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Fashion that can fight back

THE first range of handbags and fashion accessories specifically designed to protect their owners from street crime was launched today.

They include lingerie-style stealth belts and bands for concealing mobiles and other personal valuables, handbags and high-security laptop computer cases.

Fashion designers have worked with the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science, police crime preven-

New range of accessories that combat street crime

tion officers and women's self-protection experts to develop the collection which was being launched at the Design Council in London.

Even a former handbag thief was consulted.

The accessories are designed to deter four of the most common techniques employed by street criminals – dipping, grabbing, lifting and slashing.

They include security features such as anti-slash

materials, cut-proof straps, combination lock clips and personal alarms.

The products will be marketed throughout the UK under the Karrysafe brand.

Designer Adam Thorpe said: "We have a track record of producing designs which tackle social issues head on and there's little doubt that street crime is in the forefront of many people's minds at the moment.

"Our new products should

make them feel more secure when they're out and about.

"At the same time they're extremely fashionable and desirable.

"They won't make users look like riot police – secure design doesn't have to look criminal."

Professor Gloria Laycock, director of the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science said: "It is becoming increasingly accepted that we need to tackle crime through a variety of different approaches, one of which is the better design of all our goods and services."