



TOWARDS WOMEN INCLUSIVE CITIES  
SAFE AND HEALTHY CITIES FOR WOMEN:  
SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR LOCAL ACTION

*Summary of 4 networking events  
World Urban Forum III, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, June 2006*

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We gratefully acknowledge the involvement and support of our partners: Toronto Women's Call To Action, the National Network on Environments and Women's Health (NNEWH), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), UN-HABITAT - Safer Cities, Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD), AECI, UNIFEM, Red Mujer y Habitat Lac, International Centre for the Prevention of Crime and the Huairou Commission.

We owe considerable thanks to all the speakers and participants for their invaluable contributions that helped make the networking events a great success.

Creating inclusive cities where women of all ages, races, classes, abilities, sexual orientations, and languages, feel like full participants in the life of the city is a goal of the World Urban Forum, of Women in Cities International and of our partners. The government of Canada and UN Habitat have signed numerous UN conventions and platforms for gender equality and women's empowerment.

For women to feel included in the life of their cities, their municipal governments need to take into consideration the particular needs and interests of the full diversity of women. This requires attention to relations between municipal governments and organisations of civil society as well as the formulation of municipal public policies. Since Habitat II many initiatives have been developed to establish "good" governance in cities and to enhance gender equality and equity and to ensure women's equal participation at the local level. Models and tools have been created to assess progress in local administrations.

Safety is also a major issue of good governance. Since Habitat II many networks have been developed to promote "good" governance in cities by developing initiatives related to women's safety and by improving women's sense of safety. These networks have inspired specific partnerships that focus on women's safety, work towards women's equal participation at the local level, and advocate for programs and policies that improve the physical and social environment. They unite women's groups, NGOs, researchers, governments, UN agencies and local governments. As a result, partnerships are essential in planning for safer cities for women and in institutionalizing gender equality more generally. In addition, local governments are seen as key actors in the development of community strategies that explicitly address women's safety needs.

The Declarations of two International Seminars on Women's Safety, held in Montreal, Canada (2002) and Bogotá, Colombia (2004), call for renewed efforts to further knowledge and exchange experiences and good practices around women's safety, and to develop and strengthen regional capacity and networks. A crucial aspect of women's safety includes health and environmental issues, and this proposal aims to support the development of much closer ties between the many sectors working globally to promote women's safety.

However, the progress made by cities and by women's organizations in creating partnerships and achieving gender equality is uneven, and not always sustainable. In addition, women who have experienced racism, women with disabilities, and other marginalized women (eg., sex trade workers), in cities in all regions of the world, often experience greater exclusion than other women. Mechanisms to include the voices of those particularly marginalized women are not well developed.

If indeed we are to achieve any level of gender equality and equity it is important that this commitment is reflected in every aspect of the World Urban Forum. To assist in the facilitation of a gender-inclusive approach to the World Urban Forum, Women in Cities International in partnership with the Toronto Women's Call To Action, the National Network on Environments and Women's Health (NNEWH), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), UN-HABITAT - Safer Cities, Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD), AECI, UNIFEM, Red Mujer y Habitat Lac, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime and the Huairou Commission organised four linked thematic networking sessions building on current work around women's safety and gender mainstreaming. The four networking sessions were:

- SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY-GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS ON GENDERED VIOLENCE PREVENTION NETWORKING EVENT
- DEVELOPING A TEMPLATE: PARTNERSHIP MODELS FOR BIG CITIES
- GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE NETWORKING EVENT
- KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY NETWORKING SESSION

This report summarizes the discussions and outcomes of each networking event. In the appendix are the descriptions of the networking events, the list of speakers for each session and the agenda.

- SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY-GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS ON GENDERED VIOLENCE PREVENTION NETWORKING EVENT  
**TUESDAY JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> 13.30 - 15.30**

This networking session used a highly participative format which allowed the approximately 120 participants a chance to collectively engage a dialogue about the opportunities and barriers around developing partnerships between community-based women's groups and local governments. The image used was that of a river, with water drops being added to facilitate moving down the river and boulders slowing down the progress. People then added boats to the river by telling stories about their major accomplishments. The goal of the workshops was therefore to share as many stories as possible about the opportunities and barriers to creating community-government partnerships around gendered violence prevention.

The group identified numerous advantages for the creation of partnerships, including:

- Government has money resources and community has human resources
- Link between national policies on family violence and implementation at a local level, e.g. holding police accountable to these national policies
- Funding for partnership projects can be used to foster cooperation between non-government organizations (NGOs) in seeking to develop a common approach
- Government as a permanent feature of the community – can be used to ensure sustainability of violence prevention (VP) initiatives
- Local governments (LG) can show powerful leadership and supply invaluable resources
- Moves it from a private to a public issue by raising awareness
- Mobilizes a responsive community

There were also numerous obstacles to the creation of partnerships, including:

- Lack of understanding of issue by LG, misinformation
- Short-term funding, project-focused
- Governments do not appreciate or respect grassroots organizations
- Corruption of LG
- Red tape/bureaucracy of LG
- Power differentials between larger and smaller women's organizations
- Leadership locally doesn't acknowledge problem exists
- Police attitudes
- Internal competition for funding between NGOs

The most successful accomplishments were:

- Safety audits
- Creation of tools that change attitudes that spoke to people individually
- Gender mainstreaming with emphasis on women's safety – now being re-energized through new committee linking community members and politicians
- Participatory action to strengthen the rights of women in cities
- Education programs for respectful relationships in schools
- Program for single mothers
- Campaign re 2010 Olympics and prostitution
- Victims Support Unit
- J-CARES - teaching religious leaders about domestic violence
- Guide for safety planning
- Production of a play by school children

It is wonderfully clear that there is a huge variety of kinds of accomplishments that groups and individuals named. Some are concrete tools, others, public education programs.

The session ended with a series of suggestions about where do we want to be in 2008 and what networking tools do we have and how do we strengthen partnerships. The major suggestions were as follows:

- Websites available in three languages
- Sharing of successes
- Stories as valuable data source
- E-newsletter
- Follow-up for projects
- Good evaluation of what's working and what's not working
- Resources and money
- Funding from UN – so programs are sustainable not piecemeal
- Collection of success stories
- New best practices
- Non-website responses for diversity of women an Indigenous women
- Practical tools available
- Regional partnerships between countries to learn from each other's models

➔ **DEVELOPING A TEMPLATE: PARTNERSHIP MODELS FOR BIG CITIES**  
**TUESDAY JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> 16.30-18.30**

The objectives of the session were two-fold: initiate reflection on the particular conditions for creating partnerships in large cities and discuss ways to collect information in comparable and systematic ways. The session was therefore trying, simultaneously, to be sensitive to the highly individual contexts of each of the cities and to try to find a way of providing comparable data. The session achieved more on the first point; listening to and becoming aware of the importance of local conditions and local history. Participants all addressed questions of methodology and of classification, but always the incredibly rich complexity of big cities defied easy comparison. The different speakers raised different aspects and different factors for consideration.

- 1 The importance of the overall government system. In order to build a gender framework, one has to start by understanding the different levels of government and their responsibilities. One also has to understand basic policy orientation (economic, social, environmental and cultural can be added). The importance of national governments was underlined by many of the participants.
- 2 The struggles and weaknesses for local governments. This is all the more important given the context of decentralization. How can national governments build the capacity of local governments.
- 3 The importance of women being elected. This was one of the major themes of this networking session – and reasons varied for including more women in formal election roles – a basis for equality, a more honest government, particular policy focus. Many concrete suggestions were made by participants, both to encourage more women to be candidates and to increase the effectiveness of those already elected.

The first section of the networking session focused therefore on the political actors – national governments are crucial, local governments need greater capacity and women are vitally important as elected representatives.

The second part of the session looked at administrative actors and here the presentation on Quézon City was extremely useful. It has developed complex administrative structures, again an illustration of the complexity of big cities and the need for complex models for creating partnership. Again, the importance of the commitment and support of the national government was underlined as a necessary base for local action. Quézon City has developed strong central administrative units on gender that work with

individual line departments, with the police and with village and community governments.

The third section focused on civil society and its role on working with and influencing local governments to act. The presentations focused on the different roles and structures played by civil society groups; advising governments, being funded by governments, mobilizing the population. Montréal's Conseil des Montréalaises was described, underlining the City's commitment to the full diversity of women. The Council works both with the community, stimulating the participation of women in local politics and with the municipal government and working in partnership on the implementation of the policy on the equality of men and women.

A project in Sao Paulo was described, that illustrated the role of civil society organizations in mobilizing marginalized groups in the population and working bringing them into full citizenship and inclusion in the city. This example also illustrated the role that universities can play in working with marginalized populations.

Another factor that was discussed was the ways in which the women's organizations were structured in relation to local governments. In the case of Vietnam, the women's organizations exist at every level of the state and therefore intervene at all levels.

A final factor that ran across the entire session was the question of the financing of civil society. In some cases, local government played some role and in other cases, resources had been made available from donor agencies. The example of Safer Cities UN Habitat in Argentina had allowed increased local activity around violence prevention and training for economic autonomy for women. In other cases, the lack of financial resources had reduced or prevented activity.

The networking session brought about a rich description of the significant factors that enhanced or reduced action towards partnerships for gender equality in big cities. The diversity of these cities led to complex structures and activities and therefore to the thoughtful consideration of specific contexts. At the same time, certain common factors stood out; the importance of political will both at the national and local levels, the crucial role of civil society in exerting pressure on local governments and the need for effective administrative structures to successfully implement policies, programs and practices. The crucial role played by civil society requires support and resources to be effective; it also requires civil society organizations that continue to mobilize the full diversity of women.

In the inevitable tension between focusing on the full description of specific contexts and the discussion on the establishment of common frameworks for comparable data (with the very short time frame of the session), the session favored the full description of context. This does provide a base for building the template to measure the progress or lack thereof of the activities of big cities in relation to gender equality and therefore begin the work of building the WUF4.

➔ GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE NETWORKING EVENT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> 13.30-15.30

The session's goal was to focus on women's equality and equity and gender mainstreaming of local governance and local governments. The focus included: identifying the necessary pre-conditions for gender mainstreaming of local governments; successful strategies, tools, and challenges to gender mainstreaming; the use and impact of Gender-Responsive Budget Initiatives (GRBIs) at the municipal level; and process and impact indicators.

A related area of discussion was the challenges and benefits of linkages and partnerships between women's groups and municipal governments.

The session also explored the potential of international exchanges, capacity building initiatives, pilot projects and other collaborations for engendering governance between local governments, women's groups, and equality-seeking organizations.

Preparation for the session began with an on-line forum prior to WUF where relevant questions were raised. The session was organized so that the speakers responded to a question that arose out of the on-line forum and other communication with the facilitator.

QUESTION 1:

HOW IS THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES ADDRESSING GENDER RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S EQUALITY?

**Louise Poirier** and **Tanis Houck** described a project (funded by Status of Women Canada) that is intended to increase the proportion of women in local politics, from 20% to 30% by 2026. They reported that women currently constitute 12% of mayors and 29% of councilors. The project uses a gender and development approach to identify and support women who are willing to run for municipal office. They also help women who are interested in getting involved in boards and committees at the local level. On the basis of discussions with women in many communities, one key

message is that women are turned off by an adversarial approach and would prefer a more consensual professional approach to municipal governance. They have produced resource materials that are available via the Internet.

QUESTION 2:

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO BEGIN GENDER MAINSTREAMING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL?

**France Bourgault** described her activities in a poor neighbourhood in Montreal where concerns were raised about the adverse affects of gentrification on low income families, single women and elders. These residents wanted to be included in the renewal plan process.

As a first step, a local women's centre initiated the creation of a local partners committee, in which a question was asked: « what is a neighbourhood considered a good place to live for women? ». As a second step, the group developed the « Déclaration citoyenne des femmes de Sainte-Marie », as a tool to mobilise the local residents, local partners, borough elected officials, borough city departments, etc. The Declaration is a call to act on different issues like housing, mobility, safety, economic and social development, etc. (this took one year). The Déclaration has been used as the main tool to give visibility to these local issues « from the point of view of women », get support and involvement from the community and ask for concrete actions to be undertaken.

**Julieta Logroño** from Esmeraldas Ecuador described both the problems faced in her community and the ways in which she is working with women to improve the situation. She began by noting many problems in her community even though there is a woman mayor: no safe drinking water, industries that are polluting the environment, unsustainable forestry practices, high level of violence against women. She has come to the realization that cities have not reflected a gender analysis and that infrastructure is not seen as including social services. She sees the challenge of gender mainstreaming to be both political and technical. She has been trying to empower women to work with the local government at the same time as she has worked with local government to create tools for gender equality. She has had some success: the participation plan for the city reflects a gender and ethnicity lens and critique. She is also working to create a Mother House in the area.

**Liliana Rainero**, representing the Latin American Women and Habitat Network, spoke about the interest of this network to make connections between issues of gender inequality and poverty and also, to promote decentralized governance structures that are aware of and concerned about social inequalities. She outlined a series of efforts and

activities are conducive to these goals:

- Partnerships between women's groups and other social movements to generate a social conscience and a critical mass;
- Dissemination of regional and international agreements and instruments;
- Gender mainstreaming into the hierarchy of government, with attention to policies and outcomes;
- Integration of gender equality plans into political platforms, such as that of Bogota, Columbia, where such a plan is a central part of the mayor's office;
- Use of outcome measures that allow evaluations;
- Use of Equal Opportunity Plans, such as in Rosario, where a consultative body of women was incorporated into governance activities;
- Continuous awareness raising for mayors and councils, related to areas of decision making, such as urban planning;
- Finally and fundamentally, budgets sensitive to gender. Political will to promote women's rights is best expressed by budgets that allocate resources to issues that are important to women. It is a question of justice that also acknowledges women's unpaid work.

**Elizabeth Akpalu**, representing Women and Law in West Africa, described a gender mainstreaming effort on good governance and women's participation in seven countries (Benin, Burkino Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo). Its overall objective is to contribute to an effective participation of women in governance at local and national levels, by building the capacity of women in urban and rural areas to influence decisions, policies and programs implemented by the authorities to better reflect the basic human rights of women and gender equity. Capacity building is taking place through two strategies: 1) building the capacity of women to become involved in local politics; and 2) gender mainstreaming the structures of local government – they have acquired donor funding to gather gender disaggregated data that will influence how resources are allocated.

**Glenise Levendal** represents the Gender Advocacy Programme in South Africa, an organization whose mission is “to strive towards a society in which South Africans, particularly those that are marginalised, can participate in policies and decision-making at all levels of South African life for the achievement of gender equality”. Glenise is coordinator of the gender and local government project. Their experience is that local governments have been less responsive to arguments about gender equality than has been the case for the national government. They acknowledge the importance of training community based organizations to keep municipalities on track, gender

sensitive policy development but also the significance of gender champions. They have launched a 50/50 campaign to achieve 50% representation by women in local government.

### QUESTION #3:

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

**Nuzhath Leedham**, speaking about the experiences of Toronto Women's Call to Action, highlighted the challenges of City Hall's capacity to address the issues of women and particularly marginalized immigrant and visible minority women. Currently, these issues are subsumed under the mandate of a Human Rights Advisory Committee because the Status of Women Committee was eliminated after the last election. As a first step, TWAC felt that it was critical that the Status of Women Committee be reinstated. However, this move would not on its own guarantee that there would be sufficient recognition of intersectionality - that is, the taking into account the multiple oppressions that some women face. Another related issue is the need for gender disaggregated data and the difficulty in achieving this goal in a sufficiently nuanced way. Finally, TWAC has faced severe resource constraints that has made it difficult to remain sufficiently persistent in its lobbying efforts

### COMMENTS/DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS:

- There is also a need to work with men. In Nigeria, there is a Men Supporting Women Initiative
- There is a lack of attention to the issue of power. If unequal power relations is the problem, then capacity building is not the answer – working towards quotas for women in local government makes more sense
- Representation is more than a matter of numbers
- In Mexico, quotas at the federal level have been helpful; women have been making large gains
- Need to take a wider perspective on power – power in terms of numbers and in terms of autonomous women's organizations; also need analysis to identify power differentials among women

➔ KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY NETWORKING SESSION  
**THURSDAY JUNE 22, 13:30 – 15:30**

*\*written by the National Network on Environments and Women's Health*

The networking session on Knowledge Networks for Women's Health and Safety was one of 162 networking events during World Urban Forum III. These networking events were structured to provide participants with an informal atmosphere to build knowledge, strengthen

partnerships and share ideas. The majority of the 45 delegates who attended this specific session were representing NGOs, but there were also students and delegates representing government agencies present. This networking session facilitated discussion among participants, that allowed individuals to share experiences and knowledge networking strategies from their countries, and work together to brainstorm how these ideas could be applied to women's health work in other countries, and internationally.

The networking session was chaired by Kimberly Walker, Executive Director of the National Network on Environments and Women's Health. Panel presentations were given and open discussion also occurred among participants. The Knowledge Networks for Women's Health and Safety session was facilitated by Prabha Khosla, partner of Toronto Women's Call to Action and Women in Cities International, on behalf of the National Network on Environments and Women's Health (NNEWH).

#### **CHAIR INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION – KIMBERLY WALKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL NETWORK ON ENVIRONMENTS AND WOMEN'S HEALTH**

The introductory presentation welcomed delegates to the networking session. The presentation continued to discuss issues in women's health and safety and the economic and health burdens these issues bring. The chair then discussed the relationship between geographical location, socio-economic status and health risks, highlighting the greater health risks for marginalized women. The presentation concluded by outlining the three objectives of the session:

- 1 To identify strategies that engage and include marginalized, community, grassroots and local women in the production of knowledge, knowledge sharing and policy change process.
- 2 To identify ways that we can strengthen local, regional, and international networks to build knowledge and effect health policy change.
- 3 To identify some indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of networks related to knowledge building and knowledge sharing practices.

The chair then introduced the facilitator, who continued the session by introducing the panellists and their presentations.

#### **PANEL PRESENTATIONS**

Panellists' presentations provided information about women's health and safety projects and networks from their respective expertise<sup>1</sup>. The panel presentations explored four areas: knowledge transfer to grass root level refugee women, strengthening knowledge networks for immigrant and refugee women, urban aboriginal women, and women living with disabilities and safety in the urban environment. The complementary presentations gave session participants a deeper understanding of current initiatives in women's health and safety, and created an appropriate platform for open discussion about knowledge sharing and networking opportunities.

##### *Strengthening Knowledge Networks for Immigrant, Refugee, and Migrant Women in Cities – Presentation by: Kamlyn Ng-See-Quan, NNEWH and Action Canada for Population Development*

Models of knowledge networks for immigrant women and migrant workers were discussed in this presentation. Language, culture, programs and environments are some factors that present unique health and safety issues for immigrant and migrant workers, specifically women, in cities. Coordination and transfer of knowledge between networks and the community presents challenges in urban centers, yet ensuring health and safety for immigrant and migrant workers is a human right. This presentation also thoroughly examined barriers for connecting knowledge networks with community based organizations.

##### *Refugee Women's Habitat, Health and Safety: Knowledge Transfer to Grass Root Level Refugee Women – Presentation by: Swarna Weerasinghe, NNEWH and Community Health & Epidemiology (Dalhousie University)*

Healthy and safety are interlinked for refugee women who have fled from unsafe, traumatized environments from many parts of the world. The government-assisted refugees arrive expecting a safe living environment in the host country. This presentation explored how this can become a reality using an effective knowledge network. The panellist reviewed the research sample and findings from a research project she is currently completing to emphasize the need for knowledge sharing. The presentation also discusses specific health and safety issues for refugee women and possible models of building effective knowledge networks to resolve these issues.

##### *Urban Aboriginal Women – Presentation by: Linda Day, Executive Director, Aboriginal Women's Health and Healing Research Group (AWHHRG)*

The right to live in a healthy and safe environment is a fundamental basic human right. However, this presentation showed how many Aboriginal women face daily health and safety issues that are unique to them. Participants were

1. The panelists', session chair's and facilitator's brief biographies have been appended to this report.

provided with an overview of the health and safety issues that affect Aboriginal women in both urban settings and rural communities. Knowledge sharing was stressed as an avenue for policy change, and networking options unique to Aboriginal women were discussed.

*Women Living with Disabilities and Safety in the Urban Environment – Presentation by Fran Odette, NNEWH and Education Wife Assault; Karen Yoshida, NNEWH and University of Toronto*

This presentation reviewed findings from the Urban Women's Health and Disability Online Chat/Message Board that occurred in Fall 2005 bringing women from across Canada to talk about various areas of interest related to health and disability. The presentation focused specifically on women's responses to relationship between health and violence, with a focus on the forms of abuse experience, barriers faced in accessing services, women's agency in response to violence and recommendations for change and networking.

*Forced Displacements: Impacts on Women's Security and Health – Presentation by Marisol Dalmazzo Peillard, Red Mujer y Habitat (Columbia)*

This presentation reviewed the political violence in Columbia that is having a specific and disproportionate impact on women. The panellist related contributions from the on-line forum before this networking session and testimony from women to the need for national and international networks in women's health and safety. The panellist also considered challenges and opportunities in establishing and strengthening knowledge networks and provided recommendations for individual organizations and existing networks in women's health and safety.

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION WITH PARTICIPANTS**

After each panel presentation participants were invited to ask panellists questions and engage in open discussion about the issues and ideas presented. All opportunities for discussion were welcomed by participants, who were eager to relate their own experiences to the presentations. However, frustration could also be felt, as many participants were aware of issues discussed and were frustrated with the lack of resources and progress in the area of knowledge networking.

Participants agreed that intersectional perspectives need to be applied to work with women's health. Participants felt the intersectional perspective could be achieved by working with other women's health organizations to provide feedback from a different lens. The obvious means of achieving this is creating an international network of women's organizations that would facilitate effective research, program creation and policy development. However, another key point raised by participants was the contrast between high levels of interest

and engagement, and the limited resource available in women's health. This understanding left participants believing a network is not a viable option, because a sustainable network would require a commitment of resources that are not currently available.

The main theme of World Urban Forum III, "Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action," echoed through most discussions during the session. There was a clear emphasis on turning existing research into both effective policy and local action. The sub-themes "Sustainable Cities; Land, Housing and Infrastructure for All," and, "Sustainable Cities; Governing the Environment for All," also emerged in the discussions as participants established the need for basic safe housing for women and participation in policy development and government.

Participants identified the need for strategic planning in research and policy development to ensure that projects are connected and relevant, and the limited resources are used effectively. The need to work collaboratively with government officials was also recognized, as this could help with introducing new research, frameworks and policy recommendations to different agencies and levels of government. Participants also highlighted the consideration of the sustainability of developments as an effective route to turning ideas into reality in the long-term. By not monopolizing information and structuring research and developments so they can be applied to future work in women's health, participants believe the value of current projects will continue to be appreciated as advancements are made in women's health and safety.

Overall, the session was considered a success. Several post-session discussions were started on potential collaborations between organizations and between governmental agencies and organizations. This session reaffirmed the importance of networking and knowledge sharing in women's health and safety, and effectively facilitated discussion and brainstorming for future efforts.

The National Network on Environments and Women's Health (NNEWH) organized this session in partnership with representatives from:

Women in Cities International  
Aboriginal Women's Health and Healing Group  
Toronto Women's Call to Action  
Action Canada for Population and Development  
Community Health and Epidemiology, Dalhousie University  
Women with Disabilities and Deaf Women's Program, Education Wife Assault  
Department of Physical Therapy, University of Toronto  
AVP – Association Vivienda Popular (Social Housing Association), Columbia

# TOWARDS WOMEN INCLUSIVE CITIES

Vancouver,  
June 19-23,  
2006

## PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY WOMEN IN CITIES INTERNATIONAL AND PARTNERS DURING WORLD URBAN FORUM III

MONDAY June 19	TUESDAY June 20	WEDNESDAY June 21	THURSDAY June 22	FRIDAY June 23
<p><b>8:00 – 9:00 am</b> Informal greeting and orientation by WICI Venue YWCA - Weldwood Room Address: 535 Hornby St.</p> <p><b>8:00 – 9:00 am</b> Daily Women's Caucus Venue VCEC* Room: MR01</p> <p><b>2:30 – 5:30 pm</b> Roundtable Empowering the MDGs: Grassroots Women &amp; Partners Meeting the Challenge By invitation only</p>	<p><b>7:30 – 8:15 am</b> Daily Women's Caucus (lead by Women in Cities International) Venue VCEC* Room: MR01</p> <p><b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</b> Meeting for partnership project funded by SWC By invitation only</p> <p><b>1:30 – 3:30 pm</b> Sustainable Community– Government Partnerships on Gendered Violence Prevention Venue VCEC* Room: Oceanview 1</p> <p><b>4:30 – 6:30 pm</b> Developing a Template: Partnerships Models for Big Cities Venue VCEC* Room: MR13</p> <p><b>7:00 – 10:00 pm</b> Women's Reception Celebrating Grassroots Women &amp; Partners By Invitation only</p>	<p><b>7:30 – 8:15pm</b> Daily Women's Caucus Venue VCEC* Room: MR01</p> <p><b>9:30 am – 12:00 pm</b> Meeting – pilot sites and municipal representatives – project funded by SWC By invitation only</p> <p><b>12:00 – 1:15 pm</b> Lunch meeting for partnership project funded by SWC By invitation only</p> <p><b>1:30 – 3:30 pm</b> Gender Mainstreaming and Local Governance Venue VCEC* Room: MR18</p> <p><b>4:00 – 6:00 pm</b> Evaluation meeting - partnership project funded by SWC By invitation only</p>	<p><b>7:30 – 8:15 am</b> Daily Women's Caucus Venue VCEC* Room: MR01</p> <p><b>1:30 – 3:30 pm</b> Knowledge Networks for Women's Health and Safety Venue VCEC* Room: Oceanview1</p> <p><b>4:30 – 7:30 pm</b> Women in Cities International Annual General Meeting Venue: Interurban Gallery Address: 1 East Hastings</p>	<p><b>7:30 – 8:15 pm</b> Daily Women's Caucus Venue VCEC* Room: MR01</p> <p>*VCEC = Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre</p>

This program is a collaborative effort led by:

### WOMEN IN CITIES INTERNATIONAL

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### TORONTO WOMEN'S CALL TO ACTION

[www.twca.ca](http://www.twca.ca)



### THE NATIONAL NETWORK ON ENVIRONMENTS AND WOMEN'S HEALTH (NNEWH)

[www.yorku.ca/nnewh](http://www.yorku.ca/nnewh)



### THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES (FCM)

[www.fcm.ca](http://www.fcm.ca)



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### HUAIROU COMMISSION

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# TOWARDS WOMEN INCLUSIVE CITIES

**DAILY WOMEN'S CAUCUS AND NETWORKING EVENTS ORGANISED BY WOMEN IN CITIES INTERNATIONAL AND PARTNERS DURING WORLD URBAN FORUM III, VANCOUVER CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, JUNE 19-23, 2006**

→ **Daily Women's Caucus**  
Tuesday, June 20th 7:30 - 8:15  
Room: MR01

The caucus will start with brief introductory remarks on what are the expectations of Women in Cities International and our partners for WUF in terms of advancing women's equality and the safety and well being of women and girls. This will be followed by a discussion on strategies to advance the issue of women's equality during the Vancouver WUF and in preparation for the next WUF.

**Facilitator:**

- ▶ Caroline Andrew, Women in Cities International

**Speakers:**

- ▶ Gloria Kovach, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- ▶ Anna Tibaijuka, UN-Habitat
- ▶ Ana Falú, UNIFEM
- ▶ Helen Fotopoulos, City of Montreal

→ **Sustainable Community–  
Government Partnerships on  
Gendered Violence Prevention**  
Tuesday, June 20th - 13:30 - 15:30  
Room: Oceanview 1

Women in Cities International is currently engaged in linking local community-government partnerships working on violence prevention from a gendered perspective. There are projects in Canada, Australia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Asia (several in the South organized by UN-Habitat) which are working on these issues, bridging violence prevention in both public and 'private' space. What are the opportunities? What are the roadblocks and how can they be overcome? What can we learn from one another? How can we create ongoing cross-cultural communications on our common issues?

**Co-facilitators:**

- ▶ Suzanne Doerge, City for All Women Initiative, Canada
- ▶ Carolyn Whitzman, University of Melbourne / Women in Cities International, Australia
- ▶ Cecilia Andersson, UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme, Kenya

**Speakers:**

- ▶ Johanne Bouchard, Conférence régionale des élus de Montréal, Québec, Canada
- ▶ Cookie Edwards, KZN Network on Violence Against Women, South Africa
- ▶ Dipak Naker, Raising Voices, Uganda
- ▶ Olga Segovia, SUR – Women and Habitat Network, Chile

→ **Developing a Template:  
Partnerships Models for Big Cities**  
Tuesday, June 20th- 16:30 - 18:30  
Room: MR13

This session will use four Canadian 'big city' case studies to present the different structures, mechanisms and processes needed to fully implement a Gender Equality Policy. Discussion will be guided by a questionnaire in a publication of Federation of Canadian Municipalities called A City Tailored to Women, that identifies three sets of factors that contribute to the creation of women-friendly cities, having to do with political, administrative and participatory (partnership) factors. Although the opening presentation will be about Canadian cities – Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and Ottawa – the focus of the session will be international. We want to give special attention to the particular nature of large cities – given that these cities are very diverse in terms of ethnicity, class, occupations, abilities and so on – are there special challenges and possibilities that need to be recognized and addressed? Or, are these lessons equally applicable to smaller communities?

**Co-facilitators:**

- ▶ Fran Klodawsky, Carleton University / Women in Cities International, Canada
- ▶ Caroline Andrew, Centre on Governance, University of Ottawa / Women in Cities International, Canada

**Speakers:**

- ▶ Mariana Alonso, Municipality of Rosario, Argentina
- ▶ Konté Fatoumata Doumbia, Association des Municipalités de Mali / Maire de la Commune 1 / FCM, Mali
- ▶ Nicole Boily, Conseil des Montréalaises, Québec, Canada
- ▶ Ellen Woodsworth, World Peace Forum, Canada
- ▶ Vu Thi Vinh, Associations of Cities of Viet Nam (ACVN) / University of Hanoi / FCM, Viet Nam
- ▶ Proserpina Tapales, University of the Philippines, Philippines
- ▶ Magdalena García Hernández, Red Nacional Milenio Feminista, Mexico
- ▶ Marina Leite, Refazendo Vinculos, Sao Paulo, Brasil

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## → Gender Mainstreaming and Local Governance

Wednesday, June 21st 13:30 - 15:30  
Room: MR18

This Session will focus on women's equality and equity and gender mainstreaming of local governance and local governments. It will identify the necessary pre-conditions for gender mainstreaming of local governments; successful strategies, tools, and challenges to gender mainstreaming; the use and impact of Gender-Responsive Budget Initiatives (GRBIs) at the municipal level; and process and impact indicators. It will examine challenges and benefits of partnerships between women's groups and municipal governments, capacity building initiatives, pilot projects and other collaborations for engendering governance between local governments, women's groups, and equality-seeking organizations.

### Facilitator:

- ▶ Prabha Khosla, Toronto Women's Call to Action / Women in Cities International, Canada

### Speakers:

- ▶ Louise Poirier, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Canada
- ▶ Tanis Houck, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Canada
- ▶ Liliana Rainero, CISCSA – Women and Habitat Network - LAC, Argentina
- ▶ France Bourgault, Centre d'éducation et d'action des femmes (CEAF) Québec, Canada
- ▶ Nuzhath Leedham, Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre- Toronto's Women Call to Action (TWCA), Canada
- ▶ Glenise Levendal, Gender Advocacy Programme (GAP), South Africa
- ▶ Elizabeth Akpalu, Wildaf/FEDDAF, West Africa
- ▶ Julieta Logroño, Centre de Genero y Desarrollo Valdivia y el Gobierno Provincial de Esmeraldas, Ecuador

## → Knowledge Networks for Women's Health and Safety

Thursday, June 22nd - 13:30 - 15:30  
Room: Oceanview 1

This session is designed to provide an opportunity for participants to discuss how to link more effectively the range of developing knowledge networks around the world including existing international, national, regional and local networks especially in relation to marginalized groups - immigrant and racialized women, Aboriginal women, and women with disabilities. This session will look at the ways we can create global, national and local partnerships to develop policies that will promote the health and safety of at risk women in cities.

### Co-facilitators:

- ▶ Prabha Khosla, Toronto Women's Call to Action / Women in Cities International, Canada
- ▶ Kimberly Walker, National Network on Environments and Women's Health (NNEWH), Canada

### Speakers:

- ▶ Swarna Weerasinghe, Centre for Clinical Research, Dalhousie University, Canada
- ▶ Karen Yoshida, Department of Physical Therapy, University of Toronto, Canada
- ▶ Linda Day, Aboriginal Women's Health and Healing Research Group (AWHHRG), University of British Columbia, Canada
- ▶ Fran Odette, Women with Disabilities and Deaf Women's Program, Education Wife Assault, Canada
- ▶ Kamlyn Ng-See-Quan, Action Canada for Population Development (ACPD), Canada
- ▶ Marisol Dalmazzo, AVP - Women and Habitat Network, Colombia