

Good Night Out London Tackles Sexual Harassment



The **'Good Night Out'** initiative is based around the simple idea that women (or men, or those who are transgendered) should be able to enjoy a night out without being groped, verbally harassed or otherwise abused. Or as **Hollaback London**, the anti-street-harassment organisation, has put it in their new 'Good Night Out' pledge, *'We want you to have a great night out. No matter how minor it seems, if something or someone makes you feel uncomfortable, you can report it to a member of our staff. They will believe you and make sure it doesn't have to ruin your night.'*

The 'Good Night Out' London pledge has been signed by heavyweight London venues like BnB favourites **fabric**, Dance Tunnel and Dalston Superstore, as well as **Ministry Of Sound**, Village Underground in Shoreditch and other Dalston venues like Alibi and the Shacklewell Arms too.

Kirsti Weir from fabric's press team says, *'We've always had a zero tolerance harassment policy and we've been working with **Hollaback London** to boost our patrons' awareness of our commitment to stamping it out with our online campaign and highly visible posters. It's great that the 'Good Night Out' campaign has a collaborative effort across London and it's something we fully support and endorse.'*

Meanwhile, Dan Beaumont, co-owner of Dalston Superstore and Dance Tunnel, adds, *'We have worked hard over the years to ensure we're welcoming in a gay-friendly crowd, so we already operate a zero-tolerance aggressive behaviour policy. "Good Night Out" and its message chime perfectly with this, so it's great to see more venues taking this approach.'*

For too long now, BnB has been hearing female friends say that a certain level of sexual harassment is just something they have to put up with on a night out. 'It's just how men are when they've had a few

drinks ...' is just one sad refrain we hear far too often and we're sure we're not alone. In a scene that often espouses very lofty ideals about equality, the reality of nightclub behaviour can often leave a lot to be desired – like basic decency, for example. So we're happy to see this kind of thing being tackled properly: it's not the 70s, groping someone you don't know isn't harmless; it's abuse.