

# Stop Street Harassment 2015 Annual Report



## Who We Are & Thank You

Stop Street Harassment (SSH) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Reston, VA, near Washington, D.C. It is dedicated to documenting and ending gender-based street harassment worldwide. It started as a blog in 2008 and became incorporated as a non-profit in 2012.

Each year, our work is largely funded through volunteers, including our 10 board of directors, 30+ blog correspondents, the hundreds of people who submit their stories each year, the scores of groups who take part in International Anti-Street Harassment Week each spring, and the many other people who donate their time and expertise by helping with social media, giving public relations or text editing advice, helping organize and host events, etc.

Thank you so much to each and every one of them.

Thank you also to everyone who donates, whether it's \$10 or \$3,000, every bit is important and makes a difference – and means a lot to us!

We hope that everyone who joined our programs, attended our events, joined our Tweetchats, volunteered, or was part of our work in some other way in 2015 feels proud by our achievements.

The Annual Report begins with highlights from our programming, then features our collaborations, and concludes with our events and financial information.

Thank YOU!,

Holly Kearl  
SSH Founder and Executive Director



# PROGRAMMING

# International Anti-Street Harassment Week

Stop Street Harassment oversaw the 5<sup>th</sup> annual [International Anti-Street Harassment Week](#). Groups in 41 countries and 24 U.S. states [participated](#) through organizing street demonstrations, flyering, wheatpasting, sidewalk chalking, tweet chats, and workshops.



*Chile*



*Cameroon*



*Nepal*



*Romania*

Additional actions during the week included:

- An anti-street harassment bill introduced in Argentina that includes a stipulation that the country observe the national week of awareness each year.
- Anti-harassment transit campaigns launched in London, Vancouver, and Los Angeles.
- The French government released survey results about sexual harassment on public transit.
- A member of parliament in Victoria, Australia made a statement on the Parliament floor.
- Anti-harassment street signs went up in Toronto, New York City, and Philadelphia.



## Blog Correspondents

SSH recruited and worked with three cohorts of [blog correspondents](#) across the year. The more than 35 people from 15 countries [wrote monthly articles](#) about street harassment and/or activism in their communities across their four month cohort.

One correspondent wrote the following in her application:

"I came across SSH during a time of great need -- I had just been harassed by three men on my way to work in a completely public and cringe-worthy way. As soon as I went into work, I couldn't focus. Everything was fuzzy and my fingers shook as I tried to write. I realized that I was angry -- truly, deeply, and unavoidably angry.

The only way I knew how to deal with the intense frustration of calming your own anger and humiliation was to read stories similar to mine; how did they deal with it? Am I the only one?

In SSH's blog I found my respite. I took my feelings of degradation and used channeled them into empowerment. I felt inspired by what I read. More importantly, I knew I wasn't alone. That is why I want to write for the Blog Correspondents. Hopefully, my writing can inspire the same for someone else."



## Safe Public Spaces Mentoring Teams

SSH funded and mentored four [Safe Public Spaces Mentoring teams](#) located in France, India, Romania, and USA. Between September and December, they held art exhibits, high school workshops, sidewalk chalking, and street demonstrations. Our 2014 teams from [Nepal](#), [Nicaragua](#) and [Kenya](#) also completed their projects this past spring.



“I was happy that SSH funded our project because we had such a big impact in these teenagers’ lives!”  
– Centrul FILIA Safe Public Spaces Mentoring Team in Bucharest, **Romania**, December 2015.

The team held three workshops with students at Henri Coanda High School. “They were grateful because now they know what is street harassment, how to confront a street harasser, and their role to play. The teachers asked to use our presentations to conduct workshops with other students.”



*India (above), France (below)*



## Sharing Stories

Anyone in the world can submit their street harassment story to the SSH [blog](#). Across 2015, around 150 people did so.

A woman who shared her story in July 2015, sent along this e-mail afterward:

"Just wanted to say thank you to Stop Street Harassment for all the hard work. I sent in my story to the website, and it was such a big help to be able to just get it out there.

It was so nice to see my own story on the website after, it felt amazing, like I'm actually being heard and like my little story is important... It made a big difference to me, and I just wanted to tell you that little things like this really help."



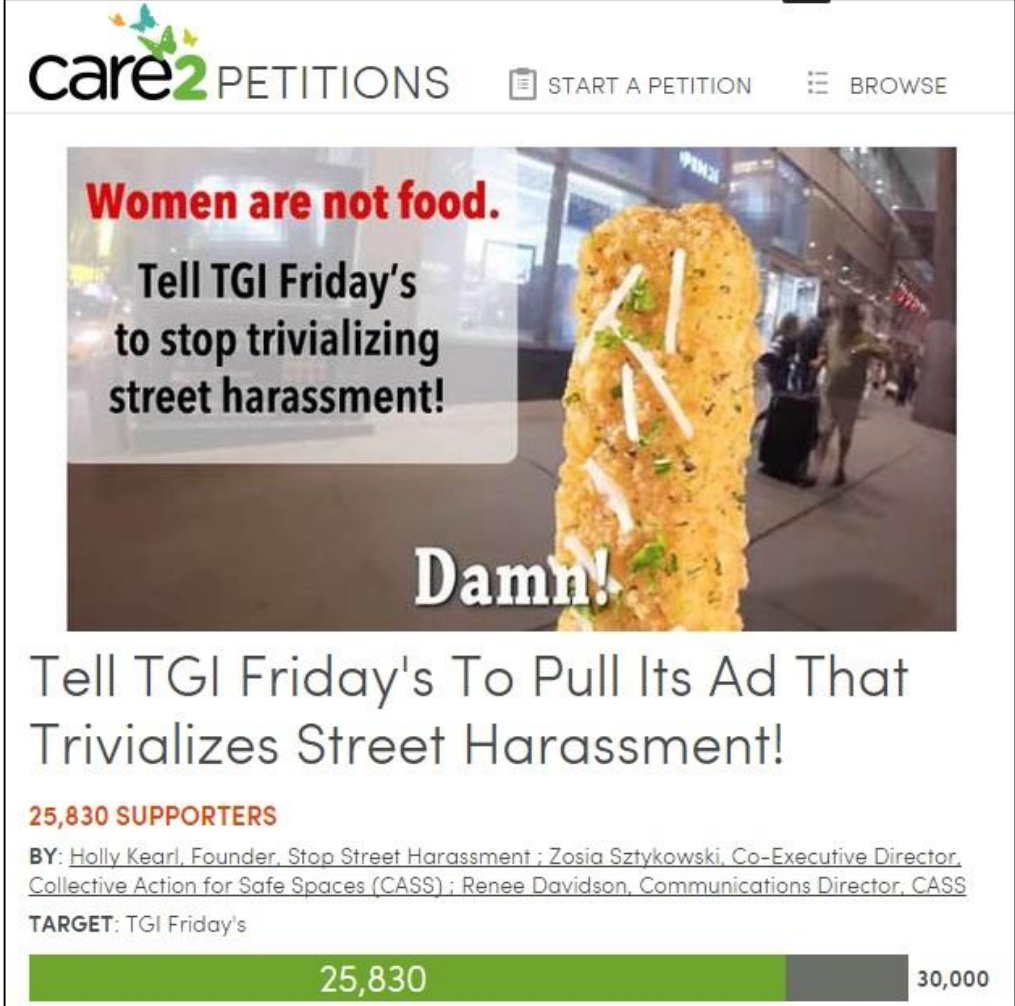


## Campaigns Against Companies

SSH has a “Campaigns Against Companies” where we call out companies that trivialize or promote street harassment.

In 2015, we teamed up with Care2 and Collective Action for Safe Spaces to create a [petition](#) asking the American restaurant chain TGI Friday's to pull a [disgusting ad](#) that trivialized street harassment.

More than 25,000 people signed it.



The screenshot shows a Care2 Petitions page. At the top, the Care2 logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'START A PETITION' and 'BROWSE' are on the right. The main content area features a video thumbnail with the text: 'Women are not food. Tell TGI Friday's to stop trivializing street harassment!' and 'Damn!' overlaid on a photo of a breaded food item. Below the video, the title of the petition is 'Tell TGI Friday's To Pull Its Ad That Trivializes Street Harassment!'. It shows '25,830 SUPPORTERS' and lists the organizers: Holly Kearl, Zosia Szytkowski, and Renee Davidson. A progress bar at the bottom indicates 25,830 signatures out of a 30,000 goal.

care2 PETITIONS [START A PETITION](#) [BROWSE](#)

**Women are not food.**  
Tell TGI Friday's to stop trivializing street harassment!  
Damn!

Tell TGI Friday's To Pull Its Ad That Trivializes Street Harassment!

**25,830 SUPPORTERS**

BY: [Holly Kearl](#), Founder, Stop Street Harassment ; [Zosia Szytkowski](#), Co-Executive Director, Collective Action for Safe Spaces (CASS) ; [Renee Davidson](#), Communications Director, CASS

TARGET: TGI Friday's

25,830 / 30,000



# Website Redesign

SSH revamped and redesigned [our website](#), thanks to donations and the work of web designer [Sarah Marie Lacy](#).

The screenshot displays the website's layout. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for 'About Us', 'Our Work', 'Our Books', 'Donate', and 'Store'. The main header features the 'STOP STREET HARASSMENT' logo and a 'Share your street harassment story' section with social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Twitter, and YouTube. A secondary navigation bar below the header lists 'Home', 'Blog', 'Dealing With Harassers', 'Resources', 'Take Action', and 'Contact'. The main content area is dominated by a large banner for 'Safe Safar' in India, which includes a group photo of participants holding a banner that reads 'Safar, Main Suraksha Bhi Samman Bhi' and 'Lets make Lucknow Street Safer for Women Commuters'. To the right of the banner, text explains that street harassment is a form of gender violence and a human rights violation. Below the banner, there are two buttons: 'Learn More' and 'Get Help'. Below the main banner, three smaller articles are featured with images and captions: 'Egypt: Comic Stories Against Harassment', 'Croatia: Breastfeeding in Public is a Street Harassment Issue', and 'USA: Police Violence is a Form of Street Harassment'.

# COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

## Safe Rides Home

SSH collaborated with and advised [Lyft](#) – a ridesharing service - on how to prevent and address sexual harassment. For example, we gave input on and ideas for a training module for their drivers. The collaboration was also with our ally organizations Collective Action for Safes Spaces (CASS) and Hollaback! Lyft also joined the White House “It’s On Us” campaign to address sexual violence.



## Safe Transit Rides in Washington, DC

[SSH worked](#) with the [Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority](#) (WMATA) and CASS on a [second wave of anti-harassment ads](#).




We participated in an outreach day, distributing information at five metro stops. With CASS, we presented on the campaign to WMATA staff. We also helped craft a survey instrument that will be used to survey riders in 2016. The findings will be used for the 2016 ads.



# Advised or Work was Cited By

We met with and advised the DC police's gay and lesbian liaison unit division chief and Las Vegas Rape Crisis Center staff.

Entities including the following used or cited our work: the DC City Council, [DC Mayor's office](#), [Jeremy Corbyn](#) (a Labour leadership candidate in the UK), [Fiona Patten](#) (a member of Parliament in Victoria, Australia), NYU, and [Safe Routes to School National Partnership](#).




**STRAIGHT TALKING,  
HONEST POLITICS**

## End street harassment


Posted on August 25, 2015

It is unacceptable that many women and girls adapt their daily lives in order to avoid being harassed on the street, public transport, and in other public places from the park to the supermarket. This could include taking longer routes to work, having self imposed curfews, or avoiding certain means of transport.




**End Street Harassment**

The excellent work of individuals, campaigns and groups like Everyday Sexism and Stop Street Harassment have highlighted just how prevalent street harassment is and the extent to which many women feel uncomfortable, anxious, and



**Fiona Patten MLC**  
NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION



### ANTI-STREET HARASSMENT WEEK

My adjournment matter is for the Minister for Police and concerns Meet Us on the Street — International Anti-Street Harassment Week. From Australia to Zimbabwe, organisers are running a hashtag called #EndSH — end street harassment. Obviously it is a problem that tens of millions of people experience, sadly young women and members of the LGBTI community in particular.

It limits people's feeling of safety and their ability to get around in the evenings, and sometimes it inhibits people's ability to live a full life. Basically it is a human rights violation. It is important to talk about this not only at this level but at the community, national and global levels. I have been inspired by collectives like Stop Street Harassment, which is based in the US but works internationally.

In saying that, I have become frustrated and disappointed by the comments that were made by the Victorian homicide squad head, Detective Inspector Mick Hughes. After the absolutely tragic and senseless murder of Masa Vukotic, he suggested, 'People, particularly females ... shouldn't be alone in parks'. This is unhelpful and unacceptable.

He went on to say, 'We just need to be a little bit more careful', and he encouraged women to walk together in parks and to not go out after dark. As a woman who walks to work and quite often walks home from work and who in the 1980s marched in the streets at Reclaim the Night rallies, I feel very sad that senior police officers and others in our society are still making these types of comments.

It is not the responsibility of women to modify their behaviour, to censor themselves and to ensure that we take 'reasonable precautions' to protect our safety, as the inspector suggested. It is simply up to perpetrators to stop perpetrating — to stop harming people. We need to move away from this notion that the victims are to be blamed.

I call on the Minister for Police, the Honourable Wade Noonan, to take immediate action and apologise on behalf of Victoria Police in the spirit of the anti-street harassment week.

Fiona Patten MLC  
55 St Andrews Place | East Melbourne, 3002 | Victoria | 03 8662 2775 | Fiona.Patten@Parliament.vic.gov.au  
#onpattennic | Fiona.Patten.SexParty

# EVENTS

## Board Members Speak

Board members spoke at 19 [events](#), including campus and community talks in AZ, DC, IA, MD, MN, NE, NY, PA, and VA. These also include founder Holly Kearl's international talks: a campus talk in Canada and two UN conference presentations, [one in India](#) (right) and a [second in Turkey](#).



Below: Lindsey Middlecamp (MN) & Patrick McNeil (DC)



Maureen Evans Arthurs (above) in MD, Dr. Laura S. Logan in NE





## #BlackLivesMatter Protests

Some board members [took part](#) in the protests and rallies around racism and over-policing of Black bodies that occurred throughout the year across the USA.

For example, Maureen Evans Arthurs participated in #BlackLivesMatter rallies in Baltimore; Maliyka Muhammad joined the “NYC Rise Up & Shut It Down With Baltimore” rally; and Kearl attended a "Vigil for Rekia Boyd, Black Women, Trans Women, and Girls" in Washington, DC.





## DC City Council Hearing

SSH board member [Layla Moughari](#) and [Kearl testified](#) at the first-ever [DC city council hearing](#) on street harassment. We were among 30 members of the public who testified.

Every local media outlet covered the hearing and already the council is exploring a sexual harassment taskforce to undertake some of the recommendations (e.g. data collection and training DC employees about the issue). It was a big success!



## International Women's Day March

[SSH joined the United Nation's march on International Women's Day](#) in New York City. We marched with the Brazil anti-street harassment group [Chega de Fiu Fiu](#) and the American group [Voices of Men](#) to send the clear message that street harassment is an issue we must address globally if we want to see equality for women!



# #FreeTheFive Protest

SSH and SlutWalk DC organized a protest in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C., in March. The protest was over the jailing of Chinese feminist activists simply for distributing information about sexual harassment at transit stops (they were later released). Several media outlets covered the DC protest.





## Asian American Women Focus Group

Kearl facilitated a focus group with Asian-American women in Boston, MA, and added the [summary](#) to the [2014 national street harassment report](#). Their stories are often missing from the conversations around street harassment and shouldn't be!





## *Growing Activism Around the World Book Events*

For the release of Kearl's third book, [\*Stop Global Street Harassment: Growing Activism Around the World\*](#), dozens of activists featured in it participated in a [Global Tweetchat](#).

Various activists from the book joined her in speaking at two of the book release [events in Washington, DC](#) and [New York City](#). Combined, they hailed from six countries!



## Awesome Con & NCCWSL

[SSH tabled at Awesome Con](#) (a comics convention in Washington, DC) with [Feminist Public Works/Geeks for Consent](#) and CASS to bring attention to sexual harassment at conventions. (Pictured below.)

We co-presented at the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) in Maryland with CASS.



# MEDIA & FINANCIALS



# Media Mentions

International Anti-Street Harassment Week was cited in over 80 article and news stories in April.

Across the year, SSH received more than 85 [media mentions](#), including in the Washington Post, Guardian, Real Simple magazine, Cosmo magazine, Voice of America, The Economist, WNYC public radio, Latina.com, and the Irish Times.

- Media Coverage:**
- o Bustle (12/15)
  - o Mic (12/15)
  - o The DePaulia (12/15)
  - o The Statesman (12/15)
  - o Washington City Paper (12/15)
  - o Washington Post (12/15)
  - o RedEye Chicago (11/15)
  - o Christianity Today (11/15)
  - o Guardian (11/15)
  - o The Shorthorn (11/15)
  - o World Policy Blog and Fair Observer (11/15)
  - o Bustle.com (11/15)
  - o Daily Dot (11/15)
  - o The Telegraph (11/15)
  - o Mic (11/15)
  - o UNC The Mirror (10/15)
  - o Latina.com (10/15)
  - o Irish Times (10/15)
  - o Safe Routes to School National Partnership (10/15)
  - o Times of India (10/15)
  - o HC Media Online (10/15)
  - o Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette Online (10/15)
  - o Chicago Tribune (10/15)





# Financials

SSH received funding from Lyft (\$3,000) and the Peiffer Foundation (\$1,500). SSH also received \$5,467.50 in donations from individuals.

SSH's work is largely done on a volunteer-basis. This year, \$2,000 was used for part-time help for work relating to International Anti-Street Harassment Week. Approximately \$3,500 more was spent on programs, the website redesign, and fees.

**Help fund our 2016 safe spaces programs!**

**Blog Correspondents**

**International Anti-Street Harassment Week**

**Mentoring Programs**

**Workshops**

**STOP! STREET HARASSMENT**

**Donate \$10+ via this link: <http://tinyurl.com/SSH2016>**



[www.StopStreetHarassment.org](http://www.StopStreetHarassment.org)

[www.facebook.com/StopStreetHarassment](http://www.facebook.com/StopStreetHarassment)

@StopStHarassmnt (Twitter & Instagram)

[hkearl@stopstreetharassment.org](mailto:hkearl@stopstreetharassment.org)

