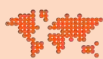


FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME



# SAFE CITIES AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES

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## The Issue

Women and girls fear and experience various types of sexual violence in public spaces, from unwanted sexual remarks and touching to rape and femicide. It is a universal issue. It happens on streets, in and around schools, public transportation, workplaces, public toilets, and parks in urban, rural, and conflict/post conflict settings.

This reality reduces women's and girls' freedom of movement and their ability to study and work, access essential services, participate in public life, and enjoy recreation opportunities. This negatively impacts their health and well-being.

In 2013, the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women (CSW57) identified various forms of sexual violence against women and girls (SVAWG) in public spaces as a distinct area of concern, and called on governments to prevent it. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has set "the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres" as one of its specific goals (Target 5.2). In 2016, the New Urban Agenda committed to promote a safe, healthy, inclusive, and secure environment in cities and human settlements for all to live, work, and participate in urban life without fear of violence and intimidation.

Cover photo: *Women and girls' right to leisure and use of public spaces free from fear and experience of violence in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea's #SANAP WANTAIM [Stand Together] Campaign.*

## Our Strategy for Change

UN Women's Global Flagship Initiative "Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces" builds on its "Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls" Global Programme launched in November 2010, to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces.

Participating cities commit to:

**1. Identify gender-responsive locally relevant and owned interventions.** Conducting a scoping study is essential as it provides specific data to ensure a deep understanding of local forms of SVAWG in public spaces. Key stakeholders reflect on the findings to develop programmes with a specific set of results based on the local context and joint accountability.

### UN WOMEN'S FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME INITIATIVES

Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces is one of UN Women's Flagship Programming Initiatives designed to ensure that UN Women can deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This Flagship Programme will support national governments to address multiple SDG targets across multiple goals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAMME, CONTACT:  
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SAFE CITIES  
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**2. Develop and effectively implement comprehensive laws and policies to prevent and respond to sexual violence in public spaces.** Through capacity building, awareness raising, community mobilization and other strategies, authorities, women's grassroots and community partners are equipped to advocate, develop, and monitor the effective implementation of laws and policies, and to make sure that accompanying resources are in place to support this action.

**3. Investments in the safety and economic viability of public spaces.** A gender approach to urban planning ensures that the needs of women and men are taken into account across all municipal departments' planning. This includes public infrastructure (investments in safe potable water, improved sanitation, lighting, creation of market stalls, provision of training on financial literacy) and economic development, focusing on opportunities for women's empowerment.

**4. Change attitudes and behaviors to promote women's and girls' rights to enjoy public spaces free from violence.** Girls, boys and other influential champions are engaged in transformative activities in schools and other settings to promote respectful gender relationships, gender equality, and safety in public spaces.

UN Women is a strong technical partner in city-led programmes. At global level, a package of guidance notes and other tools are available which can be adapted to country context. In collaboration with partners across cities, UN Women facilitates an online Global Community of Practice, and convenes a biennial Global Leaders' Meeting to promote exchange and advance knowledge on trends, practices and lessons learned in safe cities and safe public spaces initiatives.

#### FACTS AND FIGURES - ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- In the US, a national study on sexual harassment reveals that 66% of women said they experienced some form of sexual harassment in public spaces (Stop Street Harassment, 2018).
- In Port Moresby, a scoping study reveals that over 90% of women and girls have experienced some form of sexual violence when accessing public transportation (UN Women, 2014).
- In Kigali, a baseline study shows that 55% of women reported that they were concerned about going to educational institutions after dark (UN Women, 2013).

#### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

- Quito (Ecuador): A protocol developed in 2017 for public transportation has increased the reporting and prosecution of cases of sexual harassment.
- Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea): Over 3,800 women vendors and 12,000 customers (mostly women) can work and use markets that are safe, as part of the comprehensive Port Moresby Safe City Programme.
- Maputo (Mozambique): Youth advocates equipped with data and advocacy skills mobilized the Ministry of Education to improve women's and girl's safety, including awareness raising sessions on the prevention of sexual harassment, and conducting safety audits in school.

## Partnerships for change

**AT LOCAL, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS:** Authorities from a range of sectors and ministries (economic development, urban planning, transport, community development, women's machinery, justice, police, education, house, health, etc.); grassroots women's, youth, and men's groups and organizations, UN agencies; research institutions, the private sector, media, etc.

**AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL:** UN-Habitat, UNICEF and other agencies, Women in Cities International, Women and Habitat Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Huairou Commission, and Stop Street Harassment.

## A growing list of champion cities

Participating cities: Cairo and Alexandria (Egypt), New Delhi, Kigali, Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), Kericho (Kenya), Quito and Cuenca (Ecuador), Cape Town, Marrakech and Rabat (Morocco), Quezon City (The Philippines), Dublin, Winnipeg (jointly with the Province of Manitoba in Canada), Edmonton (jointly with the Province of Alberta in Canada), and the cities of London, Montreal and Vancouver in Canada, Sakai (Japan), New York, Brussels, London (UK), Madrid, Guatemala City, Maputo, Ho Chi Minh, Santo Domingo, Montevideo, Hawassa and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), El Alto (Bolivia), Mexico City, and the cities of Puebla, Torreón, Monterrey and Guadalajara in Mexico, and Medellín, and the cities of Bogotá, Villavicencio, Cali, Popayan in Colombia. **More city partnerships to be announced in 2019.**