



**WOMEN IN CITIES INTERNATIONAL
ANNUAL REPORT 2010 - 2011**

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WOMEN IN CITIES INTERNATIONAL

Women in Cities International (WICI) is a non-profit organization and network, based in Montreal, Canada, that focuses on gender equality and the participation of women and girls in urban development. WICI is dedicated to the identification, study, and dissemination of good practices, tools and intervention models. With its partners, WICI facilitates knowledge and experience-sharing on the improvement of women's and girls' safety and status in cities and communities. WICI specializes in the coordination and production of research projects, the organization of networking events, the administration of training events, and the advancement of technical expertise, in order to achieve its goals.

Women's safety is a priority issue for WICI: the violence and insecurity women and girls feel every day is a major barrier to achieving gender equality. Violence and insecurity reduce women's mobility and restrict their ability to freely exercise full citizenship. This is a direct violation of women's rights, as established by the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). WICI believes that the meaningful and direct participation of the full diversity of women and girls in creating inclusive and equitable cities and communities is essential to achieve this goal. Women's experiences of violence and insecurity can only be addressed when the different needs of women and men are considered in all areas of urban management and urban governance.

WICI was established in 2002 after the need for such an international network was recognized at the First International Seminar on Women's Safety, held in Montreal, Canada. WICI's Board of Directors is composed of scholars and practitioners who have been internationally recognized for their outstanding contributions to gender equality. WICI has over 400 Canadian and international members.

The main objectives of Women in Cities International are:

- To develop and expand an international exchange network on (a) women's participation in urban development and on (b) the integration of gender in municipal government;
- To facilitate research and the sharing of expertise, training, and good practices;
- To encourage exchange between different actors (women's groups, nongovernmental organizations, cities and municipalities, academic institutions, the private sector, the media, national and regional governments and international organizations etc.);
- To promote exchange between local authorities on issues of gender equality and women's and girls' participation in urban development;
- To advise local governments, national and international bodies working in the fields of gender equality and urban development.



FORWARD

by Women in Cities International President Caroline Andrew

Over the past year Women in Cities International has accomplished some remarkable achievements which build on past successes, and demonstrate the strength of the work of the organization and its partners in creating change both in Canada and internationally.

One of the highlights of the year was the *Third International Conference on Women's Safety: Building Inclusive Cities* held in Delhi, India on November 22 - 24, 2010. WICI and Jagori co-organized the conference in collaboration with the Huairou Commission, UNIFEM, UN-Habitat, and various local and international partners, to address the safety needs of today's female urban population. The event was a tremendous success that brought together 290 women, girls and men from 45 countries and 81 cities across 6 continents. We gained strength through our presence together. The mood was joyous and celebratory, but mindful of the enormous challenges that lie ahead as we strive to create safe and inclusive cities across the world for the full diversity of women and girls. Conference participants were deeply interested in learning about new and innovative practices and in working together to explore the adaptation of these practices to different local contexts. Participants were also inspired by the power of the photography exhibition organized for the conference entitled *Portraits: Women and Mobility in the City*.

On behalf of the WICI Board, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jagori, our wonderful Delhi-based partner, for their dedication and support in organizing the conference, as well as to our funders and partners, and to the small but mighty WICI staff who worked incredibly long and hard to put on this event.

Another achievement was the release of the publication *Learning from Women to Create Gender Inclusive Cities*. This publication presents the findings from the first year of the *Gender Inclusive Cities Programme* (GICP) and its data gathering, with an analysis on the state of women's safety in the four different cities involved (Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania; New Delhi, India; Rosario, Argentina; Petrozavodsk, Russia). We invite you to view the report and other WICI publications on our website.

The three-year Canada-wide project *Creating Safer Communities for Marginalized Women and for Everyone* funded by Status of Women Canada, was successfully completed during the year. Shortly afterwards WICI received new funding from Status of Women Canada for a project focused on engaging youth in preventing violence against women and girls in the City of Montreal. This project is part of Status of Women Canada's newly launched *Blueprint Projects* that aim to achieve results in three priority areas: eliminating violence against women; promoting access to leadership decision-making roles; and improving women's economic security and prosperity. We are also pleased to learn that WICI's completed project mentioned above served to inspire the development of another *Blueprint* project and that the model has been incorporated into the Women's Programme under the theme improving community safety for women and girls.

We are delighted that our activities are occurring simultaneously at the national and international level as we had always been aware of the cross-fertilization and collective learning that comes from combining the local and the global on all intermediate scales - the metropolitan, the regional, the city.

We have also moved forward on questions of internal governance this year. WICI conducted the first phase of its new Strategic Plan over the summer of 2010. This first phase involved a broad inquiry into the strengths, opportunities and challenges of WICI conducted through interviews with about 30 people who are or have been actively involved with the organization. The purpose of this first phase of strategic planning was to understand participants' perceptions of WICI's organizational mission.

In conclusion, one of the great pleasures of speaking for the WICI Board of Directors is to thank the staff of WICI for their hard work and devotion to the cause of creating inclusive cities for the all women and girls. I wrote above that the staff was small but mighty – this is certainly true - but they are also innovative, imaginative and deeply caring. Many, many thanks.



WOMEN IN CITIES INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Strengthening the Global Movement on Building Safe and Inclusive Cities

“It has always been important that the focus of work that these networks and coalitions, with whom we are partnering, is not only on the issue of violence against women but the important role that city government, infrastructure and local authorities play with women’s experiences of safety in cities.”

- SARAH SILLIMAN, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES, HUIAIROU COMMISSION

Third International Conference on Women’s Safety objectives:

- To review, analyze and consolidate different approaches/tools aimed at building safe and inclusive cities free of violence against women and girls;
- To build strong capacity within local-level civil society in order to mobilize community-wide support for action towards building safe and inclusive cities free of violence against women and girls;
- To assess and disseminate lessons learned and good practices developed on enhancing women’s inclusion and right to the city.

Women in Cities International and Jagori co-organized the *Third International Conference on Women’s Safety: Building Inclusive Cities* in New Delhi, India from November 22-24, 2011.

The event united 290 participants from all over the world, included grassroots women, subject experts, academics, law enforcement and elected officials, international organizations, and NGO representatives from 81 cities and 45 countries. The conference was a resounding success - building on the achievements of the first two international conferences in 2002 (Montreal) and 2004 (Bogota), and addressing current issues such as rapid urban population growth and its effect on socially excluded groups.

The theme of the *Third International Conference on Women’s Safety* was ‘Building Inclusive Cities’. In this

spirit, conference organizers made a conscious effort to develop inclusivity as a living concept throughout the conference, from the planning of the event to the development of the conference programme. Several interactive sessions aimed at maximizing opportunities for peer learning and exchange were provided, including skills-building workshops, a “Global Café”, and visioning exercises.

Each of the conference sessions emphasized the need to work towards building new strategies and ensuring greater participation of women in decision-making processes and in all aspects of city planning.

According to delegates, the Global Café event was a major conference highlight. During the Global Café, participants sat together in small groups and discussed the concept of women’s safety in relation to other important contemporary cross-cutting issues, such as girls’ safety in cities, exploring masculinities, and information and communication technology and women’s safety.

The conference ended on a high note, with the drafting of the *Delhi Declaration*, which stressed the need to promote awareness on women and girls’ safety, to build on networks to generate collective ideas and strategies, and to strengthen the links and partnerships between local authorities and women’s organizations. The *Delhi Declaration* (http://womenincities.org/pdf-general/delhi_declaration_call_to_action_web.pdf) calls upon participating individuals, government bodies and organizations to work towards making their cities safe, inclusive and free from violence against women and girls. Based on the conclusions of each session and workshop, the *Delhi Declaration* also sets concrete goals for stakeholders to achieve. The declaration was presented to the Chief Minister of Delhi, Sheila Dikshit, to encourage new local initiatives and measures to make the city safe and accessible for women and other vulnerable groups.



Outcomes from the *Third International Conference on Women's Safety*

Inspiring Activism:

Using tools learned at the event, one of the conference speakers organized local activists in Washington, DC, to undertake a city-wide community safety audit. Approximately 80 people took part in an audit of each of the 8 wards of Washington, DC.

Forming New Partnerships:

The conference facilitated access to peers and activists in other countries. For instance, a research partnership has been formed between the University of Melbourne and local groups and institutions in Papua New Guinea (PNG). With a gender-mainstreaming component, this research project aims to improve access for people with disabilities through inclusive infrastructure development in rural and urban PNG, and involves a wide range of community members and organizers, especially those who are disabled.

International Commitments:

At the conference, partnering institutions – UN Women, UN-HABITAT, Plan International, WICI and Jagori - have made commitments to take the work on creating safe and inclusive cities forward by continuing to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, with particular emphasis on ending violence against women.

Funders and Partners: UN Women; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Huairou Commission; Department for International Development; International Development Research Centre, Government of Canada; Interchurch organization for development cooperation; Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst; UNICEF; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; CITYNET; AusAID; Red Mujer y Hábitat de América Latina; Plan International

Continuing Action on Gender Inclusion across Four Continents

“I didn’t realize that violence against women also happened in the street. I talk with women in the street, in the neighborhood. I think about myself, because I’m easily frightened, I also look for where an attack could come from. Now I feel stronger, now I can speak to you, talk, say what to do. And be able to manage things to make the street safe.”

– WOMAN WORKING ON GICP ACTIVITIES WITH CISCOSA IN ROSARIO, ARGENTINA

Within a rapidly urbanizing context, it is necessary to recognize that women and girls worldwide experience some key similarities, and differences, in terms of their political, educational, employment, recreational and social opportunities. These similarities and differences shape the prospects for creating sustainable cities, which respond to the lived realities of their citizens. As we struggle together to build urban environments that foster equity and inclusion, we must recognize that the voices of women and girls are essential. These are the voices that can show what is working, what needs improvement, and why exclusion and inequality persist in different contexts. Research about the day-to-day lives of women and girls in cities entails recognition of the voices of women and girls. It also requires that women and girls partner with, or become influential urban actors in government, so that cities are created in response to their diverse needs and desires, many of which are currently overlooked.

The *Gender Inclusive Cities Programme* (GICP) is a three-year initiative coordinated by WICI and implemented by the Information Centre of the Independent Women’s Forum (ICIWF) in Petrozavodsk, Russia; the International

Centre and Network for Information on Crime – Tanzania (ICNIC-T) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Jagori in Delhi, India; and the Exchange and Services Centre, Southern Cone, Argentina (CISCOSA) in Rosario, Argentina. Over the past year, WICI has worked with implementing partners to create local initiatives aimed at creating safer and more inclusive cities for women. These initiatives have been developed based on information about women’s experiences of safety and inclusion in each city, and focus on a wide spectrum of change, from building neighbourhood-level social ties in Rosario, to improving public transportation service delivery in Delhi and Petrozavodsk, to developing effective community-police relations in Dar es Salaam. In November 2010, WICI released its first GICP-related publication, *Learning from Women to Build Gender Inclusive Cities: Baseline Findings from the Gender Inclusive Cities Programme*. This report details the results from the data collected and analysed for each of the four cities, using focus group discussions, women’s safety audits, and street surveys.

Funded by: United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (UNTF)



Photo: CISCOSA

Linking Essential Services to Women's Safety

“A road has been constructed there. Men keep coming and going. One is embarrassed to defecate there. I dare not go alone or send my daughter alone there. One feels scared. The place is unfit for women even considering the safety and honour aspect. It is so unsafe that in the summers, four-five women go for toilet in a group till 11-12 in the night. Boys keep standing there, and often they snatch and hurt us for money. Women or girls who don't have money are molested and sexually harassed. In such a situation, if one has to use the toilet in the night, one has to be accompanied by 2-4 people.”

- WOMAN FROM BAWANA EXPLAINING TO JAGORI HER SAFETY CONCERNS ABOUT USING OPEN AREAS FOR DEFECAATION

Women in Cities International, in partnership with Jagori and Action India, supported by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), is exploring the potential of using women's safety as an entry-point for addressing gender gaps in service provision.

Many cities around the world have failed to adequately absorb the influx of people within their boundaries, leaving them unable to provide adequate, affordable, safe and appropriate essential services to all who live there. In order to preserve their image, many cities have relegated the urban poor to the periphery of the city where provision of such services is dismal at best. It is women and girls who suffer most when cities fail to deliver essential services to all residents, hence the gender gap in service provision.

WICI, Jagori and Action India have been working in two re-location colonies in urban Delhi to implement the action research project *Women's Rights and Access to Water and Sanitation in Asian Cities*. The project aims to test and adapt the women's safety audit methodology for use by women in low-income communities, and to document their access (or lack thereof) to essential services, focusing particularly on the safety consequences of inadequate water and sanitation (WATSAN) provision for women and girls.

WICI and Jagori are working to raise awareness of the potential of this adapted women's safety audit methodology. They have published *A Handbook on Women's Safety Audits in Low-income Urban Neighbourhoods: A Focus on Essential Services*, for use by other groups around the world wishing to apply

this methodology in their own communities. The book demonstrates how Women's Safety Audits (WSA) can be used to address women's safety and security while accessing essential services in low-income urban neighbourhoods, and how the methodology can be adapted to different local contexts. The *Handbook* was strategically launched in November 2010 at the *Third International Conference on Women's Safety: Building Inclusive Cities*, where a panel session on the preliminary results from the action research project was also organized.

Women and youth in the low-income communities continue to be the driving force behind this participatory process. They have been actively involved in the project and have openly shared the experiences and impressions about the dangers of accessing water and sanitation services in their communities. The women and youth took part in intensive capacity-building training over a period of five months, to inform the subsequent action initiated in the implementation sites, particularly around the governance component of the action research.

Funded by: Funded by: International Development Research Centre (IDRC) – Government of Canada

Supporting a Global Initiative to Build Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls

“All women and girls, as citizens with equal rights, should be able to enjoy public spaces freely and safely, unimpaired by virtue of their gender.”

- UNIFEM (NOW UN WOMEN) SAFE CITIES VISION STATEMENT, 2008

Women in Cities International is working with key partners to support the implementation of an innovative new programme that will be piloted in five diverse cities around the world. The programme which runs from 2008 – 2015 is a flagship project of the newly created UN Women, and was officially launched at the November 2010 Delhi conference.

The global safe cities for women and girls movement has gained much momentum in recent years. While many tools have been used in different cities around the world, often by women’s- and community-based organizations, little has been done in terms of formal evaluation. Efforts are now underway to gain a deeper understanding of what works, and in what contexts, by rigorously evaluating the application and use of those same tools. As more organizations and cities begin working in this field, the knowledge generated by such an evaluation will be used to refine and guide the subsequent use of methodologies aimed at building safer and more inclusive cities.

WICI is working with the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), Red Mujer y Habitat de America Latina, and the Huairou Commission to provide technical assistance to UN Women for the *Global Programme Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls*. The *Global Programme* will be piloted in Cairo, Egypt; Delhi, India; Kigali, Rwanda; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; and Quito, Ecuador by regional UN Women offices, in partnership with local organizations. The tools and learning produced as part of this programme will inform and guide future safe cities free of violence against women and girls initiatives.

WICI and its partners have been providing detailed feedback on the materials produced as part of the programme and have provided advice on its direction and development. WICI has drawn from its own extensive

experience and knowledge in implementing programmes aimed at building safer and more inclusive cities in order to inform the *Global Programme* to the greatest extent possible. To that end, WICI has been coordinating the development of a set of core curriculum modules that will assist the women and men in the pilot cities to successfully design and implement their own safe cities initiatives.

Funded by: UN Women

The project coordinator from Action des femmes handicapées (Montréal) (AFHM) explained that her organization’s participation in the *Creating Safer Communities for Marginalized Women and for Everyone* project meant that “We have more partners now and are more known in our city. This project gave AFHM more credibility because it yielded concrete results”.

- *Creating Safer Communities for Marginalized Women and for Everyone Project*

Overcoming Multiple Discriminations to Make Cities Safer for All

“Personally, this brought me awareness. Awareness about my environment, my immediate surroundings, my urban environment and all that. The importance of being able to appropriate my city and neighbourhood. The importance that there be universal accessibility. To understand what a feeling of safety is. What safety in a city is, and how it should be. How a city can be adapted so that everyone feels safe.”

— WOMAN WORKING WITH ACTION DES FEMMES HANDICAPÉES (MONTREAL)
AND THE GROUP OF DIFFERENTLY-ABLED WOMEN

Women in Cities International has been working with women who are systematically excluded from decision-making processes to validate their experiences in the urban environment and support their ideas for making their city a safer and more inclusive one.

Building safer and more inclusive cities requires consideration of the different needs and experiences of women in all their diversity. While women’s safety experiences are unique and shaped by their many identities, it is only relatively recently that the safe cities for women work embraced an inter-sectionality approach that recognized the distinct experiences of different women. The tools and approaches that have been developed as part of the safe cities for women and girls movement must be tested to ensure that they are both flexible and adaptable, and able to respond to the diverse priorities of all women in urban environments.

The completed project *Creating Safer Communities for Marginalized Women and for Everyone* (2007-2010) was implemented in four Canadian cities by community organizations working with specific target groups: Aboriginal women (Women of the Dawn, Regina, Saskatchewan), elderly women (Centre des aînés de Gatineau, Gatineau, Québec), women with disabilities (Action des femmes handicapées (Montréal), Québec) and immigrant and visible minority women (Catholic Crosscultural Services, Peel, Ontario).

The project sought to test and adapt the women’s safety audit methodology to be used by these different groups of women with different shared identities. This resulted in women in four Canadian cities building partnerships with their local municipalities, and with key

local stakeholders, to identify safety challenges, and implement their recommendations for improving city spaces to make them feel safer to the users of those spaces.

WICI supported each of the groups in adapting the generic women’s safety audit methodology to produce four distinct models over which the groups of women felt ownership. WICI organized several peer exchanges with the project leaders where the women worked together, shared lessons learned and supported one another to overcome the challenges they faced. This raised awareness among the participants of the diverse experiences and needs of the women – between the different groups but also within their own group. WICI also provided ongoing technical assistance to each of the groups of women, and conducted in-depth interviews to capture the perspectives of the project leaders and participants about the process of adaptation and implementation of the women’s safety audit tool, as part of the evaluation of the process and outcomes. This research contributed to the final project report *Together for Women’s Safety*.

The launch of that report by WICI and the project leaders in Montreal in September 2010, also marked the opening of a photographic and auditory exhibition put on by the organizations Conscience urbaine and Audiotopie. The exhibit, which was funded by the Canadian Arts Council, highlighted the challenges faced by women with disabilities in Montreal as they navigate the urban environment. This exhibition was an offshoot of the broader *Creative Safer Communities for Marginalized Women and for Everyone* project.

Funded by: Status of Women Canada

Initiating Dialogue on Adolescent Girls' Safety in Cities

“There is too much rhetoric at the moment that pins the solution to all the world’s problems on girls. Girls’ rights need not only to be put in the context of gender equality, but of social justice more generally.”

— NIKKI VAN DER GAAG, GENDER SPECIALIST, INDEPENDENT WRITER AND CONSULTANT

While there has been much global debate on gender and equality over the last decades, and researchers are building a growing database of statistics on women and children, there is very little information available about young women and adolescent girls and their experiences of safety in cities. Although extensive work has been undertaken on gender and, as a separate discipline, around urbanization, little is documented about how the two intersect and manifest as a consequence of the other. Lack of gender and age disaggregated data further exacerbates this problem, and slows the process of building cities that are meaningfully inclusive of women and girls.

It is in this context that Women in Cities International, in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and Plan International, organized a Fast-talk¹ consultation with four experts on adolescent girls’ safety, to help illuminate the most pressing challenges facing girls in cities, as well as discuss and analyze current best practices and innovative initiatives from around the world. The Fast-talks were held in mid-March 2011.

A parallel online consultation was held to engage girls in identifying areas of convergence and divergence between their ideas and experiences, and the adult expert-derived report produced by WICI in collaboration with UN-HABITAT and Plan International. This background document, *Towards Strength and Resiliency: Girls’ Safety in Cities*, was the basis for an expert group meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya from April 6 -8, 2011. The document laid the foundation for identifying priority areas for the development of a programmatic framework for future work aimed at making urban spaces safer and more inclusive of girls.

A total of 38 girls from 7 countries (Egypt, Finland, India, Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines, and Sierra Leone)

participated in the consultation. The premise was that young women and adolescent girls are experts on their own needs, therefore, they are best positioned to identify the issues and priorities that are critical in their present day and future lives. It was an opportunity for the girls to speak out about their experiences and perspectives on safety in urban areas and their right to the city. Further, this consultative process provided an opportunity for girls to share their insight into creative solutions to enhancing safety within their communities.

Funded by: United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

In street surveys conducted with women in Rosario, Argentina; Delhi, India; Petrozavodsk, Russia; and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, respondents identified gender as the number one personal-identity related factor which contributes to their lack of safety.

– Gender Inclusive Cities Programme

1. Fast-talk is a concept developed by the Department of Foreign Affairs Canada (DFAIT) to create a timely, flexible and cost-effective means of accessing high quality policy-relevant research.

Continuing Research to Build the Capacity of Feminist Organizations

Women in Cities International is one of two organizations that are the focus of *Learning Through Difference: Multiscalar Forms of Feminist Organizing*, a three-year programme of action research (2008-2011), funded by Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The other organization, City for All Women Initiative (CAWI) in the City of Ottawa, is a member of the WICI network whose focus is on inclusive governance and diverse women's community engagement.

Failure to take account of gender is a major obstacle for women who wish to engage in the political life of their cities, both in Canada and elsewhere. However, lack of attention to gender is not the only problematic factor – various markers of identity such as income, class, 'race', sexual orientation, immigration status and/or ability can also affect women and cause them to be regarded as 'other' by privileged and powerful actors in mainstream organizations. Minority women, for example, often face multiple challenges when trying to participate positively in public life in their cities.

The goal of this research programme is to draw generalizable lessons (both theoretical and strategic) on how to engage minority women in urban-based community politics. Two of the research investigators – Dr. Caroline Andrew (School on Governance, University of Ottawa) and Dr. Fran Klodawsky (Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University) - are long-standing members of both WICI and CAWI and are working with the third investigator Dr. Janet Siltanen (Sociology, Carleton University), whose particular expertise is in feminist and reflexive methodology. The combined expertise of these researchers means that they are able to draw on and implement a host of feminist research methodologies from multiple perspectives.

In 2010-11, the research team consulted members of both WICI and CAWI about their understandings of the significance of certain organizational characteristics identified in an earlier phase of research. The project is

on-going and will be examining engagement with formal state institutions and the notion of the 'right to the city' among other issues.

Funded by: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

Girls in Bhalswa complained that there are only two toilets for the 900 – 1,000 girls who attend the school and these have to be shared with the boys. There is no provision of menstrual waste disposal, the toilets are very dirty and hardly ever cleaned. Girls, therefore do not use the toilets at school, learn to control themselves or go home before the school day is over. Some girls do not even go to school when they are menstruating due to the dirty toilets.

- [Women's Rights and Access to Water and Sanitation in Asian Cities](#)



WOMEN IN CITIES INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

55th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women

In February of 2011, Women in Cities International Executive Director Marisa Canuto attended the *55th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women*.

WICI introduced its work and discussed its current action research projects including the *Gender Inclusive Cities Project*, the *Action Research Project on Women's Rights and Access to Water and Sanitation in Asian Cities*, and *Creating Safer Cities for Marginalized Women and for Everyone*.

WICI shared examples of successful practices, including engaging local actors, using the expertise of women and building and strengthening partnerships with local governments. WICI also emphasized the importance of data collection and the adaption of tools and interventions to the local context.

Gender, Cities and Local Governance in the Arab and Mediterranean World Symposium

On April 14 and 15, 2010, Women in Cities International staff member, Melanie Lambrick, participated in the symposium *Genre, villes et gouvernance locale dans le monde Arabe et en Méditerranée* (Gender cities and local governance in the Arab and Mediterranean world) in Cairo, Egypt, organized by the Centre d'études et de documentation économiques, juridiques et sociaux (CEDEJ).

As part of the symposium, WICI introduced its work with particular focus on achievements from the first year of the *Gender Inclusive Cities Programme*. This symposium offered an opportunity for WICI to connect with new partners in the Arab region. It also provided further insight into innovative practices and ideas around women's participation in governance, experiences of violence, and general agency within various contexts, including: "the megacity", informal settlements, rural desert communities and contested religious spaces.

KEY THEMES

- Women and cities: Some theoretical reflections
- The city, a space appropriated by women?
- Gender-based violence and abuses against women in the public sphere
- Women and local governance: What role for women?

The 12th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

As Director of Analysis and Exchange at the International Center for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), WICI Board member Margaret Shaw was involved in the organization of the “Workshop on Practical Approaches to Urban Crime Prevention” held at the *12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, April 12 - 19, 2010.

The *United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* takes place every five years. They contribute to shaping international and domestic policies and promote innovative thinking and approaches to complex issues.

The “Workshop on Practical Approaches to Urban Crime” included a presentation by Dr. Sohail Husain and Dr. Kalpana Viswanath on the results of the first year of WICI’s *Gender Inclusive Cities Programme* as part of a panel on gender and inclusion in cities. The *Proceedings of the 12th Congress Workshop* were published by ICPC in collaboration with UNODC in April 2011, and together with all the workshop presentations can be downloaded from ICPC’s website www.crime-prevention-intl.org.

The 19th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Margaret Shaw, once again as part of her role as Director of Analysis and Exchange at ICPC, attended the *19th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* in Vienna in May 2010.

The Commission’s mission is to guide the activities of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including providing substantive and organizational direction for the *Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* mentioned above. It also reviews United Nations standards and norms in this area, including their use and application by Member States, and takes action through resolutions and decisions.

During its 19th session, the Commission adopted an important resolution on violence against women (*Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice*

responses to violence against women (Draft Resolution 1)), which was co-sponsored by Finland, Canada and many other member states. The Resolution was finally adopted after two years of hard work by many governments, NGOs and academics, after the Commission failed to reach agreement on an earlier resolution in 2008. It includes reference to the revised ‘*Model strategies and practical approaches to combating violence against women*’. These are international guidelines, which were revised at an expert meeting in Thailand in January 2009. They now include many more references to crime prevention than the original guidelines.

Regional Workshop on Safety for the Urban Poor in Asia and Asia-Pacific Toolkit

Dr. Crystal Legacy (University of Melbourne) and Dr. Kalpana Viswanath (Project Director GICP) attended a *Regional Workshop on Safety for the Urban Poor in Asia and the Pacific*, as WICI representatives. The workshop was held from June 15 - 17, 2010 in Metro Manila, Philippines. It included approximately 30 participants from urban poor communities/civil society organizations, police and local government, academia and regional/international organizations. The workshop was part of a project on “Urban safety for the poor” focusing on the Asia-Pacific region, and jointly implemented by CITYNET, UN-HABITAT, UNESCAP, SPARC and ACHR. It looked in particular at issues of governance and policing for urban poor communities, and collaboration between communities and local government actors.

Dr. Legacy and Dr. Viswanath attended the workshop as part of the UN-HABITAT funded contract to develop an *Urban Safety Toolkit for Asia-Pacific*. Dr. Legacy facilitated a workshop to gain feedback on a draft version of the toolkit. The toolkit project aims to raise awareness on issues of urban safety related to violence and insecurity for the poor in Asia-Pacific through analysis, collection of information, and identification of promising or good practices in promoting safety.

The toolkit project builds on WICI’s previous work with UN-HABITAT, the Huairou Commission, Red Mujer y Habitat America Latina and publications such as *Women’s Safety Audits: What Works and Where*; the *Global Assessment of Women’s Safety*, and the Knowledge Asset Safe Cities as part of the *Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women*. Local government community partnerships need simple guides, based on previous ‘success stories’, to accomplish violence prevention work.

A UN-HABITAT *Safer Cities Toolkit* previously developed for sub-Saharan Africa and modified for use in Latin America was revised and updated. Two major innovations were to develop the toolkit in an online format, and to incorporate a gender mainstreaming approach. The project team compiled initiatives in South and South-East Asia and the Pacific Region already

identified by partners (WICI, UN-HABITAT, CITYNET), and added new initiatives recommended by contacts. A survey on local government capacity to prevent violence was also developed and administered by CITYNET, an Asia-Pacific local government network.

The toolkit was piloted at an international workshop in Marikina in the Philippines in June 2010, and launched by UN-HABITAT at the *Third Conference on Women’s Safety*, in Delhi in November 2010.

ASIA-PACIFIC TOOL KIT KEY SUCCESSES AND OUTPUTS

- Some new partners added to WICI’s network (e.g. local groups and institutions in Port Moresby)
- Based on area-specific case studies, thus improving their applicability
- Brings together planning/governance and health promotion approaches, as well as a gender mainstreaming approach, to prevention of violence and insecurity.
- A paper based on the project was presented and submitted for publication

Supporting Grassroots Women's Leadership and Governance

Women in Cities International Board Member, Nuzhath Leedham, and staff member, Nhan Lam, participated in the *Global Summit on Grassroots Women's Leadership and Governance* held in New York City, and organized by the Huairou Commission from March 3 - 8, 2011.

The event, co-sponsored by UNDP and the Dutch Foreign Ministry MDG 3 FUND, marked the accumulation of a decade of work empowering women activists from grassroots communities to take on a leadership role, transform their communities. They shared their experiences on issues ranging from health, housing and land rights, to political participation of women in different regions of the world. The summit focused on successful strategies developed and used by grassroots women's

organizations to increase their participation, leadership and influence in decision-making to improve their living conditions.

WICI also took part in refining the core themes of Huairou Commission's governance campaign.



Interviews with 41 women who participated in women's safety audits in different Canadian cities demonstrated that they almost unanimously described being part of the women's safety audit process as being a positive and empowering experience. Engagement with municipal stakeholders was an integral part of the process and allowed women to speak and be listened to. One interviewee explained, "This allowed us, a group of women who are often marginalized, to assume our place in the process of social change by proposing concrete solutions."

- Creating Safer Communities for Marginalized Women and for Everyone Project

WOMEN IN CITIES INTERNATIONAL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Gender Inclusive Cities Programme in the Spotlight

- GICP Programme Director Dr. Kalpana Viswanath and GICP International Advisory Committee Member Dr. Carolyn Whitzman participated in the February 14, 2011 University of Melbourne Up Close podcast “Female-Friendly Cities: Planning for Inclusivity in our public spaces” (<http://upclose.unimelb.edu.au/episode/episode-129-female-friendly-cities-planning-inclusivity-our-urban-spaces>). The 27-minute podcast has been downloaded over 1000 times.
- GICP Programme Director Dr. Kalpana Viswanath participated in a March 11, 2011 podcast/radio interview with *Women on the Line*, a national radio programme based in Australia. Dr. Viswanath discussed street harassment and GICP activities in Delhi, alongside Holly Kearl, founder of the *Stop Street Harassment!* website (http://www.womenontheline.org.au/audio/this_week/WOTL.11.03.11.mp3).

2010 -2011

NUMBER OF RADIO SHOWS FEATURING GICP ACTIVITIES: **16**

NUMBER OF PRINT/WEB ARTICLES FEATURING GICP ACTIVITIES: **70**

NUMBER OF TELEVISION SPOTS FEATURING GICP ACTIVITIES: **11**

Creating Safer Communities for Marginalized Women and for Everyone in the News

- In September 2010, WICI was featured in the bulletin *Carrefour municipal de l'UMQ* (Union des Municipalités du Québec) announcing the launch of its final report *Together for Women's Safety: Creating Safer Communities for Marginalized Women and Everyone* and its photo and sound project in partnership with Conscience urbaine and Audiotopie in Montreal.
- Kathryn Travers, WICI's Director of Programmes, was interviewed by the *Journal métro*, and *Radio Capitale Rock 96,5* (http://extraits.rncmedia.ca/CFTX/Le_show_du_matin_CFTX_22_09_2010.mp3), by *Radio Ville-Marie 91,3 FM* for the “Émission Passeport Matin”, with Wassyla Hadjabi of Action Femmes handicapées (Montréal) (AFHM)
- Karine Chayer, Criminologist with AFHM, was interviewed on behalf of WICI by *Radio Centre-Ville 102,3 FM* for “La matinale du vendredi”, *Journal Montréal Campus*
- Fanie-St-Michel (Conscience urbaine) and Linda Gauthier (RAPLIQ) were interviewed by *Le Devoir* (<http://www.ledevoir.com/societe/actualites-en-societe/297423/montreal-ville-mesadaptee-aux-handicapes>). The Audioguide is available for purchase online.
- Wassyla Hadjabi (AFHM) was interviewed by *La gazette des communes*.

Third International Conference on Women's Safety: Building Inclusive Cities in the News

- The conference was featured in a *Women's Feature Service* series of news articles on violence in the public domain, and the responses, strategies and campaigns to resist such violence and make urban spaces safer for women at all times of the day or night (for article archives, see <http://www.wfsnews.org/wfs-jagori-inside-final.html>).
- The *Transportraits: Women and Mobility in the City* exhibition, the conference's opening event, was featured in a *New York Times* article on August 3, 2010.
- The website *FAQs.org* featured an article on November 29, 2010 about the Conference and whether cities can keep their promises to ensure women's safety (<http://periodicals.faqs.org/201011/2211209221.html>).
- An article on *Pravda.ru*, *Moscow Top News*, and the *Rising Nepal National Broadsheet* on the November 23, 2010 reported the launch of the UN Women *Global Programme Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls* at the conference.
- The conference was also featured on the following websites: http://www.peacewomen.org/news_article.php?id=56&type=event; <http://msmagazine.com/blog/blog/2010/11/23/where-in-the-world-can-women-feel-safe/>; http://www.seoulwomen.or.kr/nhpeng/news/news_view.jsp?regNo=1312080006328&nowPage=1; <http://www.huairou.org/node/867>; <http://www.lepnet.org/story/2010-12-01-third-international-conference-womens-safety-closes-delhi-declaration>.
- Marisa Canuto, WICI's Executive Director and Kalpana Viswanath, Project Director of the *Gender Inclusive Cities Programme*, were interviewed in this account of the *Third International Conference*: <http://periodicals.faqs.org/201011/2211209221.html>

Action research conducted in a re-location colony of urban Delhi revealed that the community toilets were not cleaned properly, the doors had broken latches, the water supply was inadequate and there were insufficient, if any, disposal bins for menstrual waste material. The consequence of this is that women have to use open fields to go to the toilet where they reported instances of sexual harassment and violence, including rape, abduction and theft. During the research period, one teenage girl in Bhalswa went to defecate in the open field and was found dead three days later. This has added to the level of fear in the community.

- Women's Rights and Access to Water and Sanitation in Asian Cities

WOMEN IN CITIES INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Making Cities Safer: Urban Safety Toolkit for the Asia-Pacific Region

The *Urban Safety Toolkit for Asia-Pacific* was published in November 2010, funded by UN-HABITAT. It incorporates a gender mainstreaming approach and is designed for local government community partnerships, providing simple guidelines and good practices, including previous ‘success stories’ in violence prevention work. It is also available in an online format.

Partners: University of Melbourne, Women in Cities International, CITYNET – in collaboration with UN-HABITAT’s Safer Cities Programme and UNESCAP

Reference materials/web link: <http://www.unhabitat.org/urbansafetytoolkit/toolkit.htm>

Learning from Women to Create Gender Inclusive Cities

Publication presenting the results of the first year of the *Gender Inclusive Cities Programme* (GICP) (see above) on the state of women’s safety in four different cities (Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania; New Delhi, India; Rosario, Argentina; Petrozavodsk, Russia).

Reference materials/web link: http://womenincities.org/pdf-general/gicp_baseline_compress.pdf

A Handbook on Women’s Safety Audits in Low-Income Urban Neighbourhoods: A Focus on Essential Service

This handbook has been published by Jagori, in partnership with WICI, as part of the *Action Research Project on Access to Water and Sanitation in Asian Cities* (see above).

Reference materials/web link: http://womenincities.org/pdf-general/idrc_hanbook_wsalow-income_compress.pdf

Third International Conference on Women’s Safety Background Paper

A background paper written for the *Third International Conference on Women’s Safety: Building Inclusive Cities* that was held in November 2010 in New Delhi, India (see above). The paper presents an overview of the emerging trends, opportunities and challenges in the field of women and girls’ safety, and highlights the contributions made by women and girls in cities in various sectors including crime prevention, urban planning, the environment, economics, land management and essential services.

Reference materials/web link: <http://womenincities.org/pdf-general/Final%20Conference%20Background.pdf>

Fast-talk on Girls’ Safety in Urban Spaces Final Report

This background document for the Fast-talk funded by UN-Habitat, on making urban spaces safer and more inclusive of girls, lays the foundation for identifying priority areas for the development of a programmatic framework for future work.

WOMEN IN CITIES INTERNATIONAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project	Funding Agency	Duration
Action Research Project on Women's Rights and Access to Water and Sanitation in Asian Cities	International Development Research Centre	2009 - 2011
Creating Safer Communities for Marginalized Women and for Everyone	Status of Women Canada	2007 - 2010
Fast-talk on Girls' Safety in Urban Spaces	UN-HABITAT Safer Cities Programme	2010
Gender Inclusive Cities Programme	United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women	2008 - 2011
Learning Through Difference: Multi-scalar Forms of Feminist Organizing	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	2008 - 2011
Technical Assistance for the Global Programme Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls	UN Women	2009 - 2011
Third International Conference on Women's Safety: Building Inclusive Cities	UN Women UN-HABITAT Department for International Development International Development Research Centre, Government of Canada Interchurch organization for development cooperation Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst UNICEF Friedrich Ebert Stiftung CITYNET AusAID	2009 - 2010

COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS

Action India, Delhi, India
Carleton University
CISCSA – Exchange and Services Centre, Southern Cone, Argentina – Coordinator of the Latin America Women and Habitat Network, Cordoba, Argentina
Huairou Commission, New York, United States of America
Information Centre of the Independent Women’s Forum, Moscow, Russia
International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, Montréal, Canada
International Centre for Research on Women, Washington, United States of America
Jagori, Delhi, India
Plan International, Surrey, United Kingdom
University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada

FUNDING PARTNERS

AusAID
CITYNET
Department for International Development (DFID)
Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
Government of Canada – International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
Government of Canada – Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
Government of Canada – Status of Women Canada (SWC)
Interchurch organization for development cooperation (ICCO)
UN Women
UNICEF
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (UNTF)

WHO WE ARE

Board of Directors

Caroline Andrew, University Ottawa	President
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Carolyn Whitzman, University of Melbourne	Member
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Staff

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Melanie Lambrick	Analyst and Project Officer
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Alexandra dos Reis	Programming and Research Assistant

External Consultants

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Laura Capobianco	Independent Consultant, preparatory work on <i>Background Paper for Third International Women's Safety Conference</i>
Sohail Husain	Expert Evaluator, <i>Gender Inclusive Cities Programme</i>
Prabha Khosla	Lead Consultant, <i>Action Research Project on Women's Rights and Access to Water and Sanitation in Asian Cities</i>
Kalpana Viswanath	Project Director, <i>Gender Inclusive Cities Programme</i>

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