

21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

## Re: **WLICC statement on the recent attack on a WLICC Volunteer.**

We here at WLICC, unreservedly condemn the recent attack on our volunteer teacher while she was returning home.

**The attack happened on Train 24468, District Line going towards Wimbledon, Carriage E on 20/2/2024 at around 19:45, within a minute or two after she boarded the train at Parsons Green.**

The attacker was already in the train when she boarded. He was sitting in the priority seat next to the door. He appeared to be a white, a middle-aged man (50-60 years old) with curly grey hair, slim, around 5'9". This was an unprovoked attack. He was glaring at her as she sat down opposite him and then he raised his phone and pointed it at her face, to film her. Our Volunteer then responded by taking out her phone to try to photograph him as he looked aggressive and menacing.

He then shouted something incoherent, threw himself at her and tried to pull off her Niqab (face veil) and punch her and attempted to strangle her.

Fortunately, there were two men who intervened, one of them standing between the Sister and the assailant. Another man pushed the assailant away and responded to the verbal abuse. After the two men intervened the attacker ran out of the train when the doors opened at East Putney or Putney Bridge. Furthermore, a lady witnessed the attack and thankfully accompanied our volunteer to the transport police at Wimbledon station. She gave the transport police her details and witness statement.

We urge all the brothers and sisters to contact the transport police office on the contact details below, referring to the incident above, and demanding this matter is investigated fully. Such an individual must be contained, and appropriate steps taken, so that we don't have a repeat of this. This incident could have turned into an even more tragic incident if it were not for the two men who helped the poor victim. Next time that kind of help might not be there. Every person has the right to feel safe when they travel. London is a cosmopolitan city and such aggressive, vile, racist, Islamophobic behaviour must be stopped at all costs.

Contact details and social media handles to contact the Transport Police are below:

**Transport police reference: 681, 20/2/2024**

**Supplementary report reference number - CNP-9479-24-9300-000**

Call [0800 40 50 40](tel:0800405040) or text [61016](tel:61016) for non-emergency enquiries.

**Wimbledon Police Station (Metropolitan Police)**

Police Station address

15-23 Queens Road, SW19 8NN

<https://twitter.com/BTP>

<https://www.facebook.com/britishtransportpolice>

<https://www.btp.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

From

WLICC Management.