# Hanley's bar name change sparks social media outrage



A bar in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, has sparked significant backlash on social media following its recent name change. The venue, previously known as Bloom, has been rebranded as The Strangled Cat in an effort to better align with its karaoke offerings. However, the new name has drawn criticism from various quarters, with some users on social media labelling it "disgusting" and accusing the venue of promoting animal abuse.

Critics have voiced their concerns, suggesting that the name could be seen as offensive to animal lovers. One individual remarked, "Disgusting name. You've automatically isolated all cat and animal lovers." Another user commented, "What an awful name for a business. I wouldn't visit for that very reason! Given the amount of animal abuse in this country, you could have thought of a better name, surely."

Despite the intense criticism, Ryan Fanthorpe, the director of Breakthrough Bars, which owns the venue, has defended the decision. He explained to the BBC that the name was inspired by an "old wives' saying" meant to describe a bad singer. "I don't think The Strangled Cat is offensive when you combine it with the karaoke," Fanthorpe stated.

The backlash has provoked a lively discussion online as patrons and potential visitors weigh in on the appropriateness of the name change. As it stands, the venue will retain its new identity while navigating the criticisms and sentiments expressed by members of the community.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.gbnews.com/news/stoke-news-bar-strangled-cat-defends-name-woke-snowflakes> - This article corroborates the backlash against The Strangled Cat bar's new name and quotes from Ryan Fanthorpe defending it as a reference to poor karaoke singing.
* <https://www.instagram.com/thestrangledcat/> - This Instagram page confirms The Strangled Cat as a karaoke and bottomless brunch bar in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.
* <https://www.allsides.com/news/2025-04-14-0915/technology-people-upset-stoke-trent-bars-name-are-snowflakes-owner> - This article supports the criticism of the bar's name, with accusations of promoting animal abuse, as well as Ryan Fanthorpe's response.
* <http://www.thestrangledcat.co.uk> - The official website of The Strangled Cat provides information about the venue but does not directly address the controversy.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Unfortunately, this URL is mentioned as the source of the article but seems to be a placeholder and does not provide additional supporting information.