



**SWAN**

**SAFETY OF WOMEN  
AT NIGHT**

**EXETER CHARTER**

**SAFER  
CENTRAL  
EXETER**

Making our city safer for all

# Contents

Why women, why Exeter?	01
Committing to the Charter	02
The seven pledges	04
Our commitment to you	06

This charter has been developed as part of Exeter's commitment to keeping the city a safe place, where women feel confident and safe at night.

The Safety of Women at Night Charter is a voluntary pledge to prioritise the safety of women in Exeter, and to acknowledge it is the responsibility of all of us to take practical steps together to keep our city safe for everyone.

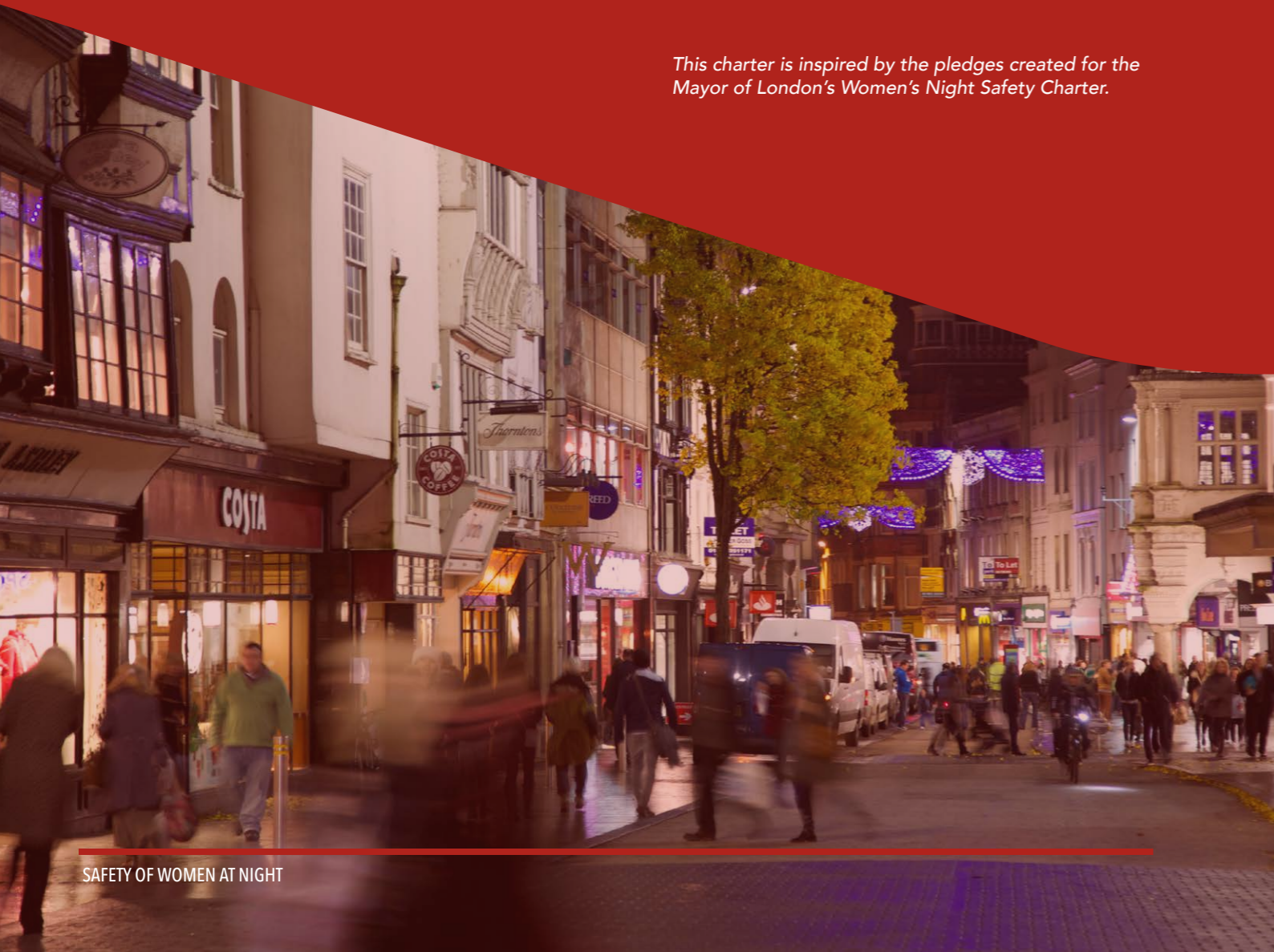
*This charter is inspired by the pledges created for the Mayor of London's Women's Night Safety Charter.*

# Why women, why Exeter?

This charter unites organisations in developing a whole-city approach to reducing violence against women and girls and keeping them safe at night in Exeter.

The following Exeter specific factors illustrate why this charter is important:

- Recent criminal convictions for murder and serious assaults against women in the city
- The increase in women reporting rape and sexual assault during and post-lockdown
- Growing concerns of drink spiking and assaults using needles
- Predominance of city centre anti-social behaviour in the evening
- Increase in numbers of homeless women in the city
- Women at risk from County Lines gangs
- Women have told us why they feel unsafe in Exeter through the SWaN survey



# Committing to the Charter

The Safety of Women at Night Charter seeks commitment from all organisations in Exeter, including:

- Licensed premises (e.g. pubs, bars or nightclubs)
- Late night refreshment venues (e.g. restaurants, takeaways)
- Cultural venues (e.g. cinemas, music venues)
- Hospitality venues
- Educational establishments
- Leisure facilities (e.g. sports and fitness clubs)
- Accommodation providers
- Statutory services (e.g. emergency services, Local Authority, healthcare)
- Transport providers (e.g. bus, train, taxi services)
- Retail outlets

By signing the charter your organisation commits to making Exeter a safer place for women at night. Together, we can build a strong partnership, committed to making a positive change in our city.



# The seven pledges

We ask all organisations that operate at night to support the Charter by signing up and committing to the following seven pledges. A toolkit has been created to support you with this – please scan the QR code below:



## 01. Change the conversation

Keeping women safe is everyone's responsibility. Encourage men in your organisation to think about what they can do to keep women safe.

## 02. Champion

Appoint an organisational champion who will drive change.

## 03. Communicate

Run positive, public/staff facing communications, both online and in your space(s).

## 04. Support your staff

Create clear routes for reporting unacceptable behaviour while at work and lead cultural change.

## 05. Support the public

Create clear routes for reporting unacceptable behaviour while using your service or space at night.

## 06. Training: responding and recording

Train staff on how to respond when an issue occurs, including what to say and do and any relevant policies. Train staff on information sharing and appropriate recording of details.

## 07. Designing for safety

Audit your spaces and adapt them to promote a safer environment and reduce risk of crime.

# Our commitment to you

**Exeter Community Safety Partnership is committed to addressing the causes and effects of violence against women and girls in our city.**

The Exeter Community Safety Partnership consists of a range of organisations that work together to ensure Exeter remains a safe city with low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Safety of Women at Night Charter and associated toolkit provide a framework to allow organisations to show their commitment to keeping all women and girls safe, but this is a small step and we will need to build on this over the coming months.

In signing the charter, you are making a voluntary commitment on behalf of your organisation to deliver its pledges and commitments.

There will be a requirement to re-commit to the charter annually.

The Community Safety Partnership will help you to deliver your commitment by providing:

- Regular updates regarding awareness raising courses and training.
- Signposting to specialist providers and guidance, including updates to the toolkit.
- Sharing understanding and learning about 'what works' nationally.

The results of the SWaN survey, which was completed in early 2022 by those who live in and visit Exeter, have described why people feel unsafe and what they would like to see done to make the city safer.

These results will be used in conjunction with information recorded by the public on the StreetSafe app to inform an action plan which will be overseen by the Community Safety Partnership.

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