

## Women-only train cars starting in Germany

31st March, 2016



A train operator in Germany is launching a women and children only service on its trains. The initiative for the segregated carriages is an attempt to help women feel safer.

There will be two specialised compartments on all of the company's trains that run between the cities of Leipzig and Chemnitz. The carriages will be located next to the one in which the train conductor is situated. The new carriages are causing quite a stir in Germany. Some people on social media are suggesting the move is a reaction to an increase in reported incidents of sexual harassment and assault in Germany. Rail executives stress this is not the case, but is instead a new policy aimed at increasing security for women and children.

The use of women-only carriages on trains is not new. There have been dedicated cars on trains in many other countries for decades. In Japan, such carriages were first introduced in 1912. Last year there was a call from Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the opposition party to the government in Britain, to re-introduce such carriages. British trains used to have 'Ladies Only' carriages up until 1977. Mr Corbyn's comments resulted in a backlash from female politicians. His colleague Yvette Cooper observed that while sexual harassment and violence against women was a serious issue, women-only carriages were not the answer. Cooper said the move would be, "turning the clock back and not tackling the problem".

Sources: [rt.com](http://rt.com) / [mediaite.com](http://mediaite.com) / [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org)

## Writing

There should be men-only and women-only carriages on trains. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*train operator / initiative / segregated carriages / conductor / social media / security / dedicated / decades / opposition / ladies only / backlash / politicians / violence*

## True / False

- A rail company will start carriages for women and children only. T / F
- Each train will have one segregated carriage. T / F
- The trains with segregated cars will run between eight German cities. T / F
- Rail bosses say the move is because of sexual harassment. T / F
- Japan introduced its first women-only carriages in 1912. T / F
- Britain ended women-only carriages in 1977. T / F
- Female politicians in the UK oppose the idea of women-only carriages. T / F
- Female politicians in the UK want all clocks turned back. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. launching  | a. appeal     |
| 2. segregated | b. response   |
| 3. located    | c. co-worker  |
| 4. reaction   | d. separated  |
| 5. stress     | e. remarks    |
| 6. call       | f. addressing |
| 7. comments   | g. starting   |
| 8. colleague  | h. matter     |
| 9. issue      | i. situated   |
| 10. tackling  | j. emphasise  |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of women-only cars on trains?
- How safe is public transport in your country for women?
- Why might people disagree with the women-only carriages?
- What other areas of society should be segregated?
- What else could rail companies do to keep women safe?
- Should boys and girls be segregated in schools?
- What do you think of the idea of women-only malls and hotels?

## Phrase Match

- |                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. trains that                       | a. the opposition party   |
| 2. social                            | b. case                   |
| 3. sexual                            | c. for decades            |
| 4. executives stress this is not the | d. harassment             |
| 5. aimed at increasing security      | e. harassment             |
| 6. in many other countries           | f. a backlash             |
| 7. the leader of                     | g. for women              |
| 8. Corbyn's comments resulted in     | h. clock back             |
| 9. sexual                            | i. media                  |
| 10. turning the                      | j. run between the cities |

## Discussion – Student B

- Is having women-only train carriages sexist?
- What problems have you had on trains?
- How much equality is there for women in your country?
- What do you think of the idea of men-only train carriages?
- Would you prefer a female family member to use women-only transportation?
- What do you think of rail travel?
- What is the answer to tackling sexual harassment?
- What questions would you like to ask the rail company's CEO?

## Spelling

- A train prortoea in Germany
- geesretgda carriages
- the one in which the train tcnudcroo is situated
- the move is a oncreiat
- sexual resanhamst
- Rail eetiuvcxse
- aeiddetc cars
- the leader of the poisioontp party
- Corbyn's comments resulted in a kcalashb
- female oinlptiicas
- neoceqli against women
- tjanklc the problem

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. j
6. a	7. e	8. c	9. h	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Trains

You think trains are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their modes of transport aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplanes, taxis or buses.

### Role B – Airplanes

You think airplanes are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their modes of transport aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): trains, taxis or buses.

### Role C – Taxis

You think taxis are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their modes of transport aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplanes, trains or buses.

### Role D – Buses

You think buses are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their modes of transport aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplanes, taxis or trains.

## Speaking – Transport

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| • train    | • ferry      |
| • bus      | • helicopter |
| • taxi     | • bicycle    |
| • airplane | • car        |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.