

Gina Martin

The Voyeurism (Offence) Act 2019

Up-skirting, as defined by the UK government, is a highly intrusive practice which typically involves someone taking a picture under another person's clothing without their knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear). Shockingly, it wasn't a specific criminal offence until 2019 – but had been in Scotland for over 10 years. On the podcast this week, we talk to the woman responsible for introducing The 2019 Voyeurism Act, Gina Martin.

In 2017, Gina and her sister attended British Summertime, a family-friendly daytime festival in London. At 5pm, in a crowd of over 60,000 people, they were standing next to a group of men who were overstepping the mark when interacting with Gina and her sister, including making jokes that then turned into more vulgar and sexual comments. To Gina's horror, she then caught a glimpse of one of the group's phones and on it was a picture of her crotch.

Gina, charged by what happened at British Summertime, aimed to change the law around voyeurism, starting and spearheading a social media movement that grew rapidly. Gina's campaign eventually resulted in a petition that amassed over 110,000 signatures, and after an 18-month battle to illegalise upskirting, she finally won and The Voyeurism (Offences) Act, commonly known as the Upskirting Bill, was introduced on 21 June 2018 and came into force on 12 April 2019. You can read more about it on the UK Government website and find exactly what it is covered by the law:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/upskirting-know-your-rights>.

We would also encourage you to check out our Know Violence campaign for Cambridgeshire constabulary about acts that might not be illegal but are still wholly unacceptable:

<https://knowviolence.org/>

TEA

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Check out Gina's Insta here

www.instagram.com/ginamartin

