

Two Cis Women Sexually Assault Trans Woman in Public Bathroom

By Cristan Williams

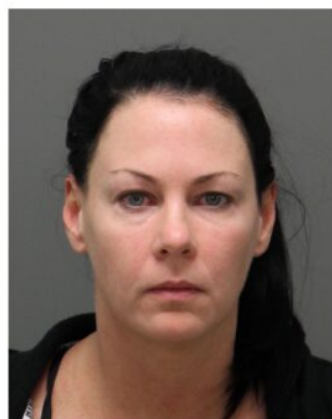
Published January 9, 2019 | Updated March 31, 2026

https://www.transadvocate.com/two-cis-women-sexually-assault-trans-woman-in-public-bathroom_n_25820.htm

Abstract

Two cisgender women sexually assaulted a transgender woman in a North Carolina public restroom. The cisgender women, Jessica Fowler and Amber Harrell, were arrested for sexual battery and second-degree kidnapping. According to reports, the sexual assault happened at Milk Bar on December 9th, 2018 and the two were charged and arrested. According to the call reporting the [...]

Article



HARRELL, AMBER NICOLE
Age as of: 01-09-2019 38
Sex: FEMALE

Residence Address: 7000 HAMMOND RD RALEIGH, NC 27615
Arrest Location: 3301 HAMMOND RD RALEIGH, NC
Arresting Officer: BR HULL-RPD

Charges:

Date	Statute	Description
12-09-2018	14-27.33	SEXUAL BATTERY
12-09-2018	14-39	SECOND DEGREE KIDNAPPING



FOWLER, JESSICA LEEANN
Age as of: 01-09-2019 31
Sex: FEMALE

Residence Address: 3301 HAMMOND RD RALEIGH, NC 27603
Arrest Location: 3301 HAMMOND RD RALEIGH, NC 27603
Arresting Officer: CD RICKS-RPD

Charges:

Date	Statute	Description
12-09-2018	14-39	SECOND DEGREE KIDNAPPING
12-09-2018	14-27.33	SEXUAL BATTERY

Two cisgender women sexually assaulted a transgender woman in a North Carolina public restroom. The cisgender women, Jessica Fowler and Amber Harrell, were arrested for sexual battery and second-degree kidnapping. According to reports, the sexual assault happened at Milk Bar on December 9th, 2018 and the two were charged and arrested.

According to the call reporting the crime to the police, the two cisgender women forced the victim against the wall of the bathroom and sexually assaulted her. As the victim was attempting to leave the restroom, the two cisgender women continued to assault the transgender woman in front on the bartender who attempted to stop the cisgender women's attack.

Amber Nicole Harrell is charged with sexual battery and second-degree kidnapping. Harrell's criminal

history reports that she was previously charged with assault in April 2018. Harrell's accomplice, Jessica Fowler, was likewise charged with sexual battery and second-degree kidnapping. Records indicate that both were released from custody after posting bail.

The transgender victim reported that she had been raped a year ago, compounding the stress of the assault.

Listen to an excerpt of the call to police here:

NOTE: The above recording was digitally altered to protect the victim's identity.

North Carolina sparked controversy after passing the "Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act," better known as HB2. The bill stripped local LGBTQI equality protections and compelled transgender and intersex people to only use restrooms corresponding with the sex assigned to them on their medical record of birth. HB2, and others like it, were modeled after the successful right-wing movement to repeal LGBTQI protections in Houston, Texas by claiming that equality means that "men" (ie, transgender/intersex women and/or sexual predators) could hang around the women's restroom. The evangelical right-wing in Houston produced a how-to instructional documentary for repealing LGBTQI equality, using Jim Crow-era rhetoric, asserting that equality results in sexual assault. The "no men in women's restrooms" movement was exported to other locations throughout the U.S.

However, those most affected by so-called "bathroom bills" were cisgender women who were deemed gender nonconforming and after enduring years of anti-trans hysteria, the recent crushing defeat of these bills, coupled with the 2018 "Blue Wave," the Republican appetite to engage in anti-trans fearmongering has waned. Texas Governor announced that he had no desire to once again take up bathroom bills, the Lieutenant Governor -the man who most heavily championed bathroom bills in the past- just told the press that such bills "won't be back," and even the hate groups pushing these bills in the past publicly admitted that their entire bathroom campaign was "contrived."

The rallying cry of the pro-family groups trying to repeal the law was the well-known "bathroom safety" argument - that in addition to transgenders, this law allows male sexual predators to lurk in women's restrooms to prey on girls and women. This was technically true, but was largely contrived. - Mass Resistance, SPLC Hate Group

Even so, a UK TERF group is attempting to once again spark off another wave of "bathroom bill" hysteria with an organizing meeting announced for late January in Washington, DC.

Suggested citation

Cristan Williams. "Two Cis Women Sexually Assault Trans Woman in Public Bathroom." TransAdvocate, January 9, 2019.

https://www.transadvocate.com/two-cis-women-sexually-assault-trans-woman-in-public-bathroom_n_25820.htm