# Four jailed for brutal daylight attack on Good Samaritan who defended woman in Derry



In a shocking incident that unfolded in Derry city centre, four individuals have been jailed for two years following what has been described as a "feral, vicious and savage attack" on a man who intervened to assist a woman in distress. The attack took place on May 8 of the previous year, outside the now-closed Bank of Ireland building on Strand Road, a location that has witnessed increasing violence in recent months.

The four attackers, Yasmin Anderson, Gareth McClurg, Teresa McGrath, and Kurtis Edgar, all have extensive criminal backgrounds, with Edgar having an astonishing 105 convictions, while McClurg, McGrath, and Anderson have 93, 40, and 12 convictions, respectively. Judge Neil Rafferty KC, who presided over the case, condemned the brutal nature of the assault, highlighting the fact that it occurred in broad daylight, with the victim's three children witnessing the entire event from their vehicle. The image of a father trying to defend a vulnerable woman while his children looked on in horror adds a poignant layer to an already disturbing narrative.

The victim, upon seeing a woman lying prone on the ground, tried to intervene to help her; however, the situation escalated as all four defendants turned their aggression towards him. Judge Rafferty described the attack as a "drink and drugs fueled" incident, reflecting a troubling trend of violence in public spaces. Not only was the victim physically assaulted, suffering kicks and punches, but his vehicle also sustained considerable damage.

This recent case is a troubling reminder of the violence that has increasingly plagued the Derry community in recent months. In a separate incident just a month after this attack, a somewhat related situation arose when Paul Farren, 34, was sentenced to three months in prison for sexually assaulting a woman attempting to aid him after he collapsed. Such incidents raise pressing questions about the safety of Good Samaritans in the community, a theme echoed by Inspector Craig, who condemned the assault during Farren's trial.

Further compounding the concerns surrounding public safety, other reports of violence in the area have emerged, including an assault in December where a man sustained facial injuries after being attacked in Guildhall Square. In addition, there have been recent violent outbreaks involving multiple people in which members of the public attempted to intervene, with some witnesses recalling instances where police officers were also assaulted in the line of duty.

As Derry seeks solutions to combat this disturbing trend of public violence, both the community and local authorities are under pressure to foster an environment where individuals feel safe to offer assistance without the risk of becoming victims themselves. Judge Rafferty's closing remarks highlighted the essential moral dimension at play; that individuals should not fear retaliation when they try to do the right thing. As these four assailants start their sentences, their actions serve as a sobering illustration of the risks associated with stepping in to help others in dire situations.

Despite the legal consequences faced by these individuals, the broader issue remains: How can communities ensure that acts of kindness and bravery are met with gratitude rather than violence?

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/four-jailed-over-feral-and-savage-attack-on-good-samaritan-who-came-to-aid-of-woman-DSWSUPXALZD6LF4CTWSLRACDKQ/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/four-jailed-over-feral-and-savage-attack-on-good-samaritan-who-came-to-aid-of-woman-DSWSUPXALZD6LF4CTWSLRACDKQ/)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/four-jailed-over-feral-and-savage-attack-on-good-samaritan-who-came-to-aid-of-woman-DSWSUPXALZD6LF4CTWSLRACDKQ/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/four-jailed-over-feral-and-savage-attack-on-good-samaritan-who-came-to-aid-of-woman-DSWSUPXALZD6LF4CTWSLRACDKQ/)
* Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/four-jailed-over-feral-and-savage-attack-on-good-samaritan-who-came-to-aid-of-woman-DSWSUPXALZD6LF4CTWSLRACDKQ/), [[3]](https://www.irishpost.com/news/man-jailed-for-sexually-assaulting-good-samaritan-who-came-to-his-aid-in-derry-282527)
* Paragraph 4: [[4]](https://www.derryjournal.com/news/crime/man-suffers-facial-injuries-and-laceration-in-derry-city-centre-assault-4922980), [[5]](https://www.derrydaily.net/2024/05/09/third-person-arrested-over-vicious-attack-on-derry-good-samaritan/), [[6]](https://www.derrynow.com/news/crime---courts/1496910/two-arrests-after-terrifying-incident-in-derry-city-centre.html), [[7]](https://www.thejournal.ie/man-intervenes-to-break-up-derry-fight-assaulted-and-car-damaged-6375057-May2024/)
* Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/four-jailed-over-feral-and-savage-attack-on-good-samaritan-who-came-to-aid-of-woman-DSWSUPXALZD6LF4CTWSLRACDKQ/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/four-jailed-over-feral-and-savage-attack-on-good-samaritan-who-came-to-aid-of-woman-DSWSUPXALZD6LF4CTWSLRACDKQ/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/four-jailed-over-feral-and-savage-attack-on-good-samaritan-who-came-to-aid-of-woman-DSWSUPXALZD6LF4CTWSLRACDKQ/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/four-jailed-over-feral-and-savage-attack-on-good-samaritan-who-came-to-aid-of-woman-DSWSUPXALZD6LF4CTWSLRACDKQ/> - Four individuals were sentenced to two years in prison for a violent attack on a man who attempted to assist a woman in distress in Derry city centre. The assailants, all with significant criminal records, assaulted the victim, causing injuries and damaging his vehicle. The incident, witnessed by the victim's three children, was described by Judge Neil Rafferty KC as a 'feral and savage attack.' The defendants will serve 12 months on licence following their release.
3. <https://www.irishpost.com/news/man-jailed-for-sexually-assaulting-good-samaritan-who-came-to-his-aid-in-derry-282527> - Paul Farren, 34, was sentenced to three months in prison for sexually assaulting a woman who tried to help him after he collapsed in Derry. The incident occurred when the woman and her friend offered assistance to Farren, who then inappropriately touched the victim. Farren was identified through CCTV footage and arrested the following day. Inspector Craig condemned the assault, emphasizing the victim's bravery in reporting the crime.
4. <https://www.derryjournal.com/news/crime/man-suffers-facial-injuries-and-laceration-in-derry-city-centre-assault-4922980> - A man sustained facial injuries and a head laceration following an assault in Derry city centre. The attack took place between 11pm on December 20 and 1:30am on December 21 in the Guildhall Square area. Police are seeking information from witnesses to help establish the circumstances of the incident. Sergeant Bennett urged anyone with information to contact the police, quoting reference number 729 of 21/12/24.
5. <https://www.derrydaily.net/2024/05/09/third-person-arrested-over-vicious-attack-on-derry-good-samaritan/> - A third individual was arrested in connection with a violent incident in Derry city centre, where a Good Samaritan was assaulted while attempting to break up a fight. The incident occurred on Sackville Street, involving five to six people. The victim, who had his children in his vehicle, intervened but was assaulted, and his car was damaged. Police have made multiple arrests, and investigations are ongoing.
6. <https://www.derrynow.com/news/crime---courts/1496910/two-arrests-after-terrifying-incident-in-derry-city-centre.html> - Two individuals were arrested following a disturbance in Derry city centre, where a member of the public was assaulted while attempting to diffuse a fight. The incident occurred on Sackville Street, involving five to six people. The victim, with his children in his vehicle, intervened but was assaulted, and his car was damaged. A police officer was also assaulted during the response. Investigations are ongoing.
7. <https://www.thejournal.ie/man-intervenes-to-break-up-derry-fight-assaulted-and-car-damaged-6375057-May2024/> - A man who intervened to stop a six-person street fight in Derry was assaulted, and his vehicle was damaged. The incident occurred at around 8pm on Sackville Street, where a fight involving up to six people was reported. The victim, with his children in his vehicle, attempted to break up the fight but was assaulted, and his car was damaged. A police officer was also punched in the face during the response.