



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2019

Harassment

The Daily Telegraph, p13 (print and [online](#)), The Times p19 (print and [online](#)), The Guardian (online) – The media reports on a report by the Association of Women Barristers (AWB) which shows that inappropriate behaviour at the Bar “still abounds”.

The Daily Telegraph interviews Chair-Elect of the Bar, Amanda Pinto QC, who said that she suffered a sexual assault at the hands of a QC when she was a pupil in the 1980s, but did not tell anyone for more than three decades.

She said that the spotlight on bullying and harassment in the profession and the MeToo movement inspired her to speak out to try and help others.

The Telegraph reports that she said “the Bar is particularly vulnerable to bullying and harassment because of the power imbalances and high levels of stress, partly caused by a lack of funding in the justice system, she believes. But there have been a number of improvements in the system and the way in which people stand up to inappropriate behaviour.”

The Telegraph reports that one advance, which was hailed by the AWB was the launch of the [Talk to Spot app](#) which was developed by the Bar Council. It allows barristers to make an anonymous and contemporaneous reports of any inappropriate behaviour.

The Times also runs the story, quoting Amanda Pinto QC, whilst The Guardian focuses on the AWB report findings.

The report warned that as well as excluding women from conversations about cases there were “comments being made by male barristers about the appearance of female barristers.”

The report also found that “old fashioned views” about the way women should behave “still prevailed” and they are “expected to be charming, funny and feminine”.

There remain fears throughout the profession that “reporting incidents would be career ending”, it said.

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Find out more about Lady Hale’s Annual Bar and Young Bar Conference keynote address covering what the future holds for women at the Bar in this month’s [#BarConf](#) update. Read the full newsletter here: r1.dmtrk.net/t/4CGD-O6FD-79...

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