

Epsom to sit in protest against violence against women

17 April 2026



Sitting protest planned in Epsom 24th April. Opinion piece by organiser **Chantal Citrone**.

Like many in our community, we were deeply shocked and saddened by reports of a serious sexual assault in Epsom on Sunday 12th April. Our thoughts are with the victim, and with anyone who has experienced similar harm.

In the days since, we have seen different narratives emerge some of which risk distracting from the central issue. This is not about politics or division. It is about violence, safety, and how we as a community choose to respond.

Violence against women and girls remains a stark reality in the UK. An estimated 1 in 4 women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. Around 1 in 5 women have experienced sexual assault since the age of 16. On average, two women are killed every week by a current or former partner.

But this is not only a women's issue it is a societal one.

The majority of violent crime is committed by men, and this affects everyone. Men are also far more likely to be victims of violence by other men, particularly in public spaces. This is why conversations about violence, accountability, and culture matter to all of us not just women.

Our intention in organising a peaceful gathering in Rosebery Park is simple: to create a space for solidarity, reflection, and awareness. We want to stand with the victim. We want to acknowledge the many women who carry their own experiences, often quietly. And we want to show that our community can come together with compassion, not anger.

Rosebery Park, Epsom - 24th April 7:00pm - see further [details here](#)

We are also clear about what this gathering is not. It is not about inciting fear or hostility. We have seen how quickly legitimate concern can be co-opted into aggression or division. That is not the path we are choosing.

Instead, we are choosing openness.

We hope women will come to feel supported and heard. But just as importantly, we hope men will join us too especially those who may feel unsure of their role in this conversation.

This is not about blame. It is about presence.

Because meaningful change does not come from silence. It comes from people showing up, listening, learning, and standing together.

Most men are not violent. But most violence is committed by men. Acknowledging that reality is not about accusation it is about recognising where change can happen.

By coming together peacefully, we send a clear message: that safety matters, that respect matters, and that our community will not look away.

Everyone is welcome.

Chantal Citrone

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