

To whom it may concern,

At the end of October, thousands of people will be boycotting clubs and bars all over the UK to demonstrate the demand for greater action to be taken to prevent spikings. The motivation of this boycott is not to take away from your revenue, as we understand that in a post-COVID world it is important to your business and your employees that you continue to attract customers. The movement is coming from a fear of anger regarding our safety and health.

The purpose of this boycott is to bring attention to the severity of the situation and encourage you all to take this seriously and do everything within your power and means to prevent these heinous spiking incidents to the best of your ability.

We have compiled a list of concerns, critiques, and suggestions on how you can help us feel safe and prevent these acts from taking place in the environment you create.

Measures should include but not be limited to the following:

1. Work with organisations (such as Crew 2000) to provide training for staff to reduce drug related harm. This should include education on spiking and drug-misuse as well as standard first aid training relating to spiking procedure.
2. Designated "safe zone" somewhere on the premises where victims of spiking can seek first aid and support and are appropriately taken care of in the right environment with the right equipment and staff.
3. A clear written policy and procedure on how the organisation will respond to reports of spiking or harassment.
4. Zero tolerance policy on spiking is clearly communicated and there are clear mechanisms for reporting.
5. There are a range of easily accessible reporting mechanisms. I.e. In person, telephone, feedback form or email. There could also be a designated person each night who exclusively deals with the safety of customers and incidents of spiking.
6. Victims of spiking are not removed from the venue and the venue is responsible for getting them medical treatment.
7. A work environment with a zero tolerance stance on workplace harassment where staff feel comfortable and confident to report harassment they have faced at work through anonymous reporting.
8. Number of spiking incidents are reported to the police and council for monitoring. This should also be well documented within the organisation, and, if appropriate, transparent to the public.
9. Clear CCTV in the bar area, smoking areas and entrances/exits, ensuring lighting and camera are functioning correctly.
10. Offer anti-spiking devices such as drink covers and stoppers.

We realise that it is difficult and will take time to tackle spiking and harassment from our city and so when it happens there should be support in place. Paramedics should be available to attend incidences of spiking, and a help-line and counselling available to support victims in the longer term.

We hope that this issue is taken seriously by the relevant authorities, and that more measures are taken to tackle this growing crisis. You may need to work with a range of representatives and stakeholders, including students and young people, to enact changes which will benefit everyone living in your city.

Signed,

Girls Night In