

PRESS RELEASE

13 March 2024

Metropolitan Police pay £10,000 in damages to a woman arrested at the Sarah Everard vigil

Almost three years after the death of Sarah Everard, the Metropolitan Police have finally agreed to compensate Jennifer Edmunds, who was arrested at the Clapham Common vigil on 13 March 2021 while mourning Sarah Everard's death and those of all women who had suffered violent deaths at the hands of police officers.

Jennifer Edmunds was held overnight detention at the police station and was issued with a penalty notice for breach of the Covid regulations which she refused to pay. She was charged and waited 15 months before the prosecution was finally dropped on 8 August 2022.

She sued the Met police for breaches of her human rights, false imprisonment, assault, misfeasance in public office and malicious prosecution. Following proceedings being issued out of the County Court at Mayor's and City of London, on 5 February 2024 the Met police agreed to pay £10,000 in compensation.

Jennifer Edmunds said:

"While I am relieved for this to finally be over, 3 years after Sarah Everard's death, and almost 3 years after I was threatened with criminal charges for exercising my inalienable right to protest her murder, in that time I have also seen the state clamp down yet further on our collective freedom to assemble and demand change. That's why I have split the damages I have received in this case with pro-Palestine protestors, who, like me, who have also been victims of the police, but left with a much worse outcome."

Erica San, solicitor for Jennifer Edmunds said:

"The Met's heavy-handed and insensitive policing of the Clapham Common vigil was a reflection of the institutional misogyny that the Casey Review sought to expose. The fact that it has taken 3 years to acknowledge the wrong done to Jeni - as with the many other cases which were brought after the vigil - is a sign of how deeply reluctant the force is to face its pressing need for reform."

NOTES TO EDITORS

This is not the first time that the Met Police has been forced to pay damages arising from allegations of unlawful arrests at the Sarah Everard vigil. In September 2023, the Met settled claims brought by two other women who were arrested at the Vigil. The Casey Review found that *"the events around the Vigil illustrate how far culture in the Met had become removed from the founding principles of policing by consent."*

Bhatt Murphy Solicitors

Jennifer Edmunds is represented by **Erica San** of Bhatt Murphy.

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