



PRESS RELEASE

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“Upskirting” Bill Unanimously Passed in Parliament

A Bill has been unanimously passed in Parliament today to make “upskirting” a specific criminal offence in Gibraltar. The Minister for Health, Care and Justice, the Honourable Neil F. Costa MP, announced the publication of the Bill in June of 2018, following significant media attention in the United Kingdom, where a campaign was led by victim Gina Martin. Ms Martin was at a music festival in London, when two men took indecent photographs of her by angling their phone cameras under her skirt when she was distracted. These images were then shared by the men on WhatsApp.

Ms Martin campaigned for upskirting to be specifically made an offence and a Private Members Bill was submitted to Parliament. It did not pass its second reading, due to an objection by Sir Christopher Chope MP, who, as a matter of principle, objects to all private bills. However, after much outrage, the UK Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Theresa May MP, rightly, intervened and adopted the measure as a Government Bill. The UK Bill is still working its way through the Houses of Parliament.

This new legislation will ensure that convicted offenders are placed in the sex offenders register, as “upskirting” will be listed as a sexual offence.

Minister Costa said: “It is important for Gibraltar to criminalise this vile behavior. These odious acts cause victims great distress and humiliation, a fact that this Government takes very seriously and is reflected in the penalty that will be imposed on the perpetrators of such behaviour”.

Minister Sacramento said, ‘Upskirting is an invasion of privacy which leaves victims feeling degraded and distressed. We must do everything possible to protect women and girls from sexual offences and ensure that those committing such offences are punished and that perpetrators of this type of offence are added to the sex offenders register.’