

The long term future of the licenced trade relies on everyone feeling that it is a welcoming environment in which they can relax and enjoy time out, either by themselves or in the company of others.

For decades the British pub has been a place that many women do not feel welcome. This situation has arisen because women have been the subject of sexual harassment in licenced premises including assault, lewd behaviour and sexist comments. Many of these incidents go unreported and those that are reported to the police lead nowhere.

We note that the recently opened consultation by the APPG on pubs targets pub users through CAMRA. The membership of this organisation is mostly male. While this is no criticism of CAMRA who have been working on increasing its female membership, the results of the consultation will amplify one section of the public.

We believe that in order to ensure a long-term future there needs to be a concerted effort to open up the debate to people who do not use pubs because they have been made to feel unwelcome, and this must include the issue of sexual harassment of women both as customers and workers.

Harassment by customers in the workplace of staff and other customers is a serious threat and affects not only the employed but the management and ownership of pubs. Solutions to this problem must come from those with direct relevant experience for example by reaching out to designated premises supervisors, particularly women in the role.

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