



WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Women's Physical Safety at Turning Tides

Easier-Read Report

What is this report?

This report is about how Turning Tides can help its **women** clients to feel **safe**.

It was written by these people:

- Saoirse Osborne, who is a volunteer at Turning Tides
- Rosie, Saloni, and other women clients at Turning Tides
- Anna-Maria Godwyn, Paul Hughes, and other Turning Tides staff

Some people who helped write the report wanted to have their names in the report, but some did not.

The research got funding and support from the University of Warwick, because Saoirse Osborne is also a student there.

This version of the report has been made a bit easier to read. There is a longer version of the report too.

If you have questions about the report, you can email saoirse.osborne@outlook.com.

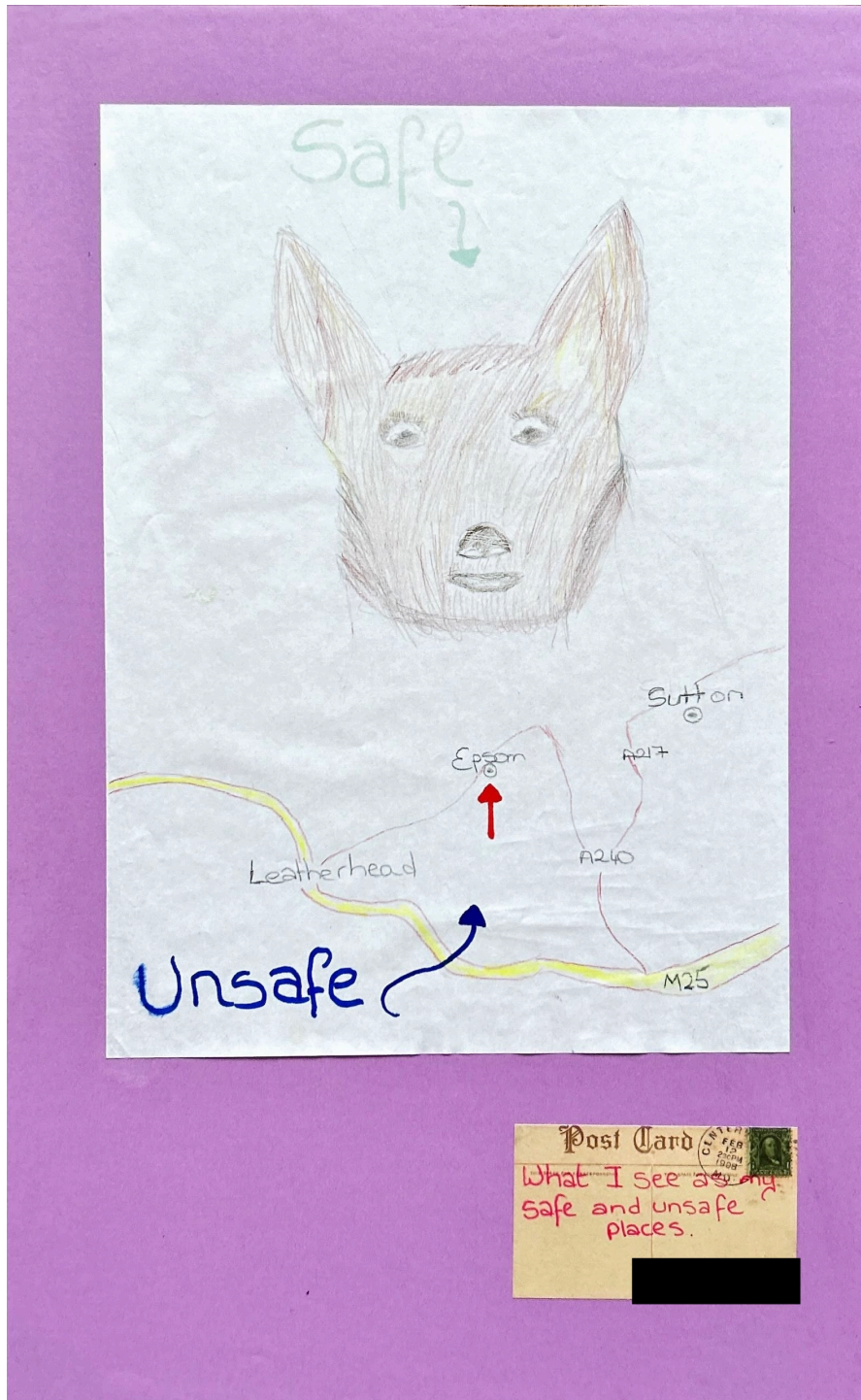
Women's art

The women clients who helped write the report also made some art about things that make them feel safe or unsafe.

Here are some pictures of their art.



This woman made some art about her keys to the women-only corridor and her own bedroom. They make her feel safe.



This woman made some art about her dog, who helps her feel safe. She also drew a map of the place where her ex-partner lives, which makes her feel unsafe because he was violent to her.



This woman made some art about her emotions, which make her feel unsafe because they are so strong and confusing. The dragon, the Xbox and the black box are meant to be a staff member and two friends who help her to sort out her emotions and make her feel safer.

Why is safety important for women at Turning Tides?




Everyone should **be** safe and **feel** safe. But homeless women might need extra support to be safe and feel safe. This is because:

- Homeless women are sometimes less safe than homeless men when they are sleeping on the streets and even when they are in accommodation services.
- Many homeless women have friends or partners who are violent to them.
- Many homeless women have trauma from violence in their past. This might make them feel in danger even when they are safe, and so they need more help to feel safe and secure.

How can Turning Tides make sure women clients are safe?

Here are some suggestions for how Turning Tides can make sure women clients are safe and feel safe.

The suggestions are in three groups.

		
The spaces women are in at Turning Tides	Women's relationships with Turning Tides staff	How to help women keep themselves safe when outside of Turning Tides spaces



The spaces women are in at Turning Tides

Create more small shared spaces, so people have somewhere to hang out without having to go into big central spaces.



Make sure that staff are always around to help, rather than away in the office.
Make sure that women know how to get help if staff are not around.



Have more activities like sport, art and DIY so that other clients don't get bored and cause trouble.



When Turning Tides is making new accommodation services, it should make services smaller so that there aren't lots of people living in one place.



Make sure that both staff and clients are happy with the ways staff try to help people causing trouble to calm down.



Have a few hours a week at all the Community Hubs and Mobile Bus Hub where only women can use the hub.



When Turning Tides is making new accommodation services, it should make a service where only women can live and only women staff can work. But women should be able to choose whether they want to live with only women or with men as well.





Women's relationships with Turning Tides staff

Ask women whether or not they want to change keyworker, and whether or not they want to change when they meet their keyworker.



Make sure that staff are telling clients the things they need to know, like rule changes. Try out different ways of telling clients, like:

- letters through doors
- a big electric display board
- a notebook which staff and clients can write in



Make sure that staff have enough time during the day to:

- let clients choose the time they want to meet
- tell clients the things they need to know



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• tell other staff the things that the staff need to know about clients | |
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How to help women keep themselves safe when outside of Turning Tides spaces

Think about giving women alarm fobs which they can use to call for help when they are away from services



Make sure that staff are able to reply to clients if clients call staff phones when they need help



Have women-only group activities to give women a space to open up and support each other. The group activities could be:

- Teaching women ways to feel more confident
- Teaching women how to get help if a friend or partner is abusive



- Teach women how to look after themselves with things like first aid

Have some men-only group activities too so that things are fair.



Other things Turning Tides should think about

The people who wrote this report weren't paid, and had other jobs too, so they didn't have time to talk about everything which is important.

Here are some other things Turning Tides should do some more research on:

- How to make sure men clients are safe, because some men do not feel safe either.
- How to make sure that transgender women, who are women who were born as men but know that they are really women, are included by Turning Tides too.