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International Anti-Street Harassment Week Tackles Global Problem
More than 130 Groups in 19 Countries to Participate in Week of Awareness

WASHINGTON— Marking its second year, [International Anti-Street Harassment Week](#) will be observed by more than 130 groups in at least 19 countries from April 7-13. Tens of thousands of people will participate in the awareness-raising week to tackle the prevalent social problem of [street harassment](#).

Groups in Egypt, India, Germany, Peru, Nepal, Afghanistan, Yemen, and the United Kingdom will host activities, ranging from conferences on street harassment to rallies. In Poland, Hollaback! Poland will conduct a community safety audit and write pro-respect messages with sidewalk. In India, volunteers with the group Must Bol will distribute leaflets and talk to people about their collective responsibility to step up, speak out and take action against street harassment.

"We are taking actions against the problem because 90% of women from ages 18 to 29 in Lima, Peru, report they have been affected," said Eli Vallejo of [Asociación Apala](#) who is planning a [multi-day conference](#) on street harassment in Lima.

[Events](#) hosted in the United States include a launch of an anti-harassment transit ad in Philadelphia, a rally in New York City featuring several city council members, and a silent protest against street harassment in Iowa.

Some activities will focus on sexual orientation or gender identity, such as the George Washington University's Graduate Feminists who will distribute transgender bathroom safety fliers created in partnership with the DC Trans Coalition.

"I'm very excited about the diversity and inclusion occurring in the events this year. Too many women and LGBTQ individuals face street harassment and it limits their mobility. Street harassment needs to stop," said Holly Kearn, author of [Stop Street Harassment: Making Public Spaces Safe and Welcoming for Women](#) and founder of Stop Street Harassment. "It's exciting to see so many communities across the country – and the globe – speak out against this human rights violation and take action to end it."

Around the world, more than 80 percent of women and many LGBTQ individuals face street harassment. The problems for women begin early: nearly 25 percent of 12-year-old girls face street harassment, including sexually explicit comments and following.

This year, International Anti-Street Harassment Week coincides with Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April to show the connection between street harassment and sexual violence.

[Last year's activities](#) impacted thousands of people around the world. The Internet, streets, and classrooms swelled with discussions, messages, stories, and reclamations of public spaces. More than 100 groups from 21 countries and 5 continents participated.

Any individual can participate in the week by sharing stories on and offline. Visit www.MeetUsontheStreet.org for more information about the week and how to be involved.

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Holly Kearn is the founder of International Anti-Street Harassment Week. A street harassment expert, she wrote the 2010 book [Stop Street Harassment: Making Public Places Safe and Welcoming for Women](#), founded and runs <http://www.stopstreetharassment.org>, and speaks around the world on this topic. Her work has been cited by the United Nations, the New York City Council, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, and CNN.