

1 In Morocco, women are outraged and revolted because it's not possible for them to walk the streets without being abused; and most of them eagerly look forward to the moment when this widespread phenomenon will be a thing of the past. For Ghizlane Ahblain, the expression "a woman of the streets" is a constant refrain in the soundtrack of her home city, Marrakesh; an insult which is hurled at women from the pink-coloured doorways and from the rickety mopeds whose noise and smoke pollute the city's main roads. "In Morocco, whatever you do, you're a woman of the streets," says Ghizlane, who works at a hotel. "If you wear lipstick and a skirt or a headscarf, you're considered as such."



2 Indignation spills out of the small but fierce 30-year-old Moroccan as she sits on a café terrace in central Marrakesh. Like many women in Morocco, she experiences sexual harassment on a daily basis. But a few years ago, she started to fight back. Her tactic simply consists of making a scene and thus making it harder both physically and orally for the men who harass women in public places. She sparks off an argument with the man who makes sexist comments at the bank or loudly accuses another in the street of theft. "More people should denounce this behaviour," she says. "Men in my country don't know when to stop." With her master's degree and short skirt, Ghizlane admits she's no typical Moroccan woman. But she's not alone in standing up to sexual harassment. "It's definitely difficult to live in Morocco as a woman," she says.



3 But with a draft bill (a proposal for a new law) on sexual harassment currently being considered by the Moroccan parliament, persistent street harassers could soon face between one and six months in prison or a fine of between \$250 and \$1,200. "We think it's a terrible thing," says Stephanie Willman Bordat, an American expatriate who's been working on women's rights here for 21 years now. "It's really just making minor adjustments to the existing criminal code," she says. "The whole problem is that women don't report, police don't investigate and prosecutors don't prosecute." Later, she emails me a story from 2015 which explains why women don't trust the system. It's from Inezgane, south-west Morocco. After being harassed by a group of men, two women sought refuge in a nearby shop where they waited for the police. When the officers arrived, instead of protecting the pair, they arrested them – because their dresses were "too short", they said.

4 But street harassment doesn't just leave women with that silenced, suffocating sense of feeling violated. In Morocco, it also limits their freedoms – the freedom to get an education, to go to work, to feel safe in the place they call home. And while a shift in attitudes could still take decades, in the short term, reforming the law on sexual harassment does send a clear message – about what is acceptable behaviour and what isn't and how to stop men from doing things with impunity. The problem is that not every woman in Morocco has the energy to fight back against harassment. Many simply try to get used to living through it and shun friction.



I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Tick (☑) the most appropriate title for the text. (1 pt)

- 1 Moroccan Women Fighting For Equality
- 2 Moroccan Women Fighting Daily Abuse
- 3 Moroccan Women Looking For Jobs

B Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY your answers. (3 pts)

- 1 Ghizlane Ahblain has been harassed by motorcyclists.
.....
- 2 Stephanie Willman Bordat lives and works in America.
.....
- 3 The change in people's attitudes won't take a short time.
.....

C Answer these questions. (3 pts)

- 1 What are the two strategies that Ghizlane Ahblain uses to confront her male harassers?
- 2 How could the problem of sexual harassment be solved, according to Bordat?
- 3 Why do many Moroccan women try to live with sexual harassment?

D Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as the following. (3 pts)

- 1 cease to exist (para 1)
- 2 starts (para 2)
- 3 a change (para 4)

E What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)

- 1 such (para 1)
- 2 this behaviour (para 2)
- 3 they (para 3)

F Complete the following sentences. (2 pts)

- 1 The new law on sexual harassment will restrict unacceptable behaviour. **Also**,
- 2 After being harassed by a group of men, two women were arrested by the police **due to**

