

FC, contella 4, 33
 16th July 1977
 Bristol Evening Post

Karen at big rape demo in London



Bristol rape victim Karen Crocker (right) and other women from the city were this afternoon taking part in a Women Against Rape demonstration in London.

Karen (20) was expected to take a place on the platform at the rally, which was in the form of a women's court, in Trafalgar Square.

The demonstrators' demands include that the circumstances of the victim's life and work should not be brought up in rape trials.

Members of the Bristol contingent, some of whom are pictured left before leaving the city, include representatives of the local Wages for Housework group.

Homes bid for rape victims

18-7-77

A Bristol women's group are to back two West rape victims in their attempts to get council homes. Karen Crocker (20) lives in a basement at in Redland with her husband and two small sons. The other victim lives in Bath.

Bristol Wages, for Housework Group announced today that they will make approaches to the local authorities in Bristol and Bath to try to help them get rehoused.

"After going through an experience like rape, they are entitled to some consideration," said Suzie Fleming, a member of the Bristol group.

OPINIONS

She said hundreds of women had turned up in Trafalgar Square for the week-end demonstration organised by Women Against Rape. Speakers included Karen Crocker and another Bristol woman, Norma Steele. Mrs Crocker told the rally about her ordeal and how it had affected her marriage and her outlook on life.

Caricatures of three Appeal Court judges involved in the recent pharosan case and members of the Government stood at the base of Nelson's column, as witnesses told of their own experiences and opinions of rape and sexual assault.

MP sends law chief rape girl's interview

A copy of the Evening Post interview with rape victim Karen Crocker (20) will be sent to the Lord Chancellor, MP Mr Tom Thomas promised today. Mr Thomas, MP for Bristol North West, has already asked the Lord Chancellor to bar Mr Justice Lawson from judging similar cases in future.

The judge caused a storm of protest when he said that although the rape was an unpleasant experience for Karen, she had suffered no real lasting harm.

'APPALLED'

Mr Thomas said today: "I am certain that most if not all of the readers of the Evening Post who read this moving interview will, like me, feel appalled at the words used by Mr Justice Lawson.

"I have already written to the Lord Chancellor and I will be sending him a copy of the interview which I believe is a complete vindication of my demand that the judge should be relieved from making judgments in cases of this kind in the future."

CLOSE UP: Page 3.

14th July 1977
 Bristol Evening Post