

Own Our Zone Campaign Policy Calls



Own Our Zone, created by Girlguiding Scotland's Speak Out champions, is all about making public spaces safer for women and girls in Scotland.

We envision a Scotland where girls and young women feel safe and are welcome outside and in public spaces during the day and night. Where they are not at threat from violence and where they can fully participate in outdoor activities as equal members of society. We want transformative community planning, understanding that public spaces must be co-designed by and for women and girls.

- 1. We want to see the creation of safer public spaces that encourage girls and young women to participate in public life, to be active outdoors, and to improve their mental and physical health.**
 - The Scottish Government should increase funding for local councils and authorities to invest in public spaces. This funding may be used to create clearer signage, improve clear sight lines, increase public transport options and street lighting, and reduce travel times between home, work, services and schools. Local authorities should work collaboratively with a diverse range of girls, women and other marginalised groups to decide where the funding is spent.
 - The Scottish Government should embed gender mainstreaming and gender equity into the Scottish Planning Policy and National Planning Framework, and further specify coherent guidelines for urban planners to follow when designing, building or improving public spaces. This should include a target for equal representation of women and marginalised or underrepresented communities in urban planning discussions.

2. We want the systemic barriers that prevent girls and young women from feeling safe in public spaces to be tackled.

- Policy makers and other stakeholders across Scotland should shift the conversation about safe space, to focus on tackling societal barriers and the behaviours of perpetrators – rather than placing the onus on the actions of women. This should include using resources like our Speak Out activity pack and other resources from organisations like Make Space For Girls.
- Local authorities should ensure that co-designed spaces take an intersectional approach so that public spaces are safe and accessible for all communities and representative of all their needs.

3. We want awareness and education around violence against women to be promoted, including improved communication between women, men, and political institutions.

- The Scottish Government should support schools, colleges and universities to incorporate more open discussions between young people about equality, respect, intersectionality and the importance of inclusive spaces. This also means including boys and men in those discussions.

For more information about our advocacy in Girlguiding Scotland and the many opportunities we offer girls and young women, visit girlguidingscotland.org.uk



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The Guide Association Scotland known as Girlguiding Scotland is a registered Scottish charity No. SC005548

