

Week number 1: Gender and gender-based violence

The Walk Home - Transcript

We open on a pub in a city street at night.

Laura, a woman in her mid-20s, walks out of the pub. She stands outside to one side of the door, takes her mobile phone out of her jacket pocket, and writes a text: "Hi Mum. Had a great night. On my way home now."

The title, '*The Walk Home*', appears on the screen.

Tom, a young man around the same age as Laura, also walks out of the pub. He acknowledges Laura briefly with a nod, before setting off down the street.

Laura returns her phone to her jacket pocket, plugs in her earphones, and sets off in the opposite direction to Tom.

Tom rounds the corner onto a pedestrianised street. He takes his phone out of his trouser pocket and begins scrolling through Facebook as he walks. He smiles as he reads a post, and seems oblivious to his surroundings.

We cut to Laura walking down another street. Her phone stays in her pocket. She looks over her shoulder and crosses the street.

We cut back to Tom strolling up the street, looking through the Instagram feed on his phone. He passes a couple of pedestrians heading in the opposite direction but seems largely unaware of them. He's fully engrossed in checking social media on his phone.

Elsewhere Laura continues her walk home. She also passes pedestrians as she walks and remains alert to her surroundings.

Back with Tom, he reaches a junction and puts his phone away. As he crosses the street, he puts his earphones in and begins listening to music as he walks.

Laura crosses a busy street. She is still wearing her earphones, but isn't listening to any music. This enables her to be more vigilant. A graphic pops up to point out that she is wearing appropriate footwear.

Laura takes a turn down a quiet side street. A large man wearing a hood and dark coat walks down the street behind her. Laura hears footsteps and becomes aware of his presence, checking over her shoulder cautiously. As she passes a bar she decides to step inside its doorway. The large man walks passed and continues down the street. Laura steps out of the doorway, and looks down the street after the man. She takes her hair out of its ponytail as a graphic explains that hair worn down is harder to grab. Her journey home resumes.

Two shots juxtapose Tom and Laura continuing their respective walks home. Tom wanders nonchalantly down a poorly lit street. Laura sticks to busier streets that are well lit. Her hands are in her jacket pockets. Pop up graphics reveal that in one hand Laura is holding her house keys as an improvised self-defence weapon. In her other pocket she is holding a panic alarm.

Laura reaches an intersection. There is a shortcut through a park ahead but it is secluded and poorly lit. She pauses for a moment and considers the shortcut, then looks down the street at her alternate route. She decides to take the longer route, which is better lit.

On another street, we see Tom arrive at an intersection. He elects to take a shortcut through a dark stretch of parkland.

We cut to Laura walking down a residential street. She arrives outside a house, opens the garden gate, and heads inside.

We also see Tom walking along a residential street. He arrives home and enters through the front door.

From outside the house through a window, we see Laura enter the front room and turn the lights on. She takes her phone out of her pocket and writes a quick text: "Hi Mum. Back safe now."



From outside Tom's house, we see him enter his living room and turn on a light. He takes his earphones off, picks up a remote control and turns on the TV. He doesn't consider notifying anyone about his uneventful walk home.