

Women deserve the freedom to cycle



Dear Prime Minister

In October 2026, women from around the UK came together to deliver a letter to 10 Downing Street.

That letter carried personal messages from hundreds of people. People who shared why they want to cycle – and what stops them.

Together, they urged Andy Burnham to show his support for safer cycling for women, and highlighted what needs to change.

This is what they told us.





Cycling brings freedom... but not for everyone

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“Everyone has a right to the city, to move through it as we choose, when we choose, with freedom. But as a woman, I know that fear can restrict that freedom.”

Kitty, Norwich

“I’ve seen first-hand how a bike can give someone confidence, independence and a real sense of freedom. Everyone deserves that opportunity and no woman should ever have to choose between the joy of cycling and feeling safe.”

Sarah, Newquay

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Too many women suffer harassment while cycling

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“I have been run off the road and had bottles thrown at me... My husband also rides, trains and races with cycling clubs, and has never experienced this kind of harassment.”

Sheila

“I am sick and tired of being leered at, shouted at, and being an easy target for men.”

Anonymous

“I would like to get to work safely without being bullied by car drivers. I am getting to work just the same as people in cars.”

Hazel

Darkness brings extra challenges

“I have two daughters and most safe cycling options near where we live, in Bath, are on isolated canal and river towpaths. We need protected cycle lanes on main roads to ensure they have a safe option for when it's dark.”

Saskia, Bath

“For too many women, the freedom of the road ends at sunset. Please, help us to change that.”

Steve, South Gloucestershire

“There are too many short journeys that don't feel safe enough by bike in the dark and I end up driving instead. Safer cycling for women could improve things for all of us.”

Sarah, Oxfordshire

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Women want to feel safe on the roads

“Safer cycling matters to me because I hear from so many women I meet that they admire me but they themselves would be too scared to ride.”

Barbara

“I'd love to go out on my bike more often but at the moment the narrow roads and poor driving mean I can never assume I'll come back.”

Alexandra

“My partner really likes to cycle with me, but she is always concerned with the traffic situation. Particularly close passes.”

David, Cambridgeshire

“There are too many short journeys that don't feel safe enough by bike in the dark and I end up driving instead. Safer cycling for women could improve things for all of us.”

Sarah, Oxfordshire



**"I deserve the right to not feel scared
on my way home from work."**



Things need to change

“Cycling should never be for the brave. It should be for all, from 7 to 89.”

Casey, London

“Safer cycling for women is safer cycling for ALL. It permits freedom, choice, equity and joy.”

Anonymous

“Designing streets that feel safe for women makes cycling more accessible for all, strengthening healthier, fairer communities.”

Alan, Swansea

“Our girls and women need a better deal. If a woman can cycle safely, she'll bring the next generation with her.”

Catherine, Nottinghamshire



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