# FOURTH UN WOMEN SAFE CITIES AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES GLOBAL LEADERS' FORUM: PROCEEDINGS REPORT

Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton, Alberta October 2018







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#### Acknowledgements

UN Women's Fourth Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Leaders' Forum was co hosted by UN Women and the City of Edmonton, Canada. The Global Forum took place in Edmonton from October 16th to 19th, 2018 on the theme "Leadership and Catalytic Partnerships: Delivering Integrated Safe City and Public Spaces Programmes with and For All Women and Girls." It was a very successful event due in great measure to the commitment and contributions of many people, and institutions.

## In particular we acknowledge: UN Women Senior Management

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We appreciate the contribution of all delegates who attended the Forum for generously sharing their insights and expertise from over 25 countries, including speakers from local, provincial and national government, grassroots women's groups/organizations, representatives from specialized NGOs on women's rights and ending violence against women and girls, research institutes, the private sector and UN Women regional, multi country and country offices who participate in safe city and safe public spaces programmes.

We would like to thank the City of Edmonton as co-host of the Global Forum, and all members who participated on the local organization committee for the event in Canada. In particular: Mayor Iveson, Bev Esslinger, Jenny Kain, Zanette Frost, Jackie Foord, Bonnie Chan, Sheineen Nathoo, and Michelle Holubisky. We acknowledge the Status of Women Alberta, and Status of Women Canada for their continuous partnership with UN Women, especially in support of the Forum and in helping to ensure the success and visibility of results of the Edmonton Safe City Programme with women and girls.

We are grateful to our global donor and partners: the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and the Republic of Korea for their support of the Forum, and for sharing their insights with us in support of safe cities programmes globally.

We acknowledge the strong contributions in the Forum made by partner organizations in the women's safety in cities global movement including: Women in Cities International, Women and Habitat Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Huairou Commission.

We hope that the proceedings will initiate further discussion and exchange of knowledge and practice on evidence and human rights based integrated approaches to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces.

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ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SECTION UN WOMEN,
New York, 2018

With the generous support of our partners and sponsors of the Global Forum:













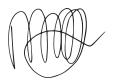


## **MESSAGE FROM**



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women



UN Women is very pleased to welcome the women, men and youth safe city champions from over 25 countries who have gathered to share their knowledge, achievements and lessons learned at the 4<sup>th</sup> UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Leaders' Forum.

When UN Women was created in 2011, we launched Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces, an integrated Global Flagship Initiative dedicated to ending the scourge of sexual harassment against women and girls in public spaces and creating safe, smart and sustainable cities for all, with five founding city programmes: Cairo (Egypt), Delhi (India), Kigali (Rwanda), Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) and Quito (Ecuador). The Initiative now includes 35 cities and continues to grow within and across countries.

The Global Forum's theme of Leadership and Catalytic Partnerships in safe cities is critical both to the

localization of multiple Sustainable Development Goals and to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's principle of human rights, universality and leaving no one behind. We share a significant vision of safe spaces in which everyone can travel, work, play and interact freely and safely.

We thank the City of Edmonton for co-hosting the Global Forum and the Second Global Mayors' Meeting on Gender Equality and for the support given by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, the Republic of Korea, the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada.

The ideas and experiences that you share here in Edmonton will be key to ensuring that our cities and public spaces are places of safety, equality and sustainability for all.



**Don Iveson**Mayor City of Edmonton

On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, welcome to the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Leaders' Forum.

In 2015, Edmonton City Council established the Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Initiative. Since then, we became the second Canadian city to participate in the UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative. We also conducted a Safe City study on sexual violence to learn which forms are most common, where it's occurring and who is most often victimized.

With this information in hand, we now have an incredible opportunity to change the future. It's time to take action; it's time to build safe spaces for women and girls.

Violence within our communities does lasting harm to individuals and diminishes our city's potential for success. Whether the abuse is physical, emotional, financial or sexual, it rips holes in the fabric of our society. We all share a responsibility to stand together against violence and support the survivors.

I thank the Forum organizes, presenters, sponsors and attendees for your commitment to ending sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls here at home and around the world. By bringing together 200 leaders and experts from 25 countries to share and discuss evidence-based approaches, leading practices, tools and innovative strategies, we can create safer cities and public spaces.

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## INTRODUCTION

UN Women's Global Flagship Initiative<sup>1</sup>, "Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces", builds on its "Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls" Global Programme, launched in November 2010, with leading women's organizations, UN agencies, and global and local partners. It is the first-ever global programme that develops, implements, and evaluates tools, policies and comprehensive approaches on the prevention of and response to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces, across different settings (eg. urban, peri urban, rural, etc.).

## About UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative

The Global Initiative began in November 2010 with locally owned programmes in Quito, Ecuador; Cairo, Egypt; New Delhi, India; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; and Kigali, Rwanda, and now spans more than 35 cities. The Initiative continues to generate a number of innovative results through partnerships with mayors' offices, national governments, women's groups and other community partners<sup>2</sup>. Some examples include:

• The municipality of Quito, Ecuador amended a local ordinance to strengthen action against sexual harassment in public spaces. Most recently, a protocol to address cases of sexual harassment on public transport was introduced. After 18 months in force, 2,260 cases of sexual harassment in public buses were reported, with 64 men perpetrators prosecuted, and 15 convicted. To ensure the effective implementation of the protocol, the capacity of 2,614 drivers, operation staff and managers was strengthened on gender, positive masculinities, and the protocol. This helped to build a common understanding of the definition of sexual harassment and associated penalties among participants.

- In Cairo, Egypt's Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development adopted women's safety audits to guide urban planning, and more than 100 youth agents of change (50 per cent young men and 50 per cent young women) have been engaged and are leading transformative activities in schools and other settings in the programme intervention sites to promote respectful gender relationships, gender equality, and safety in public spaces.
- Port Moresby's National Capital District in Papua New Guinea has taken steps to improve women's safety in local markets, including budget allocations which ensure that the needs of women and men are taken into account across different municipal departments.
- To support policy and programme action in the area of safe rural spaces and with the support of Unilever, UN Women prepared in 2018 a 'Global Women' Safety Framework in Rural Spaces: Informed by the Experience in the Tea Sector.' As part of safe rural spaces programming, in 10 schools in Bomet and Kericho counties in Kenya, 4,445 students (2,297 boys, 2,148 girls) participated in life skills training, which has helped to increase their awareness of how to recognize, prevent, and report sexual harassment.
- 1 For more information on UN Women's Global Flagship Initiative, see:

http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/un%20women-safecities-brief us-web%20(1).pdf?la=en&vs=4851

2 UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces: Global results report is available from:

http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/10/ safe-cities-and-safe-public-spaces-global-results-report

## About UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Leaders' Forum

The following report includes the main proceedings of UN Women's Fourth Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Leaders' Forum on the theme "Leadership and Catalytic Partnerships: Delivering Integrated Safe City and Public Spaces Programmes with and For All Women and Girls." The Forum was held in Edmonton, Canada from October 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and organized with the City of Edmonton, and other partners.

The Forum's main audience comprised over 200 leaders/experts from over 25 countries, including those participating in comprehensive human rights-based programmes in the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative. This included: grassroots women/women's organizations, national and local authorities, research institutions/partners, representatives from the media, private sector, and other partners from global networks specialized on women's safety.

### Global Forum Goals

The Forum aimed to share and discuss evidence-based approaches, practices, tools, and learnings to advance the international knowledge base on safe cities and safe public spaces for women and girls. Programme sessions were designed to:

 Provide up-to-date knowledge, and share good practices and results achieved in the implementation of Safe City and Safe Public Spaces Programmes aimed at preventing and responding to sexual barassment and other forms of sexual empowerment and ending violence against women and girls in agreed upon thematic areas. These exchanges will continue to inform other exchanges facilitated through the online Knowledge and Exchange Platform Community of Practice (COP) for the Global Initiative on Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces. The COP is accessible to members of participating country teams in the Flagship Initiative.

- Discuss safe city free of violence against women and girls' policy and programme action that can be sustained, with a focus on: women's rights approaches, shared accountability, evaluability for impact, and building programmes to scale.
- Strategize how the global movement on women's safety in cities can maximize its policy and advocacy impact in the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Expected Takeaways from the Forum**

Three expected takeaways from the Global Forum included:

- Heightened engagement among multi sectoral stakeholders to implement safe and sustainable cities with women and girls' policy and programme action.
- Tools and applied lessons learned to further strengthen comprehensive multi-sectoral evidence, and human rights-based approaches to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces.

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