



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

Venues in the Purple Flag Zone and WIT Student Union working together to keep patrons safe

Purple Flag Waterford and WIT Students Union are working with local venues on a campaign to help people escape uncomfortable or dangerous dating situations.

The "Ask for Angela" initiative, which was initially implemented by Lincolnshire County Council in 2016, to help patrons in bars and clubs etc. leave situations where they do not feel safe, is being launched in the Purple Flag Zone in conjunction with local venue owners/managers to raise the perception of safety in Waterford. It is anticipated that the campaign will be fully in place prior to the busy Christmas party season.

Eric O'Brien, Chair of the Purple Flag Working Group explained that driving safety standards forward is a key priority of the Purple Flag Working Group and that the 'Ask for Angela' campaign will ensure that when required, informed assistance is available.

He welcomed the support shown by venues in introducing this campaign which will involve training of all staff in the area; he said "posters will be displayed (in the local venues) encouraging those in a situation where they feel vulnerable to go to staff and ask for 'Angela' - staff will know you need some help getting out of your situation and will call you a taxi or help you out discreetly and without too much fuss. This campaign has been very successful in the UK and helps people escape uncomfortable or dangerous situations."

Michael Murphy, President of WIT Students Union agreed saying "Ask For Angela has the potential to make Waterford a safer place. It should provide the confidence for anyone who is in our city to know that if an emergency situation arises then there is a plan in place to help them. It is vitally important that local businesses engage with the campaign with a common objective to protect people who find themselves in vulnerable or distressing situations".

ENDS