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# Rape victim to join mass women's rally in London

Bristol rape victim Karen Crocker has agreed to join a mass women's rally in London tomorrow.

The demonstration, organised by Women Against Rape, will take the form of a women's court in Trafalgar Square.

Karen (20), who told her story in the Evening Post earlier this week, is unlikely to speak to the rally.

She will travel with other Bristol women, including members of Bristol Wages for Housework group, in a cluster of cars adorned with slogans and streamers.

In London, they will join a procession of women who will march from Lincoln's Inn Fields to Trafalgar Square.

Among the demands of Women Against Rape are that the circumstances of the victim's life and work should not be brought up in rape trials, and that judges "known to be biased against women" should not be allowed to sit in rape cases.

Karen's husband Clive (22) will also go to London for the event. But he will travel separately from her with other male supporters of the campaign.

WEST GVE POST  
15TH JULY 1977

# The same violence

With the degradation, publicity and interrogation that surround rape cases, women are bound to be reluctant to report being raped to the police.

The situation is even worse for black women. Most of us live in the "twilight area" where we are frequently accosted by men. Where any woman who happens to be walking along the street, especially late at night is regarded as a prostitute and therefore men think they can get away with rape.

Rape against a woman working as a prostitute is the same violence as rape against any woman. If a woman works as a prostitute it is because she needs the money.

N G Steele  
94, Richmond Road,  
Montpelier, Bristol 6.

Left July 1977

BRISTOL EVENING POST

# 'Rape-case judge callous'

Bristol MP Mr Ron Thomas is to complain to the Lord Chancellor about "callous and insensitive" statements made by a Bristol Crown Court judge sentencing a man for raping a stripper.

Mr Justice Lawson gaoled the man for three years, but said that although it was an unpleasant experience for the woman — a mother of two — no real lasting harm had been done to her.

Mr Thomas (Lab, Bristol North-West) said today: "I am very angry indeed about the reported statement by Mr Justice Lawson that the experience of a woman being raped could be described in such callous and insensitive terms.

"I intend to write to the Lord Chancellor today and urge him to institute an immediate inquiry in regards to the summing up in this case.

"If the essence of this is as reported in the Evening Post on July 8, I shall urge the Lord Chancellor to relieve Mr Justice Lawson from sitting in cases of this kind in the future."

BRISTOL EVENING POST

12th July 1977

# Rape victim at demo

Bristol rape victim Karen Crocker, aged 20, plans to travel to London tomorrow to attend a women's demonstration about the rape laws.

Karen, from Redland, was raped as she walked home from her job as a stripper. Her attacker was jailed for three years.

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