, both in person and online. Claire Barnett, of gender equality campaigners UN Women UK, said: "This is a human rights crisis. It's just not enough for us to keep saying, 'This is too difficult a problem for us to solve' – it needs addressing now."

### Worry

The Daily Express, which is getting behind the campaign will give a voice to dozens of women who have experienced street harassment in a bid to stamp it out. We want the issue to be added to schools' curriculum to educate boys, and will highlight a campaign by children's charity Plan International UK called Crime Not Compliment. Together, we plan to call on Parliament to make public sexual harassment a specific criminal offence. Plan International found 80 per cent of parents worry their daughter will experience public sexual harassment. And 94 per cent of girls think harassment should be illegal. Email your MP about the issue and add your name to the campaign at [plan-uk.org/crimenotcompliment](http://plan-uk.org/crimenotcompliment).

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Urgent action needed...Maya Tutton

OVER the past week, we have seen an astounding number of women, girls and marginalised people come forward with accounts of being sexually harassed – be it on the bus home from school, the work commute or on the daily walk. Together, these testimonies paint a bleak picture. They are typical of the thousands of experiences my sister Gemma and I have been hearing from across the UK, since we launched the Our Streets Now campaign two years ago. The aim is to end public sexual harassment through cultural and

## COMMENT

MAYA TUTTON  
of Our Streets Now campaign

legislative change. In a landmark moment for our Crime Not Compliment campaign, the Government is considering making public sexual harassment a crime. We wholeheartedly support this intention and look forward with great expectation to the upcoming

Violence Against Women And Girls strategy, in the firm belief that this change will serve to protect people. Last month, I and other youth campaigners met with Home Secretary Priti Pate to share our personal experiences. We impressed upon her how urgently government action is needed. As well as legal change, we need better education on the issue. That's why we started the Our Schools Now branch, pushing for public sexual harassment to be part of the curriculum. We hope this will help raise a

generation of girls who never blame themselves for harassment and boys who never become perpetrators. We are also calling for universities to introduce compulsory consent workshops and run awareness campaigns. If the cultural and legislative changes needed are to come about, we need the support of wider society. We need people to join us and write to schools and MPs, on behalf of the Crime Not Compliment campaign.