

# TO WALK ALONE AS A WOMAN

By Alycia McNamara

*A poem written in light of recent events surrounding the tragic death of Sarah Everard resulting in the 'Reclaim The Streets' movement. The poem features the names of some of the many women who have been murdered by men in the past year.*

Walking alone at night,  
Filled with fright  
Scared, afraid, alone  
Just desperate to get home.

Checking. Is anyone behind?  
Constantly on my mind.

The night is dark,  
We're told don't cut through the park.

A personal alarm -  
Meant to keep us calm  
Would it really save my life?  
What if he was aggressive or even had a  
knife?

Don't walk late at night  
Make sure you walk by the light.  
Safe is how we would like to feel  
On our way back from the pub, a club, a  
meal.

Text me when you're home?

Don't walk on your own.

Call me if you need,

That's what we've always agreed.

But all this has got to change.

Don't you think that it's strange

That it is like this anyway?

Women are finally having their say.

One day we will walk alone,

Safely, happily to our home.

Not checking, unafraid,

Not needing anyone to come to our  
aid.

So, we will Reclaim The Streets

For Sarah, Tracy, Mary, Carol,

Lauren, Angela, Suzanne, Helen,

Maria, Louise, Julie, Nicole...

For Sarah.