

Response from Marc Vinette

Dear all,

I've endured vicious beatings and attacks through other means from bullies and thugs, and I'm currently pursuing a lawsuit against a local firm that has a sexual harrasment element (the aggressor in this case being a gay identified man) so believe me I get it. Could tell you the story of when I was gay bashed in Vancouver; actually, I'm straight. I have scars on my head commemorating times I stood up to defend other people.

I assure you, my stance towards public safety is that EVERYONE should be able to walk the streets and take transit without fear of violence. I've lived in some shady neighbourhoods around the world, so I know exactly how it feels to feel real danger just going home. Always acutely aware of how much worse it is for the more vulnerable- the elderly, women, children and the different (in all the human ways that applies).

A quick digression to first principles then I will answer your questions.

There are several indicators of weakness/vulnerability to criminals and anti-social deviants, one being carelessness. Anyone entering a potentially dangerous situation (isolated areas when alone for example) needs to be situationally aware. There's a lot individuals can do to ensure their own safety and autonomy, but this is rarely discussed. A victim frame guarantees you will be a victim. Assuming the attitude of a warrior immediately reduces how much you'll be messed with. Some of the most powerful warriors I have the honour to know are a man and woman, both in wheelchairs. The most potent weapon is the mind, grasshoppers, and many battles can be won without being fought.

Awareness- I do not support spending any public funds on awareness campaigns because the city's going broke, but would personally support private fundraising efforts, so long as the awareness leads to empowerment.

Transit security- I agree this is a serious problem, and I have solutions. The simplest is to get transit police out of their cars and patrolling buses and stations. So many problems stem from laziness, and lead to preventable tragedies. Not acceptable, and I'll move to rectify this quickly. I make no gender or other distinctions here, EVERYONE deserves safe public transit. We'll see if it requires more hires, but I don't agree to that up front.

Mass gatherings- the onus is on festival/event organizers to ensure attendee safety. If someone is groped or verbally harassed, while unfortunate and certainly wrong, as a glass half full kind of guy I'm happy if there's no escalation to violence or injury. Crowds are famously enablers for loutish behaviour, take precautions accordingly.

Comprehensive sexual health- hmmm... Tricky, this one. This sort of social engineering is a very fuzzy ethical grey area. I would welcome a comprehensive discussion on this before coming to any conclusions.

Anyone being oppressed (a much better linguistic frame than "victimized") can contact me directly and I'll do my best for them.

Hope you find my answers reasonable and practical. For positive change your best bet is vote Vinette!

Big up toi meme,

Marc Vinette