

Building Inclusive Cities and Communities:

The Delhi Declaration on Women's Safety

DRAFT

November 24, 2010, New Delhi, India

We are women and men in all our diversity, meeting in New Delhi on the occasion of the Third International Conference on Safe Cities for Women, November 22nd to 24th of 2010.

We are representatives of women's organizations and networks, grassroots, community and non-governmental organizations, cities and municipalities, police services, government departments and institutions, the research community, international networks and United Nations Agencies, from 41 countries¹ and 60 cities.

We call for action, building on international agreed commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with particular emphases on ending violence against women, including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Habitat Agenda, and the UN Secretary-General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign (2008), and the recommendations from the declarations on Women's Safety Montreal, 2002 (1st International Conference on Women's Safety), Bogota, Colombia, 2004 (2nd International Conference on Safe Cities for Women and Girls).

GIVEN THAT:

- Violence against women in the world constitutes a human rights violation, and continues to be an obstacle to reaching gender equality, peace and sustainable development.
- Women's experiences of city life are affected by gender-based discrimination and abuse in public and private space, including exclusion from political and socio-economic participation, limited access to essential services and infrastructure.

REAFFIRMING THAT:

- A holistic approach to preventing violence against women in public and private spheres must put women at the centre of the action and aim to reinforce the capacity of women's individual and collective actions.

¹ Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Madagascar, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Rwanda, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, and the United States.

- Good urban governance is a prerequisite to women's empowerment. This must include, amongst others, the allocation of equitable resources to women's organizations to meet the needs of women and girls.
- Women's right to the city includes the right to live free from violence and fear, in more equitable, democratic and inclusive cities. Women and girls have the right to participate and be part of the decision-making process in local governance, urban planning and management.
- Coordinated approaches to prevention and intervention, including partnerships, and the pooling of resources, are essential principles for effective action.

WE ENVISION:

- An inclusive city, in an inclusive state and world, respectful of the diversity and dignity of all. Where women are central to the design and leadership of inclusive cities and are visible in all aspects of governance.
- An accessible city for all, including those with disabilities and special needs.
- An inclusive city that ensures the enjoyment of social, economic and cultural rights; access to water, sanitation, transport, energy, secure tenure and housing, economic development and recreation.
- An inclusive city that allows movement, day and night, access to livelihoods, quality and affordable basic services and infrastructure for urban poor.

WE RECOGNIZE:

Cities are complex and often fragile social systems. Approaches towards inclusivity must reflect the mutual dependencies between policy, law and actions of all sectors, as well as between local, national and global priorities.

The increased willingness of national governments, UN agencies and development partners to recognize and implement international conventions; to address issues regarding the trafficking of women and girls, Indigenous women, internally displaced persons, homeless, and women with conflict situations, migrants, refugees and persons with disabilities.

The promotion of women's safety through campaigns led by grassroots and women's organizations, NGOs, international bodies, and governments to raise awareness about the importance of women's safety and the development of practice compendia, competitions and good practices, and the creation of handbooks, toolkits and guidelines to assist municipalities to mainstream gender into local planning processes.

Strengthening of links made between local authorities, grassroots and women's organizations and networks, universities, and Women's Affairs Ministries, on women's safety, violence against women and gender mainstreaming.

Increased knowledge about and application of women's safety tools and methodologies such as safety audits, local to local dialogues, and their adaptability and flexibility with regard to diverse local, national and regional contexts.

Increased use of technology which provide new opportunities for networking, learning, sharing and generating collective ideas and strategies among women and girls.

WE THEREFOR CALL UPON:

National Governments to:

Develop and strengthen policies and programmes, and to allocate resources to address the causes, consequences, and impacts of all forms of violence against women and girls, with specific attention to:

- Increasing women's participation in political processes and decision making,
- Promoting the security of tenure, land, housing, and property rights, including policies and guidelines for just, fair and proper consultations between communities and governments on legal evictions,
- Collecting, analyzing and disseminating data at the national and city level, disaggregated by sex and age and other relevant variables,
- Supporting women's empowerment and gender awareness raising and capacity building on gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting at the local level and
- Establishing benchmarks, monitoring and evaluating progress of policies, programs and initiatives to combat violence against women

Strengthen partnerships and alliances with women's networks, NGOs and other civil society groups, in recognition of their ongoing work, expertise and knowledge.

Provide adequate social services and support women who work outside the home, including child care services (day and night), maternity and paternity leave.

Local Government to:

Develop meaningful local safety strategies with commitments to building local safety plans which include women's safety, social prevention, environmental design and management, and an enabling environment for effective criminal justice processes.

Guarantee participatory decision making by establishing mechanisms that ensure active participation of women and communities in policy, planning and resource allocation.

Allocate resources to develop safe spaces for girls and women in cities to organize and meet and to increase their confidence, self esteem, and to strengthen their skills.

Assess how far gender has been mainstreamed in policy decision-making at the local levels, to collect data about both men and women so that their routines, experiences and vulnerabilities can be examined separately.

Provide reliable and safe transport for women and girls which meets school, home, work and leisure needs.

UN Agencies and International Organizations to:

Incorporate women's safety and security in public spaces into one UN country programmes on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Support women to organize around women's safety and security in cities at the global and regional level.

UN Women should continue to support programming on women and girls' safety in cities, and their work on governance, gender mainstreaming and budgeting should also target cities and local governments.

Allocate resources and support ongoing work of women's movements and organizations working on promoting women's safety and security in cities.

NGOs (Women's Organizations, Grassroots and Community Based Organizations, Human Rights organizations) to:

Continue to promote the needs and experiences of women and girls through practices such as local to local dialogues and women's safety audits, which create and expand spaces for dialogue between women and girls and other actors such as local governments on sustainable urban development issues such as employment, health, urban planning, gender based violence, climate change, and education.

Strengthen and enhance women's safety partnerships at city, local government, national and international levels - promoting women and girls leadership and empowerment through knowledge production and exchange, community mobilization and advocacy, and capacity building.

Women's organizations and networks:

Continue to build the capacity of local government and other stakeholders to incorporate a gender perspective into their respective policies and programs.

Civil society and communities:

Monitor and hold government accountable for implementation of policies and programmes designed to reduce violence and enhance safety for women.

Contribute towards changing the culture of patriarchy through early childhood gender education, and work to engage men and boys in women's safety partnerships, with the support male champions.

Facilitate poor women to harness the opportunities presented by technology, and to ensure that the negative impacts of technology for women and girls are mitigated.

Private Sector to:

Develop and promote policies, services and programmes that address women's safety and human rights.

Ensure effective consultation with communities and other actors during the design and implementation of large infrastructure development programmes.

Establish partnerships with women's organizations and communities in building capacities for their staff and management on gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women.

Promote gender responsive corporate responsibility policies that recognize and address the different needs of women and men, and support issues of women's safety and security.

Donors to:

Support women's organization and networks to scale up practical strategies, tools and mobilization efforts with equitable resources to benchmark, monitor, and assess progress.

Support collaborative partnerships with multiple stakeholders that work to build synergy, coordinate efforts and sustain women's safety initiatives in the long term.

Ensure resources are committed to grassroots and community based efforts in empowering women and girls to address insecurity and build safe and inclusive communities.

Universities, Research and Training Institutions to:

Establish partnerships with civil society and gender experts in the production, analysis and dissemination of sex disaggregated data, tools, and promising and effective practices on women's safety in cities and communities.

Develop curriculum and incorporate training on gender, urban planning and architecture, good governance, and women's safety.