

You probably know this situation. After a night at the club, you take the train home. You feel uncomfortable, fidget, and turn around to see who’s sitting behind you. You can’t wait to reach your stop. If this sounds familiar to you, you’re not alone: two out of three women don’t feel safe on public transport at night.

The consequences of this reach far: Women and other persons read as female avoid certain places, don’t go outside during certain times of day, carry pepper spray or their keys in their fist. To sum up: Their participation in public life is compromised.

We believe that every FLINTA (female, lesbian, intersexual, non-binary, trans-, and agender persons) has the right to feel safe outside no matter the time of day.

We welcome the state-wide initiative “nachtsam” making an effort for safe nightlife. Unfortunately, only very few institutions in Heidelberg are participating.

That’s why we demand the municipal council do more for a feeling of safety in public spaces! We demand that more bars and clubs participate in “nachtsam” to create a safe space to party.

Because of the widespread feeling of insecurity on public local transportation, we welcome the “Frauen-Nachttaxi”, the night-time taxi for women, which has been in operation since 1992, and demand further development. Right now, it gets dark around 5pm, but the taxi service is only available for all FLINTA after 10pm. Only female-read persons over 60 may call for the service as early as 8pm. We demand that persons of all ages be allowed to call the night-time taxi at 8pm.

Heidelberg must also make an effort to help FLINTA feel safer on public transportation and in open spaces like Bismarckplatz or the main station! This includes sufficient street lighting. Due to the energy crisis, road lighting is turned down in many city centres. This is understandable from an economic perspective, though it does not agree with feminist city planning. That’s why we demand more innovation, for example by investing in dimmable streetlights. Tübingen is currently trying this in a pilot project. These lanterns save massive amounts of energy by making use of motion sensors, generating light only when necessary.

Finally, we stand up for legal persecution of verbal sexual harassment! Catcalling is a demonstration of patriarchal power which cannot be tolerated. Those affected suffer lasting consequences from this kind of harassment.

Perpetrators must take responsibility and be held accountable for their actions. We demand that Heidelberg stand together with us on female issues and gender equality!