

Modesty issues at the urinals

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Letter from Nelson Quah

I REFER to the letter, "Public toilets are open for all to see" (June 23-24) by Mr Goh Kian Huat, and would like to share my thoughts.

I would usually feel uneasy when a middle-aged or elderly female cleaner enters the male toilet of a shopping centre — usually without warning — to mop the wet floor, all this while I am busy answering nature's call at the urinal.

To me, it is akin to an invasion of privacy, but I can understand how these elderly women would feel themselves, especially so when they have to compromise their own self-respect and even modesty to work as cleaners in male toilets — just to eke out a decent living.

Could the building management of shopping centres do something to ensure that the cleaning contractor protects its women cleaners' modesty by ensuring they clean only the female toilets?

If it is necessary that these women are required to clean the male toilets, then a notice should be placed outside the toilet entrance to ensure that no other patron is around while the women go about doing their work.

One other disturbing thing that I've noticed is seeing young girls of about two or three years of age being taken into the male toilets by their fathers.

Even if this appears to be perfectly normal to them, the fathers should be mindful of the feelings of other males who are using the toilets.