

SAFE CITIES AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS **GLOBAL FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE:**

SECOND INTERNATIONAL COMPENDIUM OF PRACTICES



SAFE CITIES
AND SAFE
PUBLIC SPACES

UN WOMEN GLOBAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADS	Gender-differentiated analysis from an intersectional perspective
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
CSO	Civil society organization
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
EDHS	Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey
EOU	Equal Opportunities Unit (Brussels)
GBV	Gender-based violence
Global FPI	Global Flagship Programme Initiative
IMADEL	Moroccan Institute for Local Development
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
MWD	Municipal Women's Directorate (Guatemala City)
NCD	National Commission District (Port Moresby)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
SH	Sexual harassment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SWAVG	Sexual violence against women and girls
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAW	Violence against women
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
WSA	Women's safety audit

INTRODUCTION

Grounded in the principles of universal human rights, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has a universal mandate with a strong commitment to leaving no one behind (LNOB). This means prioritizing the dignity of human beings and placing the progress of the most marginalized communities first in all areas of work, including ending violence against women and girls (EVAW)¹. It is important to recognize that gender inequality intersects with other forms of discrimination and disadvantage – such as age, ability, sex, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status and other factors – which may increase the risk, severity or frequency of sexual harassment (SH) and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls (SVAWG) in private and public spaces. Some studies reveal that women who identify with the categories of indigenous, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or disabled often are at risk of violence.²

The UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Programme Initiative (Global FPI) addresses this urgent call to ensure the principle of LNOB in the development and implementation of evidence and human rights-based approaches to prevent and respond to SH and other forms of SVAWG in public spaces. Since 2011, the Global FPI has provided support to local and provincial/state governments, grassroots women, women's rights organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and other partners to create safe and empowering public spaces with and for women and girls in urban, rural and other settings.

Comprehensive city initiatives include action in four areas: 1) ensuring that locally relevant and owned solutions are identified; 2) strengthening laws and policies; 3) investing in the safety and economic viability of public spaces; and 4) fostering transformative social norms that promote women and girls' rights to use public spaces free from SH and other forms of SVAWG.

This Second International Compendium of Practices³ illustrates in a practical way how participating cities in the Global FPI are working to implement women's safety approaches through the lens of intersectionality, informed by the recommendations made at UN Women's Fourth Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Leader's Forum (Edmonton, Canada, 16-19 October 2018).

The term "intersectionality" has been used to understand women's experiences at the intersection of a number of simultaneous oppressions including (but not limited to) race, class, caste, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, disability, nationality, immigration status, geographical location, and/or religion.⁴

While intersectionality identifies different vulnerabilities and disadvantages of particular women and girls, it also recognizes their unique knowledge as agents of change.

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- 1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2015. See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>
 - 2 Rashida Manjoo (2012). The Continuum of Violence against Women and the Challenges of Effective Redress, *International Human Rights Law Review* 1 (2012) 1–29.
 - 3 This compendium follows the production of the First UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Flagship Initiative: International Compendium of Practices. Available at: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/>
 - 4 The concept of intersectionality was first coined in 1989 by Black feminist activist and academic Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw. She offered intersectionality as a tool to contextualize the specific ways African-American women were being subjected to both sex and race discrimination, and the barriers they faced when trying to seek redress around this.

By understanding the different ways in which violence is perpetrated and experienced, an intersectional approach can foster context-specific responses when addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) and better inform national and local governments to plan and implement programmes that take account of the needs of *all* women and girls.⁵

The Compendium illustrates a range of women-led solutions from data collection and analysis with a lens of intersectionality from the start to inform programme action and local integrated policies that include

the meaningful participation of grassroots women and women's rights organizations, to creating spaces and opportunities in which those women and girls who may be most likely to be left behind are placed at the centre in urban and transportation planning and in prevention initiatives that address discriminatory behaviours.

Promising practices have been selected among those that have led to positive outcomes, involve collaborative partnerships and innovative action on women's safety in public spaces with an intersectional approach.

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