

Women's
SAFETY
Awards *2004:*

A COMPENDIUM
OF GOOD PRACTICES

FEMMES ET VILLES
INTERNATIONAL
MUJERES Y CIUDADES
WOMEN IN CITIES



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Women's Safety Awards 2004: A Compendium of Good Practices

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But most of all, we thank all the organizations that took the time and trouble to enter this competition, regardless of whether they received any award. Their participation and invaluable contributions helped make this first awards project a success and provides a strong platform upon which to build; we look forward to their future involvement and hope to attract many new entrants.

Encouraged by the overwhelming response to our first Women's Safety Awards, we are already making plans for an even broader, more dynamic competition for 2006.

The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the official policy of Status of Women Canada.

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Introduction

A neighbourhood group in Winnipeg that brought together local schools and prostitutes to talk about safer streets, a project training Inuit girls to create television programs in the remote North of Canada, an education centre in Kampala, Uganda which trains police, courts, local government, religious and health leaders on violence against women, and a group of Russian architects and planners who bring women together to make their housing and cities more secure, are among the 22 Canadian and international good practices gathered together through the first Women's Safety Awards 2004. This compendium of good practices presents the results of the awards by providing a detailed description of winning projects and an outline of all projects that were submitted for the Women's Safety Awards 2004.

● **A Safer City for Women, a Safer City for Everyone**

From the 1970s to the World March of Women in the year 2000, women's groups on all six continents have worked to highlight the phenomenon of violence against women - violence in their personal lives as well as in public spaces. Violence against women and girls and the various manifestations of inequality have a direct impact on how safe women feel. And feeling unsafe becomes in turn a fundamental obstacle to achieving gender equality. Insecurity curtails women's mobility and limits their capacity to participate fully and freely as citizens. Conversely, making cities and communities safer for women, makes it safer and more secure for everyone.

● **Exchanging Ideas: A Way Forward**

Women in Cities International / Femmes et villes international is an exchange network concerned with gender equality and the place of women in cities, which has focused its activities on improving women's safety. It recognizes that violence towards women, including their fear of crime, prevents their full participation in community life and it seeks to promote discussion and exchange that contribute to the advancement of knowledge and good practice in the field. The exchange of ideas and information on the prevention of violence against women is essential to the development of innovative and effective women's safety practices. The challenge is to find appropriate methods for collecting this information and the first Women's Safety Awards were launched in 2004 for this purpose.

● **The First International Seminar on Women's Safety**

The Women's Safety Awards 2004 was a direct result of the First International Seminar on Women and Safety, organized by Women and Cities International in Montreal, May 9-11, 2002. The aim of the Seminar was "Making the Links" among the various partners working in the field of women's safety. The 160 attendees from 33

countries included representatives of violence prevention organizations, local and state governments, and international agencies. The three-day seminar, a collaborative effort of various Canadian and international partners, discussed:

- Women's empowerment in the context of local crime prevention and community safety initiatives.
- Partnerships and political leadership for women and safe communities.
- Safety planning and the role of research and evaluation.

Making the Links achieved a number of important goals. It allowed national and international sharing of information and resources on the vital topic of making communities safer. It developed an infrastructure for continuing work, including the formation of the Women and Cities International network, a website with information on initiatives and the Montreal Declaration on Women's Safety¹. It generated enthusiasm for further national and international collaboration, and one outcome was the launching of a good practices competition on women's safety.

● **The Women's Safety Awards 2004**

The Women's Safety Awards 2004 aimed to elicit and disseminate information on initiatives related to women's safety and the improvement of their sense of safety. Women's groups, municipalities, youth organizations or any organization working on projects involving women's safety were eligible to apply by submitting an application specifically designed for these awards². Covering a wide range of approaches, entrants were invited to submit their applications in the following categories:

¹ The Proceedings of the First International Seminar on Women's Safety and the Montreal Declaration on Women's Safety can be found on the Women in Cities International website at www.femmesetvilles.org

² The application form is available on the Women in Cities International website at www.femmesetvilles.org

- Advocacy, networking and community mobilization.
- Capacity building and training.
- Educational programs and public awareness.
- Safety planning and design for public spaces.
- Municipal gender-based policies in crime prevention and community safety.

Although very diverse, women's safety initiatives commonly focus on prevention strategies and policies which aim to reduce violence and the risk of violence against women, including women's fear of crime, in public and private spaces. They accomplish this by creating safer environments (social, physical and institutional) for women and girls, by promoting their participation in community life, by pursuing partnerships between local community organizations and local governments and by involving the full diversity of women and girls in local decision-making processes. In fact, an international jury composed of experts in the field selected good practices in each category based on five major criteria:

- A relevant approach that demonstrated a good analysis of the problem(s) and appropriate interventions to tackle the problem(s).
- A local implementation strategy (whether at the neighbourhood, community, municipal, or regional level).
- Partnerships with local governments, police, schools, and other organizations.
- Diversity in terms of women's different cultures, needs and perspectives.
- Demonstration of efforts towards the empowerment and active participation of women.
- Clear, realistic objectives and outcomes, including tools that could be used elsewhere.

The awards were launched in November 2003 and 96 applications were received from 28 countries. From municipal governments to indigenous organizations, all six continents provided examples of innovative work, exciting projects, replicable products, and impressive evaluations. The Jury Panel reviewed the Canadian and international projects separately and selected 12 Canadian and 10 international initiatives as recipients for the Women's Safety Awards 2004.

The Canadian winners of the Women's Safety Awards 2004 were officially announced during the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference in Edmonton on May 28, 2004. Winners were presented with a commemorative certificate by Anne McLellan, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, during the 20th anniversary celebration of Changing Together: A Center for Immigrant Women. The International winners were officially announced during the Second International Seminar on Safer Cities for Women and Girls held in Bogotá, November 22-25, 2004.

The Canadian and international winners in each category are:

- **Advocacy, Networking and Community Mobilization**
 - The R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Project: Improving the Personal Security of Women and Girls in Rural, Northeastern Ontario
 - Freedom from Violence through Education
 - West End Women's Safety Project (WEWSP)
 - Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence
 - Making Safer Places
 - Defensa, Seguridad y Derechos de la mujer para la ciudadanía
- **Capacity-building and Training**
 - The Empowerment Project: A Train the Trainer Tool Kit for Delivering Self-Protection and Assertiveness Workshops to Women and Girls
 - City of Charlottetown Family Violence Prevention Program
 - What's Age Got To Do With It?
 - Empowerment of Women and Youth Towards a Gender Just Society
 - Survivors of Crime Trauma Room
- **Educational Programs and Public Awareness**
 - The WTN/IBC Girls TV Camp – Nunavut
 - Women and Violence: Education is Prevention
 - Project Respect
 - VIP (Violence Is Preventable) Project
 - Rape Prevention Implementation
 - Making Kadjebi District Gender Sensitive
- **Safety Planning and Design for Public Spaces**
 - Conscience urbaine
 - Kwa Makhutha Women's Safety Audit
- **Municipal Gender-Based Policies in Crime Prevention and Community Safety**
 - Cowichan Valley Safer Futures Program
 - Confrontation Management for Women at High Risk
 - Building a Safe City Together

This compendium provides a description of all Canadian (section 1) and international (section 2) winning projects. It also includes a summary of projects that were highlighted by jurors as good practices although they were not selected as winners (sections 3 and 4). Synopses of all initiatives submitted for these awards are also included (sections 5 and 6)³. By disseminating this information, Femmes et villes international seeks to promote existing initiatives and to build the capacity of other groups to develop projects.

³ All the safety awards entries are available in the Women in Cities International Directory at www.femmesetvilles.org

The purpose of this compendium is to promote mutual learning across Canada and around the world, and change policy by demonstrating projects that work to prevent violence against women.

● Learning from Good Practices

Given the diversity of the Canadian and international communities involved, and the complex nature of gendered violence, it is hardly surprising that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to the issue of violence against women. The good-practice projects focused on a number of related concerns, including:

- Violence in intimate relationships, primarily violence by male partners, although elder abuse, child abuse, and abuse in same-sex relationships were also tackled by some projects.
- Violence in casual or dating relationships, particularly focused on young women.
- Violence in public space.
- Violence against particularly vulnerable groups, such as street sex workers or new migrant women facing linguistic barriers to knowing their rights and seeking help.
- Violence against women compounded by racism, heterosexism, and the marginalization of indigenous people and people with disabilities.

Good projects came from across Canada: from Charlottetown to Salt Spring Island, from Winnipeg to Nunavut. They also came from around the world: from Bolivia, Russia, South Africa and India. Some projects were initiated by municipal governments and by police, others by independent organizations, both non-profit and for profit. The projects were based in a variety of settings, including:

- Neighbourhoods in the centre of large cities.
- Socially disadvantaged communities throughout large cities, including suburbs and squatter settlements.
- Smaller cities.
- Small towns, rural and isolated areas.

However, common themes emerged from all good practices. All projects:

- Involved some degree of partnership between local authorities (local government, education, health care, police), community organizations (women's groups, as well as groups serving aboriginal or indigenous people, visible minority, new migrant, or minority language people, people from LGBT Communities (lesbian, gay,

bisexual and transgendered), and people with disabilities), professional organizations (lawyers, doctors, religious leaders) and in some cases, businesses and/or academic researchers. Partnerships not only broadened the knowledge base of these projects, but the breadth, and level of community involvement in many cases also led to effective and sustainable programs.

- Combined, in terms of approaches, some degree of personal counselling and empowerment with public advocacy and education.
- Displayed a nuanced understanding of violence against women that acknowledged that the majority of violent acts are committed in 'private space' such as homes, but also understood that violence and insecurity limits women's involvement in the public realm.
- Displayed innovative approaches to the empowerment and active participation of women.

Many good practices also:

- Utilized a 'train the trainer' approach, to effectively utilize scarce monetary and human resources and ensure long term viability of the project.
- Developed safe spaces as a part of their community mobilization campaigns.
- Developed new materials on healthy relationships.
- Took a social marketing approach to violence prevention.
- Emphasized spiritual as well as physical and emotional healing.
- Displayed excellent evaluation mechanisms.

The Women's Safety Awards 2004 were the occasion for lively discussion, within both the steering committee and the jury, on what good practice in women's community safety actually means. Should applications that focus on safety in the public realm be favoured, or those that focus on safety in the private realm? Should initiatives that emphasize advocacy and public-policy work be valued more than direct service provision with an underserved group? Should initiatives that do intensive and effective work with a small, particularly marginalized group of women, be valued less than a broader but more diffuse approach? Should a very grassroots and impoverished organization be supported over a larger, better funded, and more mainstream organization? While choosing award-winning good practices was not easy, it was interesting to see how much consensus there was over what works, and how diverse these good practices really were.

Canadian Good Practices 1.

ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

■ Freedom from Violence through Education (Education for Equality Project, EEP)

*Working Women Community Centre /
Metropolitan Toronto Area, Ontario*

Immigrant women need to be informed about their rights and laws pertaining to wife assault and immigration, and they need to have access to ethno-specific materials. Leading highly isolated lives, they can be reached by working at community access points such as ethnic grocery stores, laundromats, hair salons, social clubs, schools, doctors' offices and places of worship.

In many immigrant communities violence against women and family violence are not discussed openly and are often hidden because of various cultural and religious beliefs. Immigrant women in particular are vulnerable to violence because they are isolated from the mainstream society, do not speak English and / or know how and where to access community resources. The Education for Equality Project

increase awareness of women's abuse indicators, and to create dialogue and strategies at access points in the community in accessing anti-violence services. Access points are identified as areas where people – primarily women (both youth and women that are immigrants or first / second generation Canadian) – congregate in immigrant communities and where information can be disseminated. The EEP focuses on access points in the community, and utilizes a capacity-building approach and model to outreach and anti-violence education.

Products:

The following tools have either been developed or are in the process of being developed:

- Multilingual flyers to recruit volunteers, translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Urdu, and Farsi.
- Referral booklet that provides information on women's rights in Canada and how to access anti-violence agencies, translated into Arabic, Farsi and Urdu.
- Facilitator's guide to be used by agencies, community members and volunteers working with immigrant women around the issue of violence against women.

Our Comments:

An imaginative multilingual and multicultural advocacy and community-networking model that uses local businesses to distribute information on woman abuse. Over 80 female volunteers, from South Asian, African, Chinese, Arabic-speaking, Spanish-speaking, Portuguese-speaking and Farsi-speaking backgrounds were trained to do outreach at a variety of access points (including hair salons, doctors' offices, and laundromats.) The evaluation is detailed and persuasive.

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(EEP) approaches cultural perceptions, beliefs, and attitudes about violence against women and family in a non-threatening, culturally sensitive and effective manner. EEP works directly with the immigrant community at access points, where it is hoped to dispel myths and notions about violence against women and family violence while at the same time make violence a visible topic in the community.

The goal of EEP is to work with local immigrant and emerging communities at community access points to



■ **The R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Project:
Improving the Personal Security of Women
and Girls in Rural, Northeastern Ontario**

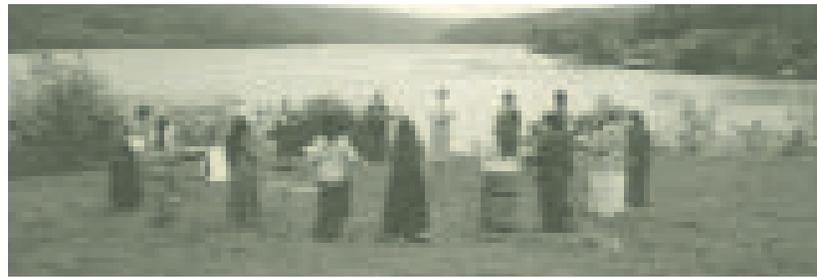
*Amelia Rising Sexual Assault Centre of Nipissing /
The District of Nipissing, Ontario*

This multifaceted project works with several partners on violence against women and girls in rural and remote northern communities, with a particular focus on Aboriginal women and girls who are Aboriginal, Francophone or have a developmental disability. Mother and daughter retreats are offered as well as educational sessions for young Aboriginal males and training for frontline workers.

The R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Project is an acronym for Resources, Education, Safety, Prevention, Empowerment, Community-Building and Training since these are the elements that will truly help to improve the personal security of women and girls in rural, northeastern Ontario. To coordinate the project, an Ojibway woman who speaks Ojibway and Odawa was hired. The focus of her activities in the past year was to develop and deliver a series of mother and daughter retreats, in a range of rural and remote locations, to strengthen women's self esteem, and family and community relations. The retreats include traditional teachings on women's strength and women's leadership, and they also involve project partners who bring legal and safety measures from a western European perspective.

The education and empowerment aspects of the project include sessions for young Aboriginal males (13-16), Aboriginal children (7-12), Aboriginal and Francophone girls (12-14) and women with developmental disabilities. They have explored topics relating to relationship and family violence under the auspices of the Seven Grandfather Teachings, or in French, or in simple language. Day long or shorter workshops (on addictions, sexual abuse awareness, safety and prevention) have also been delivered to primary school students for Bear Island Education Authority (Temagami First Nation), to clients and associates of the Métis Woodland Centre, to senior women of Temagami First Nation, and to secondary school students, teachers and educational assistants of Kashechewan First Nation on the James Bay coast. In that remote community, direct service to survivors was also provided as well as a workshop on vicarious traumatization for front-line health care workers, over the course of one week in February 2003.

Training has involved abuse awareness and response workshops for Healing Lodge staff and camp counsellors. Legal Information Workshops for Women Experiencing Violence were provided for 20 front-line anti-violence and anti-poverty agencies from across the northeast last November, in partnership with the Ontario Women's Justice Network and the Law Society of Ontario.



Products:

The R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Project is currently developing, or has developed over the course of the past year:

- Manual for mother and daughter retreats.
- Outline for a group for women with developmental disabilities.
- Outline for a short (4 week) group on self-esteem, grounding, and safety.
- Outline for a Francophone girls' group.
- Outlines for teen and children's groups on dating violence and the Seven Grandfather Teachings.
- Training outlines and materials for front-line professionals in responding to abuse survivors.

Our Comments:

A multifaceted community mobilization project with at-risk women and girls in small town, rural, and remote Northern Ontario. A great range of partnerships (Aboriginal, Métis, Francophone, police, women's agencies serving people with disabilities, community centres) are taking on a complex task in a co-coordinated manner. The RESPECT project was especially strong in the area of women's empowerment and participation: the mother-daughter retreats emphasize the central ethical and spiritual roles for Aboriginal women, while the legal information workshops included large print, simple language information in easy to photocopy form, along with speakers' notes to allow front-line agencies to deliver workshops. They have also documented their various public education and support group formats so that the work can be replicated elsewhere.

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■ West End Women's Safety Project (WEWSP)

Mount Carmel Clinic – Sage House /
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The goals of the project were to identify safety needs for street sex-trade workers and residents in the West End, connect women with community resources, and build bridges of trust between women who work in the sex-trade and those who do not. Results of the outreach included a decrease in sex-trade activity around schools and the arrest of a serial rapist due to more trusting relationships between police and sex-trade workers.

The West End Women's Safety Project (WEWSP) is an outreach project of Sage House, a drop-in centre for street-involved women. The purpose of the WEWSP is to increase safety for women and children who live and work in Winnipeg's West End. The goals of the project are to identify safety needs for street sex-trade workers and residents in the West End, connect women with community resources, and build bridges of trust and understanding between women who work in the sex-trade in the West End and those who do not.

Two part-time Outreach Workers work on this project in several capacities: doing street outreach to women working on the street and providing these women with condoms, resource cards, and referrals to community resources; working in partnership with two community organizations to offer drop-ins for sex-trade workers in the West End; acting as liaisons between sex-trade workers and community groups; advocating for actions by both groups that increase safety for all women and children in the West End; and helping to foster a trusting relationship between sex-trade workers and the Sex Crimes division and Morals Unit of the Winnipeg Police Services (WPS).

Products:

The Outreach Workers completed a safety survey with sex-trade workers and a community safety audit with the Wolseley Family Centre. The WEWSP Outreach Workers also developed resource cards and 'bad date' sheets to be distributed to parent councils, community groups, and sex-trade workers.

Our Comments:

A great model of community mobilization. The initiative has established wide-ranging partnerships: prostitutes' rights groups, Aboriginal, neighbourhood, women's services, schools, police, business groups. They are able to demonstrate concrete outcomes (catching a serial rapist, disseminating a bad tricks sheet, establishing a drop-in for sex-trade workers that provides a safe space in a very unsafe occupation), and some well thought out evaluation mechanisms. Their harm-reduction approach has led to positive outcomes for a particularly vulnerable group of women (street prostitutes) as well as to the general community.

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CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING

■ **The Empowerment Project: A Train the Trainer Toolkit for Delivering Self-Protection and Assertiveness Workshops to Women and Girls**

*Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, Inc. /
Fredericton, New Brunswick*

The project developed train-the-trainer modules that deal with the personal safety of women and girls from a broad approach to gender roles rather than focusing on self-defence. It has produced a binder and CD-ROM with multiple tools and handouts to allow facilitators to select those that are age and community appropriate. The toolkit has been made available to transition houses, sexual assault centres, women's centres and organizations working with women in conflict with the law across Canada.



This project researched, developed, piloted and presented modules to be used throughout Canada to train those who would facilitate training (train the trainer) sessions relating to the personal security of women and girls. While many programs exist, there was no national model in use and some programs do little more than provide physical training to ward off an attack by a stranger. The evidence is clear that it is men known to victims, perhaps even partners or friends, who usually assault women and girls. The model puts the focus on a broad approach that addresses gender roles, women's inequality in society, the importance of raising awareness, and skill development.

This toolkit was made available to transition houses, sexual assault centres, women's centres and organizations working with women in conflict with the law across Canada. These groups will work in their own communities towards the prevention of sexual assault. Because of the diverse nature of communities, there are multiple tools

and handouts to allow facilitators to select those that are age and community appropriate.

Products:

This initiative saw the development of a train-the-trainer toolkit used to train women working in sexual assault centres, transition houses, women's centres, and organizations working with women in conflict with the law (and such stakeholders). The finished product is a binder presented in either official language with a variety of tools available on a bilingual CD-ROM. To date, 400 binders – 300 English and 100 French, including CD-ROMs – have been created for distribution. In addition, 187 CD-ROMS were also created to distribute at The Empowerment Project launch held September 23, 2003. To date over 200 binders and 84 CD-ROMS have been disseminated across Canada.

Our Comments:

The objectives of this self-defence and assertiveness training kit are admirable: “to build self-esteem and self-worth; to educate women about the success of resistance; to help women to realize that they are worth fighting for.” The diverse and flexible tool kit is cleverly aimed at particularly vulnerable women in transition houses, sexual assault centres, women's centres, and organizations working with women in conflict with the law across Canada. It emphasizes physical self-defence only as a last resort, and instead emphasizes increasing awareness, encouraging assertiveness, and helping girls and young women recognize that they are worth the effort to defend themselves and resist violence. Excellent consultative partnerships with community agencies, police, violence prevention workers, groups working with seniors, Aboriginal, disabled, low literacy and multicultural members enabled the bilingual kit to be thoroughly tested and evaluated before distribution. The distribution strategy is well thought out.

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■ City of Charlottetown Family Violence Prevention Program

Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention and City of Charlottetown / Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

This initiative reflects the city's pledge to be a corporate leader in preventing family violence. At its heart lies an educational training and awareness program that incorporates a video and four presentation modules to help managers, supervisors and other municipal employees better understand their role and responsibilities. Customized modules have been developed for the specific needs of frontline service providers such as police.

Family violence is a community concern and from the community must come the power for change. This is the view of the Mayor and Council for the City of Charlottetown who in July 2001, following two tragic deaths of Island women at the hands of an intimate partner within a seven-month period, unanimously passed a resolution supporting the prevention of family violence. The resolution was then followed through with action whereby the Chief Administrator for the City of Charlottetown, along with the Manager of Human Resources, brought together a committee of municipal and provincial authorities, community leaders in women's safety and family violence experts, to develop and formulate a training program for all City employees. The City of Charlottetown pledged to become a corporate ambassador in the awareness, education, prevention, and intervention of family violence.

As the educational training and awareness campaign was being developed, simultaneously, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women was launching its annual Purple Ribbon Campaign to commemorate the Montreal Massacre and all deaths of women through violence. The City of Charlottetown saw this as an excellent opportunity to demonstrate their corporate commitment to family violence prevention, and decided to take action as a visual testament to their commitment. Through the corporation's leadership, a large purple ribbon nearly one meter high was designed, constructed, and firmly affixed on the Bell Tower of Charlottetown's City Hall where it proudly hangs as a symbol of the City's commitment to women's safety and family violence prevention, bringing awareness to residents and visitors alike.

The City of Charlottetown demonstrated true leadership by first ensuring that all elected officials were the first to participate in a training program before mandating the participation of all employees. This leadership set the tone for the capacity-building training initiative by publicly

committing the unanimous support of all elected officials, which was then followed by the development of a quality assurance mechanism to monitor police responsiveness to domestic violence.

Products:

At the heart of the City of Charlottetown Family Violence Prevention program lies an educational training and awareness program, ranging from one to three hours, which incorporates a video and four presentation modules that can be used individually or in combination, depending on the target audience. These modules are used to help managers, supervisors and other employees better understand their role and responsibilities in preventing family violence. Customized presentation modules were developed to raise awareness and address the specific needs of front-line service providers, such as police, fire and recreation services as well as school-crossing guards. A comprehensive information kit was designed and provided to each employee, including a small yellow referral card that holds the names and phone numbers of local authorities to help victims of family violence and which is now a permanent part of the uniform that is worn by many municipal workers.

Our Comments:

One of the purposes of the Women's Safety Awards has been to publicize good practices within municipal governments relating both to women's safety and more generally to gender equality. This program is an example of an excellent municipal initiative, which takes on family violence prevention as a social marketing issue. Their strategies are easily replicable by other local governments.

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■ What's Age Got to Do With It?

B.C./Yukon Society of Transition Houses /
Province of British Columbia and Yukon Territory

This initiative responding to the needs of older women victims of family violence has developed innovative tools such as a training curriculum for service providers, a booklet for older women that identifies abuse issues and available community services, and a video and study guide to raise awareness. It aims to develop an alternative model of refuge to women's shelters, such as shelter in private homes.

In Canada, as in virtually all countries, older women are victims of inequality, and often of poverty and of violence and abuse. While one in four women may experience spousal violence, older women are also at risk of violence and abuse from their adult children and grandchildren. However, there is little recognition in the anti-violence movement that gender-based violence does not end at about age 50. Older women need many of the same services and supports as their younger sisters. Older women's difficulties may be complicated by aging and health problems. Abused women who identify as First Nations, immigrant or refugee, have disabilities, or are lesbian or bisexual women, have special needs for understanding and support.

This initiative involves two components. First, tools are developed to raise awareness of issues and barriers facing abused older women. A specialized training curriculum was created for women's-services and victim-services workers with information and skills to respond appropriately and sensitively to the needs and issues faced by older women who have experienced abuse or violence by a family member. This has been successfully pilot tested in four communities. A pamphlet on recognizing the signs of abuse, what professionals, and other service providers can do to help was produced and widely distributed. A booklet for older women was developed with the help of an older women's group identifying abuse issues and available community services. A video and study guide was produced to raise awareness of violence and abuse of older women and barriers they face if they leave their abuser. It is currently being viewed widely.

Second, an alternative model of refuge to women's shelters for older women seeking safety and support when leaving abusive situations was developed. Emergency shelter for older abused women is being pilot tested in the B.C. communities of Creston, Penticton, Victoria, and Whitehorse. Shelter is provided in private homes in conjunction with the local women's shelter. The shelter provides a specially trained staff member to support and

assist older women while housing her in a volunteer private home in a confidential location. Each site has a specially trained worker, volunteer homes that are now actively sheltering older abused women. Women aged 51 through 80 have been served to date.

Products:

- Video and Study Guide.
- Booklet offering abused older women hope, information and sources of support.
- Pamphlet for professionals who serve older women, on 'how to' see indicators of possible abuse, offer to discuss it, make information available, and refer a woman who discloses.
- Training curriculum for service providers.
- Safe homes model of refuge and support for older women.
- Tips and tools for outreach to older abused women in communities with appropriate shelters.

Our Comments:

This initiative responds to the particular needs and concerns of women over 50, who may be facing spousal violence or abuse from children or grandchildren. Older women's difficulties can often be compounded by poverty and health problems. The project arises from a comprehensive consultation with older women in British Columbia and the Yukon, including organizations serving immigrants, First Nations, disabled, and lesbian older women. The Safe Homes emergency shelter concept is a particularly innovative approach to providing safe space in smaller communities that may not be able to provide a full shelter service. The video and study guide, as well as the safe homes emergency shelter concept, are transportable across Canada.

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

■ Project Respect

Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre /
Victoria, British Columbia

This program for youth aged 14 to 19 aims to stop sexual violence, particularly acquaintance assault, and to provide tools to communicate sexual limits and have healthy relationships. The message is spread through an interactive workshop, a website, a social marketing campaign, a video package with teaching guide, a volunteer youth group, and various community events.

Project Respect is a prevention program for youth aged 14 to 19 that aims to stop sexual violence, particularly acquaintance assault. "Date Rape", as it is commonly referred to, is a serious risk for youth, especially young women. It has six core program components: an interactive workshop for youth, a website, a social marketing campaign, a "Respect Revolution" video package with teaching guide, a volunteer youth group (our "Respect'rs"), and various community events to spread the message.

Products:

- An award-winning prevention video with discussion guide.
- Pamphlets "Whose Scripts Are You Reading?" and "Can You Talk About Sex?"
- Website club-card.
- Educational workshop, including original interactive games and role-play skits.
- Respect Packs, including help-line contact card, website sticker, and key message sticker.
- Bus ads.
- Information display.
- Website (www.yesmeansyes.com).
- Annual youth volunteer training and action program.
- Key messages.
- Sexual Rights and Freedoms Affirmations list.
- Annual YoFest youth culture festival and HipHop V-Day music event.

Our Comments:

Although similar to the Education is Prevention Program in its target audience (young teens) and issue (early prevention of relationship violence), this initiative has a very different multifaceted approach. There is an award-winning video, an eight-week training program for youth volunteers, a website, community events, and social marketing elements (such as stickers, T-shirts, bus ads, radio PSAs). The project focused on marginalized youth, such as Aboriginals, minority sexual identity (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered), and youth in alternative programs. The programs can therefore be seen as complementary, each excellent in its own right.

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Project Respect challenges the attitudes and behaviours that lead to sexualized violence: gender stereotypes, labels (such as "slut", "fag", and "player"), miscommunication, drugs and alcohol, media pressure and power imbalance. Using key messages developed with youth, such as "Only yes means yes" and "Hear and be clear", Project Respect provides positive solutions as well as real skills that youth can use now to help prevent sexualized violence. The messages encourage youth to break the silence that allows sexual assault to happen.

Centered on the theme of "Respect", this program aims to give youth tools to communicate their sexual limits and have safe, healthy relationships. It empowers youth with the right to sexuality without violence.



■ **Women and Violence: Education is Prevention**

SWOVA (Saltspring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse) Community Development and Research Society / Southern Gulf Islands, British Columbia

This school-district-wide project is a national demonstration project based on the premise that most violence against women and girls occurs in intimate relationships, is a behaviour learned early and is best dealt with through prevention. Trained adult and youth facilitators bring skill-building workshops into Grades 7, 8, 9 and 11 on topics such as healthy communication and boundaries, media literacy, racism, sexism, homophobia and conflict resolution.

This community-school violence prevention initiative is a partnership project between Saltspring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse, Community Development and Research Society (SWOVA for short) and School District #64, located in the southern Gulf Islands, British Columbia. The Developing Healthy and Respectful Relationships workshops are part of a five-year violence prevention project. It is a national demonstration project, funded primarily by the Investment Fund of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS).

In the project, trained adult facilitators bring educational and skill-building workshops into school classrooms for grades 7, 8, 9 and 11 students. Each student participating in the project receives 12 interactive workshops on developing healthy and respectful relationships. It also developed a Youth Team comprised of high school students who are trained and mentored to co-facilitate workshops for their peers and younger students. These peer educators work alongside the adult facilitators, bringing their insider knowledge of youth culture and their ability to model key anti-violence attitudes, values and skills into the classroom.

The project is based on the premise that violence and abuse in interpersonal and intimate relationships is learned in childhood and adolescence, and that the most effective way to address that violence is through specific prevention activities aimed at the development of positive relationship skills. By engaging teens and pre-teens in a lively, interactive educational process using a Popular Education model, the facilitators engage the students in a variety of discussions and activities including healthy communication and boundaries, media literacy, racism, sexism, homophobia and conflict resolution. Through workshops that combine personal growth, anti-violence attitude formation and healthy relationship skill-building, it is believed that the program can reduce the incidence of interpersonal and relationship violence – both during school years and in adult life.

The workshops focus on positive relationship development with peers and dating partners. SWOVA believes that the curriculum that has been developed through the project has the potential to reduce the rate at which interpersonal and relationship violence occurs the Gulf Island communities, and on a broader scale, by assisting all youth in learning the skills necessary to establish and maintain healthy and respectful relationships.



Products:

A book entitled *Freedom from Fear: The How-to Guide on Violence Prevention*, Inspired by Teens for Teens was published. A student workbook was also created for each grade level to accompany the workshops. In addition, there is a companion guide for facilitators.

Our Comments:

A terrific school-based intervention model from rural British Columbia, which is already being replicated across Canada. There are good partnerships with school staff, high school students, the local RCMP (police) detachment, and parents. The evaluation process is excellent: demonstrating increased empathy and peaceful problem solving skills, and improved attitudes on coercive sexual behaviour, as compared with a matched school that did not undertake the program. It is a fairly intensive education process with a general population focus, but that is part of its innovation.

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■ The WTN/IBC Girls TV Camp - Nunavut *Inuit Broadcasting Corporation / Iqaluit, Nunavut*

Fifteen marginalized Inuit girls and young women aged 11 to 18 attend a two-week camp where they use video and television to explore their roles in society, pride in their culture, racism and their portrayal in mainstream media, the effects of choices, and especially the effects of factors such as abuse. The underlying premise is that helping young women to change their opinions of themselves would be the way to first impact the multi-generational effects of abuse.



This project offered a two-week camp and on-going club in Iqaluit, Nunavut aimed at underserved marginalized girls and young women aged 11 - 18 years. The program used the medium of video and television to allow the participants to explore critical self-development issues in a safe and female-mentored environment. The regionally reflective program focused on developing the participants' self-esteem, self-awareness and understanding of themselves as Inuit women in their communities and the global world. Important program elements were as follows:

Circle - Each day began and ended with a welcome/goodbye circle where each young woman and counsellor was invited to introduce herself and make a statement on anything she wished. This relatively simple element proved to be one of the most monumental tasks for 90% of the girls. For the first four days, most girls sat in the circle with their knees drawn to their chests, hoodies over their heads and whispering their names. By the fifth day, following our intense self-esteem/awareness “playshops,” the young women were saying their names with pride and even making the occasional statement. By the second week this activity became an anticipated event and as

counsellors were often reminded if they forgot even one element of the routine.

Journaling - The young woman were provided with a journal and encouraged to consider their answer to a new question each day. These questions focused their minds on their own attitudes about themselves as women and Inuit. Their answers could be shared with the group or kept private as needed. This proved to be a very important component for the young women working through trauma.

Playshops - The playshops facilitated were:

- Self-esteem.
- Greenlandic Maskdancing Self Awareness (becoming someone or something anonymous to explore self).
- Women’s Portrayal in The Media – both on a global scale and in Inuit society.
- Using the tool of video for self-expression.

The playshops were developed to create an:

- Environment of trust with themselves and others in the group.
- Opportunity for self-exploration of attitudes, environmentally induced perceptions and nurturing independent adjustment to dangerous perceptions of an Inuk woman’s role and worth in society.
- Opportunity for self-expression of experiences and attitudes to abuse, suicide.
- Opportunity for reverse gender and cultural role-playing to further explore perceptions and attitudes.
- Opportunity for positive mentoring and shared experiences with the counsellor role models.

The Self-esteem, Women’s Portrayal in the Media, and the Greenlandic Maskdancing Self Awareness playshops had the most impact. These playshops, a wonderful term coined by the Self-esteem and Greenlandic Maskdancing facilitators, Beth and Lakkaluk Williamson, opened the young women’s eyes to the world around them and their place in this world. The Maskdancing in particular, provided 4 days into the program, allowed the young women to become “anonymous” and be whomever they wanted to be - male, female, young, old, an animal or a scary monster. The impact on their demeanour was tangible. Young women who could barely say their names up until this point became gregarious and downright outgoing. The program experienced a massive shift at this point and it continued for the next six days in an environment of trust, comfort and confidence. The video tool playshops were delivered in small increments each day with the young women taking turns in the different roles required to make their own videos. The women’s

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Portrayal in the Media playshop gave the young women a new view on the images and messages that shape their perceptions as women. The use of sex to sell, stereotypes and culture were explored.

Products:

The tool developed is a model for working with marginalized and underserved young women, their role models and counsellors in remote communities. The challenges and lessons learned are directives for the Women's Television Network girls' programs to be delivered in these areas and to these demographics.

Our Comments:

An extremely innovative project for extremely at-risk girls living in a remote area, who are marginalized and disempowered. The partnerships, between television producers and respected Inuit elders, provided opportunities for young women to explore 'Follow Your

Dreams' possibilities. The outcomes included wide local media coverage on issues of violence against young women, and a great deal of enthusiasm from all partners to replicate this program with other groups.

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SAFETY PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR PUBLIC SPACES

■ **Conscience urbaine** (*Urban Conscience*)

L'Écho des femmes de la Petite Patrie / Montréal, Québec

Putting her art at the service of a social cause, photographer Fanie St-Michel came up with the concept of using black and white photos of nighttime cityscapes to draw attention to the problem of public places where women feel unsafe. A publicity campaign raises awareness of urban design elements that make for unsafe public spaces and encourage women to report such existing places to authorities.

The *Conscience urbaine* project sets out to highlight public spaces in Montreal that are unsafe for women. Fanie St-Michel, a young activist photographer, wanted to use her black-and-white photos to prompt women to point out these potentially dangerous places to city officials.

Conscience urbaine reflects the major concern many Montreal women have with safety in various public spaces and is part of an effort to promote socially engaged art through the use of documentary images. As in any large-scale public-awareness campaign, the project comprises several stages and strategies to reach its intended audience. The first phase mainly involved the installation of photographic banners at the targeted sites so as to make passersby conscious of the surrounding urban environment. Each poster is a documentary witness of the site at night and resembles an advertisement, promoting not a product but a new, socially engaged, way of seeing and experiencing the urban environment.

Passersby can learn from each installation what criteria are used to judge the safety of the site and to identify what element it lacks to be a truly safe place. "The criteria for safe planning address the social dimension of public

awareness and prevention strategies and consist of promoting the participation of organizations, institutions and citizens in the decisions concerning public spaces." (Pour un environnement urbain sécuritaire, urban planning guide published by the City of Montreal's Femmes et ville.)

Products:

- 10' X 12' giant posters and 4' X 8' banners hung in targeted areas in the city of Montréal.
- 3000 postcards with pictures accompanied by the criteria for safety planning.

Our Comments:

A public education through art project that creatively utilizes neighbourhood services and local groups to get out the message about women, planning and urban safety. Posters and banners illustrated unsafe spaces in the neighbourhood and how they could be improved, along with information on women's safety audits and other mechanisms for getting action on improved public spaces. An innovative approach to public education and empowerment.

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MUNICIPAL GENDER-BASED POLICIES IN CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

■ **Confrontation Management for Women at High Risk**

Vancouver Police Department / Vancouver, British Columbia

A two-day train-the-trainers course teaches survival sex workers (SSWs) how to be safe from violent clients/ sexual predators. It aims to build a bridge between SSWs and the police so that they can work together toward the removal of sexual predators. Police officers are sensitized as to the priority of getting immediate medical help to SSW victims of violent sexual assaults, obtaining suspect DNA, and providing support in terms of shelter and advocacy services.

The sex workers in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside can be properly described as being Survival Sex Workers (SSW) who are drug addicted and/or engaged in prostitution to create a basic income. SSWs do not report violent assaults beyond getting immediate police/medical aid and generally will not co-operate with the follow-up investigators assigned to the case. Predators know this and victimize SSWs on regular basis.

DNA analysis and VICLAS (an investigative tool that profiles common patterns of behaviour by criminals) revealed that predators who were sexually assaulting SSWs were also sexually assaulting non-SSW women in other locations in and around Vancouver. The non-SSW victims were more likely to report the incident to police, co-operate in the investigation and physical evidence (DNA) would be acquired. The police - by linking two or more offences and properly investigating SSW sexual assaults in the Downtown Eastside and in turn acquiring DNA evidence - were more likely to identify, arrest and charge serial sexual predators, some of whom had no previous criminal history. The Vancouver Police Department developed three successive initiatives in response to this situation. Starting in 2002, a representative from Prostitution Alternatives, Counselling and Education (PACE) provided sensitivity training to police recruits as part of their basic training. Parade briefings were implemented in 2002 and 2003 to line uniformed officers in the Downtown Eastside, stressing the need to enlist the co-operation of the victimized SSWs and to do complete investigations if for no other reason than to acquire a DNA sample link a predator to other sexual offences. In late 2003, a two-day train-the-trainers course called Confrontation Management for Women at High Risk was developed, funded and implemented by the police with the assistance of PACE and Women's Information Safe House. The intent was to teach SSWs to

prevent, defuse, disengage, and defend themselves along safe, effective and legally acceptable guidelines and have them pass this training to other SSWs. Eleven SSWs participated in the first course. There was a request for some 30 additional candidates to be trained in 2004. The program is in the evaluative stage but appears to be the only one in existence anywhere where the focus of the police is how to make SSWs safer on the street.

Products:

A training program with standards has been developed.

Our Comments:

A partnership between police and street sex workers that is innovative and replicable. The use of a train-the-trainer model ensures that information about safety, referrals, and refuge is disseminated effectively among a particularly at-risk group. The project works to create a cultural shift by both groups to common ground where the need of both to identify sexual predators and get them off the street is met. Over 30 SSW candidates have requested the short course, and materials are available for distribution through the Vancouver Police Department.

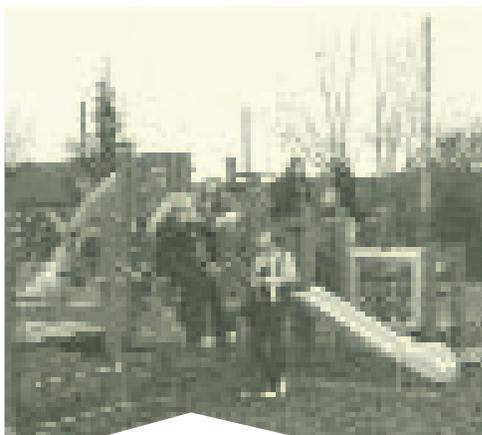
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■ Cowichan Valley Safer Futures Program

Cowichan Women Against Violence Society / Cowichan Valley, British Columbia

This community development and research program focuses on creating social, physical and institutional environments in small, rural and/or isolated communities that promote women's personal safety and participation in community life. It does safety audits, develops policies with local governments, and provides educational workshops for citizens, planners, developers, and architects.



Safer Futures is a community development and research program of Cowichan Women Against Violence Society. They have been working since 1996 to research issues of personal security for women, children and other marginalized groups in their communities, and to work at the community level to develop and implement solutions. In

its broadest sense, the purpose of the Safer Futures program is to:

- Create and maintain community environments that promote safety of women and children in public places, in work places and in their homes.
- Work to improve existing community environments to make them safer.
- Develop long term planning policies and processes that will foster safer community environments over the long term.
- Increase awareness, encourage participation and mobilize the community at all levels about the issues and ways in which communities can work together to foster changes.

Through a variety of projects and initiatives over the past seven years, their work in communities of the Cowichan Valley Regional District and throughout British Columbia has included:

- Numerous community and site safety audits to assess personal security issues and define solutions.
- Development of policies and guidelines with local governments (Official Community Plans, Development Guidelines, Zoning by-laws).
- Development of tools and resources.
- Education and training through workshops and seminars for citizens; professional groups such as

planners, developers, and architects; community organizations and local governments on Planning for Safer Communities – both locally and provincially.

- Consulting for design and management of public spaces.
- Conducting specialized research and development initiatives for community safety.
- Sharing information through local, provincial, national and international networking.

Products:

Over the course of seven years, they have developed and produced a number of tools that are in use, locally and provincially, and beyond. These include:

- Cowichan Valley Safety Audit Guide.
- Safer Spaces, Safer Communities Video.
- Planning for Safer Communities: a guide for planners.
- A Guide / Checklist for Advisory Planning Commissions in the CVRD.
- Development and Planning Checklist for Local Governments.
- Women and Community Safety: a resource book on planning for safer communities.
- A series of six fact sheets on Women and Community Safety.
- A well-used web site at www.saferfutures.org

Our Comments:

Safer Futures focuses on the needs of women in small, rural and/or isolated communities, where geographical isolation, lack of services, and sheer distances to work, recreation, and services, can exacerbate issues related to violence in relationships, workplaces, and public violence. The partnerships established with local governments, women-serving and other community organizations, the health sector, schools and police have led to concrete improvements in particular places (e.g., local bus stations, parks) as well as policy changes. Their videos, safety audit and planning for safer communities guides, and fact sheets have been in demand across Canada.

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2. *International Good Practices*

ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

■ Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence

Raising Voices / Kampala, Uganda

An innovative approach to the prevention of domestic violence has been pioneered in a densely populated slum community. The initiative works with a broad cross-section of community members, including women and men at the grassroots, local institutions such as the police, social and health care services, media outlets, religious communities and local governments. The approach is documented in *Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence: A Resource Guide for Organizations in East and Southern Africa*.

Raising Voices developed a new, innovative approach to domestic violence prevention that aims to facilitate individual and social change in communities. The approach, documented in *Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence: A Resource Guide for Organizations in East and Southern Africa*, is the first of its kind in the region. This publication sheds new light on designing and implementing a participatory project to prevent domestic violence. The Resource Guide describes a conceptual framework and provides extensive strategy and activity suggestions for organizations interested in working systematically to prevent domestic violence.

Over the past three years in Uganda, Raising Voices and the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention have pioneered this approach to violence prevention in a densely populated slum community north of Kampala. The initiative works with a broad cross-section of community members, including women and men at the grassroots, local institutions such as the police, social and health care services, media outlets, religious communities and local governments, with an aim to developing and inspiring creative, locally appropriate ways of challenging and changing the attitudes and practices that perpetuate domestic violence.

Key outcomes include:

- Domestic violence is now a public issue.
- Improved social, health and legal services that respond to domestic violence seriously.
- Over 100 community activists who lead all activities.
- Development of new by-laws and policies within local structures to deal with domestic violence.
- Establishment of a Learning Center where other NGOs can learn about the approach.
- Use of the Resource Guide by organizations throughout the region.

Products:

- Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence: A Resource Guide for Organizations in the Horn, East and Southern Africa.
- Rethinking Domestic Violence: A Training Process for Activists.
- Thinking Aloud, a booklet on domestic violence and women's rights.



Our Comments:

A well-documented, well-organized and innovative community-based approach to domestic violence. 'Raising Voices' works with police, courts, local government, religious leaders (both Muslim and Christian), health care providers and media to provide learning materials, training, advocacy, public education and community development. Their consultation and evaluation processes are impeccable. They actively involve men while women take a leadership role. Their documentation is faultless, and they are actively disseminating their model through a Learning Centre.

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■ **Defensa, Seguridad y Derechos de la mujer para la ciudadanía** (*Defence, Security and Women's Rights to Citizenship*)

Municipalidad de Sicasca (La Paz) / Santiago Sorasora, Municipalidad de Sicasca, Bolivia

This initiative is the fruit of work done by activist Clotilde Marquez Cruz, who has fought for the recognition of indigenous women as full-fledged citizens with civil and human rights. It involved organizing a women's community network, Centros de Mujeres Candelaria, to educate and mobilize against discrimination and violence and to build skills so women could take their rightful place at different levels of decision-making.

The indigenous or rural population of Bolivia has a long history of being treated as servants or slaves, with no rights whatsoever. Education was not available to them; education for the indigenous population of rural areas was initiated in 1960 and still excluded women. In the 1970s, women started attending school but under many social and cultural restrictions, and it is only in the 1980s that NGOs started training women in some manual activities.

Since around 1995, the Bolivian state has been promoting laws ensuring women's participation at different levels of decision-making; for example, political parties are required to recruit women as at least 30% of their staff, as senators, deputies and municipal councillors. Unfortunately, women gain access to these responsibilities without any political education or training; they are not trained in leading the population and still have difficulties in decision-making. As a result of this lack of education and training, Bolivian women often suffer humiliation, discrimination and social exclusion, as well as family violence. Lack of awareness of legal protections mean that many Bolivian women are unable to defend themselves from family violence.

At the centre of this initiative is Clotilde Marquez Cruz, an activist who worked to mobilize communities for the defence of Aymara indigenous women, in order to organize and educate the population so that women might obtain citizenship with equal gender and human rights. The activities include the organization, education, mobilization and defence of women, through the organization of a women's community network, Centros de Mujeres Candelaria.

The results of this initiative are numerous: women now know the laws in force; women are supported by organized centers; education and sensitization is ongoing;

women's participation is increasingly visible; and women are now more able to defend their views in political assemblies.

Products:

- Survey guides
- Feedback materials on women's safety

Our Comments:

A project working with indigenous and farming communities, providing women with information on legal rights, domestic violence and citizenship, improving literacy, and empowering women who are involved in local government. Despite its connection with local government, this is a classic grassroots initiative, effectively aimed at improving particularly disadvantaged women's participation at the community and municipal level, especially around the area of safety from violence.



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CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING

■ Empowerment of Women and Youth towards a Gender Just Society

EKTA / Madurai Corporation, Tamil Nadu, South India

EKTA is a training and resource centre established in 1990 to work with NGDO women staff, poor women and students, for women's empowerment and awareness-raising of men. In its initial capacity building phase, it focused on educational workshops on topics such as health, economy, legal system and politics, later adding skill-building training in documentation, communication and management. EKTA now also does advocacy lobbying.

EKTA is a training resource centre established in 1990. It aims to build a gender-just society, with sustainable development, decentralized democracy and protection and promotion of human rights. EKTA works with women staff of NGOs, rural-urban poor women, students from schools and colleges. It is a space for women to come together, share, facilitate mutual learning and strengthen support and solidarity among women. In the initial capacity building phase, the focus was on perspective building on various thematic topics like women and health, women and economy, women and law and women and politics.

Later, this focus was strengthened with the inclusion of skill-building trainings like documentation, communication, and management. Gradually, these experiences have become a base for advocacy lobbying on different issues pertaining to women's rights. EKTA envisions a 'Gender Equal Society' through women's empowerment along with sensitized men.

The outcomes of the multipronged strategies adopted by EKTA are:

- Women leadership at the grassroots level and within NGOs has been promoted and strengthened.
- Formation of self-help groups has been systematized, helping consolidate them at micro and macro levels.
- Campaigns have promoted an end to violence against women and for gender justice.
- Linkages within NGOs and networks for experiential sharing and collective action have emerged.
- Advocacy and lobbying initiatives for policy changes have been initiated to further the cause of women.
- Access to information on various developmental issues has been enhanced.



Products:

- Focus-group discussion guidelines.
- Case studies.
- Social audit and gender audit.
- Life education program for students.
- SWOT analysis.

Our Comments:

This is a regional set of resources (leadership development, self-help, advocacy, public education) provided by a women's centre in conjunction with community organizations in rural and urban areas. It is supported by local students, female politicians, and international donors. They successfully provide a range of safety-promoting services in an impoverished region, including public education on violence against women, gender mainstreaming of issues at the local government level, and individual counselling.

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■ Survivors of Crime Trauma Room

Survivors of Crime / Cape Town, South Africa

Cape Town, with a high murder rate and an enormous crime and domestic abuse problem, set up a service to assist rape victims that grew into a counselling service for all victims of crime. Survivors of Crime counsellors are volunteers trained by the world-renowned Trauma Centre for Torture and Violence. They debrief survivors, empower them through knowledge of the possible symptoms of post-traumatic stress and help them and their families re-establish a sense of safety.

Cape Town has a high murder rate and an enormous crime and domestic abuse problem. It was decided in 1998 to allocate a room in the police station to offer comfort to rape victims and to take statements. A counselling service developed from that initiative and Survivors of Crime was inaugurated in January 1999. That service has grown to include counselling of every crime survivor free of charge irrespective of geographical area or severity of crime. Counsellors telephone all survivors of crime using dockets from the police force, offering them the service. 99% of people called are overwhelmed by the offer and come in for support. The counsellors are volunteers from the community and they are trained and supported by the world-renowned Trauma Centre for Torture and Violence. Counsellors debrief survivors, empower them through knowledge as to what possible symptoms of post traumatic stress response they might experience and they work with survivors to establish a sense of safety for the client. As the counsellors are not psychologists, clients are seen a maximum of three times and then referred to professionals. As the service is so comprehensive, many clients only require one session to feel a great sense of relief in realizing that what they are experiencing is both normal and appropriate in terms of their emotional healing. Families are also counselled when required and survivor groups run periodically. Survivors of Crime also sends counsellors to counsel crime-related patients at the local hospital's Emergency Room (the largest hospital in Africa). The nursing staff are also regularly debriefed. Outreach work also involves speaking to schoolchildren about preventing crime in shopping malls and in other situations. A book entitled *Surviving Crime* has been written to provide case studies of how crime affects people emotionally. It has a self-help journal-type chapter where readers can plot their own emotional recovery. The book, accessible, positive and practical, is sold at

Survivors of Crime and part-proceeds are given to the unit. The Western Cape Government is planning to purchase books for all comfort rooms in the province. Education is also being done with the police force on how crime survivors feel directly after a crime as many policemen unwittingly re-traumatize crime survivors.

Products:

- Comfort packs of underwear, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, sanitary pads, tissues, etc. for rape or other sexually abused survivors.
- Video about the trauma unit (included in the pack) sponsored by Rotary International.
- *Surviving Crime* book, with part-proceeds of sales returned to unit.
- Brochure on possible symptoms of PTSD, given to clients as useful information for partners, families and employers.
- Gift packs for children who are counselled or accompany their parents, containing toys, colouring books, crayons, sweets and made up by local schools. There are packs for children aged 3-5 and for ages 5-9.

Our Comments:

A trauma unit located in a police station, offering a range of brief therapy counselling services to crime survivors, the majority of who are women. An innovative volunteer based model, which has developed a video and other training materials for dissemination.

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

■ VIP (Violence is Preventable) Project

Eighteen and Under / Dundee, Scotland

A range of materials and resources has been developed for use with children, young people and adults to prevent abuse, increase personal safety, challenge attitudes that lead to violence, explore the roots of violence and challenge sexism, racism and homophobia. The initiative was undertaken after Eighteen and Under found that no primary preventative work was being done in Scotland and decided to start at the beginning with resources aimed at very young children.

The VIP Project is a range of materials and resources which have been developed for use with children, young people and adults. The materials consist of books, games, video, activities, workbooks and worksheets aimed at all ages of people and suitable for differently abled people. The main aims of the resources are to prevent abuse, increase personal safety, challenge attitudes that lead to violence, explore the roots of violence and challenge sexism, racism and homophobia. The resources cover issues such as violence against women and children, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, assertiveness, power and abuse of power, gender issues, relationships, abuse, rights of young people, feelings, personal boundaries, etc.

The Project aims to train teachers and youth leaders to use the materials effectively with children and young people in schools and the community. Through this, the teachers could deliver a comprehensive program of personal safety to all ages and challenge attitudes and behaviour that leads to violence and abuse.

Eighteen and Under would hope that outcomes include: young survivors of abuse disclosing the abuse sooner and getting help earlier; a decrease in the numbers of children who get abused; young women realising that they have rights; young women becoming more assertive about claiming those rights; young women not accepting abusive behaviour towards them; young men realising that equality and respect apply to females too; a decrease in domestic and sexual abuse, better awareness and a change in attitudes about all forms of violence.

Products:

There is now a wide range of materials and resources available for use in the classroom or individually to tackle inequality, violence and abuse. Further resources for use with young people and adults in the community are still being developed. Eighteen and Under will be developing a program aimed at raising awareness in the community which will assist women in local communities to become directly involved in the VIP Project as volunteers. Eighteen and Under is also looking at the idea of developing a toolkit to identify young people most at risk of abuse at an earlier age.



Our Comments:

Educational materials (books, games, video activities) for all ages on preventing woman abuse have been developed by this youth-based group. There are good partnerships with police, social work, public health, and schools, an excellent consideration of diversity within the population, and a commitment to peer education. The evaluation of the products suggests that they would be useful in other settings.

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■ Rape Prevention Implementation

*Return to Roots Foundation /
Johannesburg, South Africa*

A copyrighted training module helps women fend off rape in a country where there are on average one million rapes of women and children a year but only 350 convictions. The courses are offered at schools and in poor rural and urban areas such as squatter camps. They are also offered to companies, which pay for their staff to attend and underwrite training in the poor areas through a Corporate Social Responsibility donation.

Return to Roots Foundation has developed a training module, which empowers women to be able to pre-empt an attack. The training has been based on the knowledge gained from the ongoing counselling of rape victims. Currently, an average of one million women and children are raped each year in South Africa and there are only about 350 convictions each year. No woman or child is safe and this course empowers women to be able to deflect and protect. The module is designed for companies to pay for their staff to attend, but also to have raised funding through CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) to conduct the courses in rural and peri-urban areas. The mindset of participants is challenged and a greater sense of self-confidence is instilled. There are a 180 NGOs working on trauma counselling, but nothing is being offered in terms of prevention. The laws in the country currently do not protect or defend women, and this course encourages people to take an active stand, not become a victim. Return to Roots Foundation also provides an effective weapon, i.e. a mace spray that is used for a greater sense of empowerment. They offer trauma counselling to people who cannot afford it.

Products:

A manual has been developed which provides valuable information on how to avoid attacks and on how to respond during attack. Nation wide, women are being provided with a mace spray evaluated to be the best to use during this form of attack.



Our Comments:

The project responds to a tremendous need for train-the-trainer public education on sexual assault prevention, where rape is often a death sentence because of high levels of violence and the risk of sexually transmitted disease. The courses are run for women and men, at workplaces, in schools, and at urban and rural squatter camps. Women are educated in awareness, assertiveness, and the right to say No, while men and boys are taught to respect women and teach their sons the same.

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■ **Making Kadjebi District Gender Sensitive**
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs / Kadjebi District, Volta Region, Ghana

To counter the human rights violations that keep women and children slaves in their own homes in remote areas, the district's Assembly embarked on a series of activities to raise awareness of women's constitutional rights and to empower them economically. Among its specific goals is increasing women's access to credit and raising the number of women Assembly members.

Male domination, which is assumed to be the norm, is a significant barrier to gender equality in Ghana. The most extreme form of it can be experienced in remote areas like Kadjebi District where illiteracy is very high, there is a lack of communication facilities, where only few people can afford to buy a television, etc. The need for the intervention came as a result of many human-rights abuses, especially the abuse of women and children's rights to the extent that women and their children were slaves in their own homes. The Kadjebi District Assembly embarked on activities to ensure that women enjoy their constitutional rights and also know their responsibilities, within the framework of the Ministry of women and Children's Affairs. These activities include:

- Awareness creation programs at social gatherings.
- Women's economic forums to resource women with working equipment.
- Exchange visits/networking.
- Community mobilization to promote girls' education.
- Collaboration with stakeholders.
- Crime combating activities.
- Capacity building workshops.
- Provision of facilities in public places to ensure women's safety etc.

The results of these are:

- The district was judged the best gender-sensitive district in Ghana in 2003.
- More women are now aware of their rights and responsibilities and are taking leadership positions at the community and district levels, hitherto the sole preserve of men.
- Efforts to solve their problems and ensure that no woman's right is abused.
- Economic activities occupy women to such an extent that childbearing is considered a problem.
- Queen Mothers have formed an association to have a say in the district's development.
- Resources were pooled to help women get into politics.
- They have also assisted women to access credit facilities and develop their capacity to manage economic activities.

- Women now have prototype processing equipment to work with.
- Community watchdog committees are formed to prevent crime, especially against women.
- Women in politics have been trained in their various fields to be effective and efficient. Their number has risen from one to 14.
- Women have been provided dustbins in the markets to ensure that they sell under hygienic environment. They are taught how to handle fire extinguishers provided by the market, are instructed on how to respond to emergencies etc.
- People in the district are now wearing microscopic gender lenses. And two women have been trained as Social Workers to handle problems faced by women.



Products:

Focus groups and interview guidelines.

Our Comments:

The project uses a variety of innovative approaches (working through female elders called Queen Mothers, drumming in rural markets, public art approaches) to develop a holistic violence-prevention initiative. The project emphasizes women's leadership in local governance. Their commitment to longitudinal evaluation is admirable.

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SAFETY PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR PUBLIC SPACES

■ Making Safer Places

Women's Design Service / London, Bristol and Manchester, Britain

Recognizing that women use space in ways often ignored in the design of the built environment and in community safety and renewal planning, this project focuses on training local women to carry out community safety audits to identify factors that make a place feel safe or unsafe and decide what should be changed. The project aims to develop relationships with the local community safety and renewal decision-makers and to establish a peer group training and support system.

Making Safer Places aims to improve women's safety in their communities and neighbourhoods by:

- Enabling women to improve community safety in their neighbourhoods through awareness raising, confidence building and increased knowledge, and establishing relationships with policy makers. The project seeks to involve Black and minority ethnic women, disabled women and older women.
- Informing community safety policy at local, regional and national levels with a gender perspective.
- Influencing community safety policy and practice in Bristol, Manchester and London in partnerships with our city project partners: Bristol Women's Forum, Manchester City Council and EC1 New Deal for Communities in Islington, London. The solutions identified by women living in local communities will inform national practice and policy recommendations and guidance emerging throughout the life of the project.

The project's main activities include:

- Training and supporting women living in communities in Bristol, Manchester and London to undertake community safety audits, develop relationships with the local community safety and regeneration partnerships and develop a peer group training and support system.
- Promoting a gender perspective on community safety policy and practice by the dissemination of good practice and learning through conferences, articles and seminars.
- Working alongside organizations in the community, voluntary, academic and statutory sectors to engage with women on community safety issues through training courses, briefing papers and information sharing.
- Convening a network on gender and community safety.

Products:

- An update of community safety audit manual.
- A publication and a conference towards the end of the project term to share the learning points that have come out of the project.
- Guide for effective community participation in community safety policy and planning with specific reference to encouraging the participation of women.

Our Comments:

This project promotes women's empowerment through gendered planning and design policy, based in vulnerable communities (Black and minority ethnic, disabled, and older women). Their local partnerships are extensive, including local government, women's advocacy groups, and redevelopment organizations. They pay special attention to the follow-up from identification of unsafe places, working with relevant policy- and decision-makers in order to facilitate a dialogue between them and the audit group, as well as advocating for gender mainstreaming in policy and planning. They are taking women's safety audits to the next level, and their evaluation process is very impressive.



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■ Kwa Makhutha Women's Safety Audit

Kzn Network on Violence against Women, Ethekwini Municipality Safer Cities and Department for Community Security and Liaison/ Durban, Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa

The safety audit is a component of a pilot project in which final year law students from the Law Clinic at the University of Natal set up a free legal desk to assist members of the Kwa Makhutha community. The audit took place on the night of 16 September 2003 and the findings compiled into a draft report presented to the community. A task force made up of service providers and the community monitors the recommendations.

The Women's Safety Audit is one of the components of the pilot project (depending on funding) to be implemented in the Kwa Makhutha area in partnership with the KZN Network and Safer Cities. The project consists of:

- Education training and raising awareness program on GBV and HIV/AIDS.
- Rural outreach program.
- Lobbying and advocacy programs.
- Networking.
- Skills Audit/Database.
- Women's Safety Audit.

Through the intervention of the partners, final year law students with a supervisor from the Law Clinic from the University of Natal is in the process of setting up a free legal desk to assist members of the community with legal matters regarding the above.

For the implementation of Women's Safety Audit the following steps had to be taken:

- *Feasibility study with community:* Needs and strategic workshop conducted in the community.
- *Meetings with stakeholders:* Clarification of what the Women's Safety Audit is about and a new partner (viz. Provincial Dept. of Safety and Security) brought in.
- *Identification of volunteers:* Through the above workshop and meetings with all stakeholders in the community, volunteers were identified to assist groups using a safety audit checklist in an area to identify unsafe places.



Products:

- A tool kit will be developed during the process to enable the project to be rolled over to other areas and to be used as a guideline by other service providers/communities.
- Focus groups are in the process of being identified and established to help monitor the implementation of the recommendations/findings done during the safety audit.
- A database of service providers in the area was developed.

Our Comments:

Another innovative use of women's safety audits, this time as part of a larger program on education, awareness, and advocacy on violence against women issues. Women-owned construction companies are encouraged to submit tenders for physical space improvements, and the safety audit is envisioned as a wedge to open up dialogue with local government on other issues of concern.

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MUNICIPAL GENDER-BASED POLICIES IN CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

■ Building a Safe City Together

Information Center of the Independent Women's Forum (ICIWF) / Petrozavodsk, Russia

This initiative brings a gender perspective to crime and safe municipal planning and empowers grassroots women to ensure the safety of their homes and neighbourhoods. It has resulted in the opening of a shelter for women and children victims of domestic violence, the first gender-based analysis of crime data, the creation of women-led neighbourhood committees, and closer ties between grassroots women, women's groups, police and the city administration.

ICIWF has worked closely since 1994 with women's groups and organizations in Petrozavodsk, capital of Karelia province. Despite a high level of street and home crime, there is little effort by police to find ways of combating it. There are no public education programs on crime prevention and no publicly available gender analysis of crime statistics. Who are the victims? What proportion are women and children? Petrozavodsk has seen an annual increase of 19-44% in crime, including violence against women.



This initiative on crime prevention began seeking new approaches in 1999. The following year, public housing residents participated in a contest to improve their common space organized by the city administration, which allocated \$5000 for the competition. Organizational measures, seminars and trainings helped create 13 neighbourhood groups eligible to participate in the competition (2,000 residents from 5 buildings and 400 residents-neighbours were involved). House safety was improved and the number of crimes in the buildings dropped as a result. Police authorities were at first not involved in the improvements. But a new level of efficiency of community mobilization and safety improvement was attained due to the action of the neighbourhood groups and women's organizations, the publication of a

magazine on Development of Sustainable Local Communities, educational seminars and cooperation with the police.

Products:

- Publication of the journal "Development of sustainable local communities. Experience of Petrozavodsk-city" in 2003.
- Development of training on planning and designing safety areas.
- Program for teaching stakeholders how to work together.
- Technology for running an information campaign and questionnaires.
- Gender statistics on crime to be used in designing safety areas.
- Development of mechanisms for holding joint meetings of residents.
- Programs of intensive training for focus groups.
- Criteria and recommendations on carrying out the safety audit.
- Safer city planning and design guidelines, entitled "City Safety", were published
- Plans for a textbook on the creation of a safe city environment.

Our Comments:

From the top of the world comes another intriguing women's safety audit-based project, allied with other services such as a shelter and help line. Since 2000, their train the trainer method has involved 2,000 residents of high density public housing in this city of 200,000. Their partnerships include local government, police, media, community groups, architects and academics. They have developed 13 neighbourhood committees, 12 of them headed by women, to repair housing and improve public spaces. They have also trained planners in Karelia in gender mainstreaming and safety concerns. Their materials and seminars have been used across Russia.

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3. *Special Mentions – Canada*

ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

■ **The Grey Bruce Community Report Card on Domestic Violence**

Victim Services Grey Bruce and Owen Sound / Grey and Bruce Counties, Ontario

The Grey Bruce Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee has pioneered Community Report Cards to help provide a seamless justice, social service, and community response to domestic violence in the rural community. Service providers and users give feedback on coordination, consistency, capacity and prevention activities so as to strengthen the voice of victims, collect good data and support planning and advocacy.

Products:

The following tools have been developed:

- An Information Kit for community agencies on the Report Card.
- Service Users Survey Tool, a Guide to the Service Users Tool and a poster.
- Service Providers Survey Tool, a Guide to Service Providers Tool and poster.
- Workshop Design and Facilitator's Guide for the Community Report Card process.
- Workshop Design: Women's Workshop on the Community Report Card.
- Report on Recommendations from the Workshops with Women of Experience.
- PowerPoint presentation.
- Overview of the Community Report Card Process.
- Report on Findings from the 2003 Community Report Card on Domestic Violence.

Our Comments:

A marvellous example of coordinated community response to violence, with evaluation as advocacy, and community mobilization as empowerment. There were a deeply impressive range of partnerships with local government, health services, education, police, Aboriginal organizations, and violence-prevention services, and this regional model is readily transferable.

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■ **Tamil Youth to Tamil Youth Leaders**

Youth Assisting Youth / Toronto, Ontario

This is a 22-week in-school program designed to address three issues identified by adult Tamil community leaders: a perception that all Tamil youth were involved in gangs, discord between newcomer Tamil male youth and longer-in-Canada Tamil male youth, and systemic discrimination against women. The program's success has led to its extension to other schools and other ethnic communities.

Products:

YAY has developed a model program that is able to serve a disparate number of newcomer communities. The name of the new program is At Home in a Foreign Land, a universal title covering many ethnic groups. The "At Home" format is a duplicate of the successful TY-TYL program, without the Tamil-specific elements.

Our Comments:

This youth-led train-the-trainer project addresses intercultural, intracultural, and gender violence in an exciting format, and their model is already being adapted by other new migrant groups.

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■ Building Bridges to Community

*Pacific Community Resources Society, Vancouver/
British Columbia*

This project targets the Mid-town community, which has Vancouver's second highest rate of crime and social problems. Six young women from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds are trained to become positive peer leaders who will help high-school girls become less susceptible to risk factors that may lead to unsafe and unhealthy decisions. The high-school girls will work with Grade 6 and 7 girls to help them make a successful transition to high school.

Products:

The following resources have been developed:

- Peer Leaders Training Manual.
- Community Resource Cards.
- Focus Groups at local high schools and elementary schools.

Our Comments:

Another excellent youth peer-to-peer education model, focusing on Aboriginals and new migrant young women living in a high crime community. The project addresses issues like recruitment into the sex trade, substance misuse, and relationship violence, as well as systemic and institutionalized racism, body image, and self-harming.

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■ FaithLink

*Sonshine Society of Christian Community
Services / Calgary, Alberta*

The FaithLink network was created to build collaborative relationships between religious/spiritual organizations and family-violence service agencies after research found that 16% of survey respondents identified their religious leader as someone from whom to seek help for domestic abuse. The network sets out to raise awareness among religious leaders and enhance their skills in responding to disclosures while also raising awareness among secular service providers of the importance of spirituality to clients.

Products:

Protocol documents will continue to be created for congregations for Christian faith communities. As the work progresses within the Jewish community, protocols will be developed for rabbis and religious leaders. The Resource and Activities Manual will be revised each year to provide Christian congregations with new resources and educational materials. It is anticipated that a Jewish-specific Manual will be developed and distributed in a similar manner within this community.

Our Comments:

An innovative faith-based program to identify domestic violence situations and refer them appropriately to family violence service agencies. A Resource and Activities manual has been developed and distributed to all Christian congregations in the city, and outreach to the Jewish and Muslim communities are being developed.

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

■ Circle of Safety: An Aboriginal Family Violence Program

Aboriginal Consulting Services Association of Alberta / Edmonton, Alberta

This initiative on Aboriginal family violence acknowledges the reality that many women choose to return to their abusive partner. It provides Teaching Circles for women, men and children. It also provides an Aboriginal-specific parenting program for men and women, as well as parent/child sessions, outreach, crisis counselling and Elder-specific support that include ceremony. Tested in Edmonton, the program could provide an adaptable model to Aboriginal communities across Canada.

Products:

- Assessment form.
- Risk assessment.
- Safety Plan.
- Client contract and consent form.
- Circle of Safety Wheel.
- Circle of Change Wheel.
- Breaking Cycles Wheel.

Our Comments:

This program provides Teaching Circles for women, men, and children related to parenting and family violence issues. While very new (it has been in operation for less than a year), the program offers a promising empowerment and early intervention model.

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Special Mentions – International 4.

ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

■ NCRB – A Nordic-NW Russian Network for Crisis Centres for Women in the Barents Region

University of Oulu / Norway, Sweden, Finland, NW Russia

This initiative in the vast northern ‘peripheries’ of four nation states is collaboration between scholars, educators, crisis centres and women activists such as members of Femina Borealis. A network of 19 crisis centres was created and individual programs on training, campaigning and fundraising developed. The project’s first phase (1999-2002) had to surmount differences in practice and philosophy and ensure equal participation, while the second phase (2002-2005) aims at exploring “Russian models” for crisis centres.

Products:

- Training – practicing: counselling; collective work of memory to sensitise the personnel on gendered violence; methods of collaboration with authorities and police; support groups; child therapy.
- Campaigning: the practice of being on the move at least twice annually: International Women’s Day, March 8, and 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence (Nov. 25–Dec. 10).
- Publishing: the NCRB project report includes reports from developments at the national level in the Nordic countries and Russia and from involved grassroots units. The report is thus a tool to be used for transmission and evaluation of ideas regarding work in crisis centres (and in society).

Our Comments:

A very interesting international but regional network of crisis centres, academic institutions, and community organizations, collaborating on research and public education, with the richer Scandinavian countries providing financial assistance to the Russian centres. The application is research oriented rather than direct community work, but their take on diversity (political and cultural) is innovative, and it is definitely an interesting take on networking and community mobilization.

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■ Defensoría de Mujeres de San Fernando (Women’s Ombudsman Office)

CEDEM. Centro de la Mujer de San Fernando / Partido de San Fernando, provincia de Buenos Aires. Argentina

The Women’s Ombudsman Office protects and promotes women’s civil rights and equal opportunities in the framework of international agreements and national laws. A Sexual Assault Survivors Group provides psychological assistance, coordinates with health and justice services and gathers statistical data. A support group for women victims of domestic violence is available and women can get training in preparing commune budgets with a gender perspective.

Products:

Pamphlets of sensitization and communitarian promotion. Training manuals on the subject of Municipal Budget and gender topics as well as practical and training manuals on women’s rights were developed. The elaboration of a women rights guide is also intended.

Our Comments:

This community-based organization, CEDEM, provides advocacy, counselling, referral, and group therapy to women survivors of violence, their partners, and (in partnership with another organization) with children. The innovative aspect of the project is the economic independence/financial advice training, which has been extended to train women neighbourhood leaders to participate in the municipal budgeting process.

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CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING

■ Sensitization of the Police to Strengthen Mechanisms to Redress Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Federation of Women Lawyers – Kenya / Nairobi, Kenya

Police officers are trained and sensitized in human rights, gender issues and gender-based violence and on appropriate ways of handling issues of violence against women, including the need to treat assault by husbands as crimes under the penal code. This initiative addresses the increasing levels of violence against women and the concern that customary practices may be used to justify not providing support to women reporting gender-based crimes.

Products:

- Police Training Manual on Gender and Human Rights.
- Action plans developed by the Police Department incorporating training into the mainstream training of police officers at the national college.
- Drafted the Domestic Violence Family Protection Bill assisted by FIDA Kenya.

Our Comments:

A very interesting project wherein female lawyers are working with the police on sensitivity training. An excellent and replicable project, with an external evaluation component.

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■ Pour une société sans violence à l'égard des femmes au Mali (*For a Society without Violence Towards Women in Mali*)

Ligue Malienne pour la Protection, la Promotion et l'Application des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples LIPADH. / Mali

This project, similar to those undertaken in seven African countries (Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal), focuses on women's unequal treatment by Mali's justice system. Aiming to raise awareness of gender-based violence and how it is minimized by archaic state laws and traditional customs, the project targets magistrates, lawyers, police officers and doctors on the one hand and traditional and religious chiefs on the other, while also working to involve women in fighting for equality.

Products:

A protocol for medical practitioners treating women who are victims of abuse.

Our Comments:

This is an impressively innovative 'men against violence against women' initiative, involving judges, lawyers, doctors, police, religious leaders and tribal chiefs in a range of public education and train-the-trainer activities. It has brought men together across cultures and professions, and works respectfully with women's associations. There is also an affirmative action element involved in getting more female judges and police officers hired. The model is being replicated in surrounding countries.

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MUNICIPAL GENDER-BASED POLICIES IN CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

■ Women Self-empowerment against Violence

Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP) / Dhaka, Bangladesh

This project aims to reduce violence against women, which has become one of the most visible social issues in Bangladesh over the last two decades, and to promote women's legal rights. Initiated in January 2004, it proposes to raise public awareness, offer legal and social support for women victims of violence and help women attain economic empowerment through entrepreneurial support. It also proposes to make linkages and network with government departments and other organizations.

Our Comments:

This program works to prevent violence against women in slum areas, particularly rape, acid-throwing and dowry-related violence, through public education, organizational development of women, and legal and social support for women. There is also an element of economic empowerment of women through entrepreneurial support. They are partnering with local government and community organizations. The project is very new (starting in January 2004), but shows promise.

Contact Information:

Quazi Baby
Tel: 880-2-9004094 / Fax: 880-2-9004094
Email: quazi@agni.com
Website: planet-hosting.ht.st/pdap

All Canadian Projects 5.

ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

■ Bars, Booze and Sexual Violence

Regional Coordinating Coalition against Violence (RCCAV) / Eastern Avalon, Newfoundland and Labrador

In 2000, focus groups with young women revealed the existence of sexual harassment and violence at the downtown St. John's bar scene. In 2002, focus groups explored the attitudes of young men towards the bar scene and masculinity, resulting in recommendations for police, taxi industry, bar owners, managers and staff and men. Phase Three included public education to get city officials, taxi drivers and bar owners more involved in dealing with sexual violence.

Tel: 709-757-0137

Email: rccav@nf.aibn.com

Website: www.coalitionagainstviolence.ca

■ Working for Change

Wolseley Family Place / Winnipeg, Manitoba

The project addressed the safety concerns of women and girls primarily regarding "hidden" crimes: violence in the home, being treated without respect by authority figures such as police officers or welfare workers because of their sex, race and social class and drug abuse. The project has

produced a women's safety audit, a grassroots magazine ("zine"), trained peer support workers, a Girls Club (G.L.O.W., Girls Learning Options and Wisdom), photojournalism exhibits by youth, and two community forums.

Tel: 204-788-8052

Email: info@wolseleyfamilyplace.com

Website: www.wolseleyfamilyplace.com

■ Femmes et sécurité, notre priorité !

(Our Priority, Women's Safety)

Maison des femmes de la région de Rimouski / Rimouski, Québec

A questionnaire is used to gather data about the extent to which women aged 40 and up in the greater Rimouski area are affected by violence and crime, the last figures available dating to 1989. The survey will look at the needs of diverse women: disabled, aboriginal, immigrant, rural, urban, elderly, etc. The aim is to draw a portrait of women's worries about their financial, physical, sexual and psychological security.

Tel: 418-723-0333

Email: mfemmesriki@globetrotter.net

■ **The Marguerite Centre**

The Society for Women Healing from Addictions and Abuse / Halifax, Nova Scotia

A long-term residential facility for women in recovery from addictions and abuse provides a safe environment for women who overwhelmingly came from abuse situations, states of homelessness or danger circumstances such as prostitution. Centre programs are holistic and address a woman's addiction in the context of her health, relationships with her children and other family members and her community.

Tel: 902-876-0006

Email: info@margueritecentre.ca

Website: www.margueritecentre.ns.ca

■ **Projet de sécurité des femmes en milieu urbain**

Halte-Femmes / Montréal-Nord, Québec

The resource *Quand l'orage FRAPPE* (When the storm hits) began as a theatre piece to get high school students to talk about their experiences with violence in their intimate relationships. It has been expanded with the help of adolescents into an eight-module guide for six, 12 and 20 workshops on how youths can recognize and prevent abuse in their love relations and how to build egalitarian relationships.

Tel: 514-328-2055

Email: haltefemmes@videotron.ca

■ **Silence to Strength**

Women AWARE / Montreal, Quebec

Women survivors of domestic violence take part in an active support group where they work towards designing and implementing domestic-violence presentations to at-risk populations in Montreal. Through therapeutic writing, they share their messages of hope and empowerment with other abused women. These writings will be handed out at the presentations to debunk public misconceptions of "battered women" as victims.

Tel: 514-908-9014

Email: womenaware@bellnet.ca

Website: www.womenaware.ca

■ **Rural Family Support Centre**

Partners for Rural Family Support / Humboldt, Saskatchewan

Partners for Rural Family Support, a grassroots non-profit organization, originated from the absence of services to women and children affected by family violence in a rural region with a population that includes Aboriginal reserve communities, urban and rural communities and farm families. A Family Support Centre opened in September 2001 and now offers a variety of programming.

Tel: 306-682-4135

Email: Partners1@sasktel.net

Website: www.Partnersrfs.ca

■ **Domestic Violence Unit (DVU)**

Vancouver Police Department and Family Services of Greater Vancouver / Vancouver, British Columbia

Three community counsellors and three detective constables work in pairs, following up with approximately 10% of the 1500 cases of domestic violence attended by Vancouver Police patrol annually. The unit also handles training for police officers and the community, case consultation, and coordination with other parts of the justice system and community agencies.

Tel: 604-717-2654 / 604-525-9144

Email: Keith_hammond@city.vancouver.bc.ca /

hwhiteford@fsgv.ca / vpd@city.vancouver.bc.ca

■ **Creating Safer Communities for Women with Disabilities**

Women's Network PEI / Prince Edward Island

This is an initiative of Women's Network PEI, the DisABled Women's Network and the PEI Council of the Disabled. Its first phase developed a strategic plan after a one-day conference gathered information on safety issues from 50 disabled women and their support workers. Phase II focused on the issues of low income, lack of appropriate transportation and public education. Phase III aims to build leadership skills for women with disabilities.

Tel: 902-368-5040

Email: wnpei@wnpei.org

Website: www.wnpei.org

■ **Youth Empowerment and Safety and Support Program**

World Wide Opportunities for Women (WWOW) / Waterloo Region, Ontario

The goal is to help decrease the number of crimes and violence-related incidents among ethno-cultural youth and their families by aiding them to participate in recreational activities that promote safety and integration into the community. The project strategy included cross-cultural sensitivity training for service providers, translation of financial subsidy materials, gender specific parent groups, and safety workshops for female youths.

Tel: 519-578-9570

Email: wwow@web.net

■ **Transforming the Landscape: Integrating Gender and Diversity into Social Service Delivery Systems**

Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre of Durham / Durham Region, Ontario

The policies and programs of agencies serving abused women need to be changed so as to reflect the perspectives of women of colour and immigrant and refugee women. The project promotes a broader understanding of how variables such as race, class, ability and citizenship status intersect with gender to complicate a woman's experience of violence.

Tel: 905-427-7849

Email: wmrcc@on.aibn.com

■ **Older Women's Safety and Rebuilding Lives Program**

Kootenai Community Centre Society / Creston, British Columbia

Women age 40 and up and the community they reside in are made aware of how to identify abusive relationships and how to seek assistance. Transition shelter facilities are developed to assist women choosing to leave an abusive relationship. Education programs build self-esteem and teach life skills for independent living. Outreach, advocacy and support are provided on an ongoing basis.

Tel: 250-402-0068

Email: kccs@kootenay.com

Website: www.crestonbc.com/kccs

■ **Bell Mobility Women's Shelter and Second Stage Programs**

Bell Mobility / Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia

The Women's Shelter Program maintains 10 cell phones at each of more than 150 government-approved shelters in four provinces. The phones are loaned to women during their stay at the shelter, while the Second Stage provides women who are leaving shelters with a low-rate cell phone on request. The programs aim to promote the safety and security of abused women and their children, and to help them reintegrate into society.

Tel: 905-282-4873

Email: amorrell@mobility.com

Website: www.bell.ca

■ **Family Violence Awareness Conference / Strategy for Living**

Discovery Women's Network / Clarenville, Newfoundland and Labrador

A family-violence awareness conference brought together police, social workers, youth workers and community champions to share information and come up with a plan to make the public aware of services available to victims of violence. This led to the strategyforliving.ca website, a resource accessible to all reading levels. Hard copies are available to women without a computer or Internet.

Tel: 709-466-6800

Email: discoverywomens@nfld.net

Website: www.strategyforliving.ca

■ **PAQ: La prévention par l'appropriation de son quartier (Take Back our Neighbourhood)**

Tandem Ville-Marie Est / Montreal, Quebec

This project inspired by a local mother calls on residents of a rundown area to reduce crime, violence and vandalism by reviving neighbourhood public places. Citizen committees are encouraged to take charge of parks and alleyways by organizing social events such as corn roasts that build neighbour solidarity or by working

with institutional partners such as the city administration on long-term solutions for sustainable development.

Tel: 514-522-2280

Email: Tandem.vm@qc.aira.com

■ **Ici, vous êtes entre bonnes mains (You're in Good Hands Here)**

Ville de Montréal - Service de la sécurité du revenu et du développement social / Montréal, Québec

Businesses help make commercial streets feel safe for women by inviting them to enter specially identified stores if they need help – police, ambulance, taxi, or to call a friend. Currently, 1200 businesses in seven city districts are in the program, which offers training to store personnel and is proving a good way of raising the awareness of a sector not usually involved in neighbourhood or women's safety initiatives.

Tel: 514-872-1274

Email: pallard@ville.montreal.qc.ca

■ **Maxxine Wright Place Project (for High-Risk Pregnant and Early Parenting Women)**

Atira Women's Resource Society / Surrey, British Columbia

This facility will serve high-risk women/girls who may also put their foetuses/young children at risk due to substance use, mental illness, experiences of violence/abuse, and reluctance in seeking medical attention/support services. Its program will include a pre-natal clinic, emergency daycare, community kitchen, transitional housing for homeless pregnant women, and second-stage housing for women.

Tel: 604-531-0316

Email: maxxwright@atira.bc.ca

Website: www.atira.bc.ca

■ **Sharing and Honoring the Strengths of the Butterfly and Dragonfly**

Native Women's Transition Centre, Inc. / Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Native Women's Transition Centre marks its 25th anniversary in 2004 with a two-day conference on Best Practices and a reunion of former residents. The celebration showcases how cultural teachings are used to work with Aboriginal populations in an urban context. The theme of Butterfly and Dragonfly refers to the transformation that occurs when people access cultural roots to meet life's challenges.

Tel: 204-989-8240

Email: Lucille_Bruce@hotmail.com

Website: www.nwtc-anniversary.ca

CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING

■ Building Communities without Violence

YWCA Canada, Canada

The YWCA, Canada's largest provider of shelter services to women and children leaving violence, every year houses over 6,000 women and children at its 19 shelters and supports them through programming and services. This project intends to determine which programs are effective in diminishing the risk of violence and in removing women from the cycle of violence. It aims to produce an Effective Practices Model.

Tel: 416-962-8881

Email: national@ywcacanada.ca

Website: www.ywcacanada.ca

■ La sécurité, ça nous tient à cœur... (We Care About Safety)

Maison des Femmes de la région de Rimouski / Rimouski, Québec

The city's extensive park system welcomes walkers and athletes of all kind. But a number of assaults that took place in the parks have scared off women, depriving them of their right to enjoy a public space. To help deal with this situation, park monitors are trained to be aware of women's concerns and the problem of assault so they can act appropriately in an incident.

Tel: 418-723-0333

Email: mfemmesriki@globetrotter.net

■ Empowering Women Who Have Experienced Violence: Designing Multidisciplinary Training for Service Providers

Centre for Leadership and Community Learning, Justice Institute of BC / British Columbia

Many women who experience violence in their intimate relationships avoid the legal process because of how they are treated by justice, social services or health personnel. This initiative aims to deliver training workshops to sensitize and facilitate the development of appropriate approaches and strategies for service providers - police officers, victim service workers, crown counsel, transition house workers, front-line workers in women-serving agencies and emergency room personnel.

Tel: 604-528-5628

Email: clcl_pr@jibc.bc.ca / srivkin@jibc.bc.ca

Website: www.jibc.bc.ca/clcl

■ Atelier Sûre d'elle (Secure Women Workshop)

Centre des femmes du Plateau Mont-Royal / Montréal, Québec

This two-hour workshop covers themes such as credit card and ATM fraud, home security, street safety, rape drugs, and Internet safety. Police experts provide information and concrete examples and participants can get individualized and confidential advice on specific problems. Intended as a one-time project, the workshop

has been repeated a number of times due to its popularity and is offered days and evenings.

Tel: 514-527-3324

Email: cfpmr@qc.aira.com

Website: www.cfemmesplateau.qc.ca

■ Women Hurting Women

Peer Support for Abused Women / Calgary, Alberta

A full-day workshop on the diverse needs of lesbian and bisexual women who experience domestic violence is offered four times a year to social service agencies, the domestic conflict unit of the Calgary Police, Crown Prosecutors, etc., with a view to making their services more relevant to these women. An outreach campaign challenges the lesbian and bisexual community to confront the issue of intimate partner family violence.

Tel: 403-234-7337

Email: info@pssaw.org

Website: www.pssaw.org

■ Accroître la sécurité personnelle et collective des femmes vivant et travaillant dans les quartiers centraux de Montréal (Improving the Personal and Collective Safety of Women Living and Working in Montreal's Core Neighbourhoods)

Stella, l'amie de Maimie / Montréal, Québec

Workshops on violence prevention and self-defence were created for women working and living in Montreal's core area after a series of assaults, including murder, on sex workers and others made women feel fearful. Three series of workshops are offered: for sex workers, for community outreach workers, and for women residents. A pamphlet on safety and prevention is distributed and posted on the Internet.

Tel: 514-285-1599

Email: stellappp@videotron.ca

Website: www.chezstella.org

■ F.O.C.U.S. – A Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

Partners Promoting Healthy Youth / Portage la Prairie and Morden, Manitoba

The main objective of this initiative is to decrease violence and victimization of youths, provide a service delivery strategy in the region, offer specialized programming to Grades 5-6, 7-9 and 10-12, help build healthy relationships among youths, and provide train-the-trainers and leadership development workshops for youths throughout the region. It also aims to develop a Peer Mentorship Program.

Tel: 204-362-4672

Email: sccfv@mts.net

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

■ **The Stardale Model for the Enlightenment of Women**

The Stardale Women's Group Inc. / Melfort, Saskatchewan

The model is based on the Stardale Centre's experience in helping marginalized Aboriginal and poor women in the northeast region of Saskatchewan break out of the cycles of abuse and illiteracy and attain self-sufficiency. Designed for women aged 15 to 40 with Grade 10 or lower education, it is a multidisciplinary healing approach that incorporates Aboriginal traditions, life skills workshops and artistic expression.

Tel: 306-752-1802

Email: stardale@sasktel.net

Website: www.nald.ca/stardale

■ **Community Awareness Training**

Moose Jaw Transition House / Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

Members of rural communities are trained to respond to family violence, enabling communities to meet their own identified needs and families to remain within their communities. Facilitators are trained for groups such as children and youth exposed to violence, anger expression, young men's responsibility, support for abused women, and positive parenting. Facilitation manuals and participant resource material, as well as a resource library, have been made available.

Tel: 306-693-6848

Email: mj Outreach@sasktel.net / childpr@sasktel.net

■ **Women's Safety Education and Awareness Project**

Scarborough Women's Centre / Toronto, Ontario

Public-education activities and information build awareness of the relationship between child abuse, partner abuse, and stranger assault. Women are empowered to identify the violence in their lives, locate community resources, and make decisions to prevent violence against themselves and their children. Community members are equipped to recognize violent situations and prevent them. Vulnerable women, including survivors of abuse who are parenting children with disabilities, are targeted.

Tel: 416-439-7111

Email: ed@scarboroughwomenscentre.ca

Website: www.scarboroughwomenscentre.ca

■ **Not Even**

Genesis House / Winkler, Morden, Swan Lake Indian Reserve, Manitoba

At-risk girls aged 8-14 within the school system and those who have accessed shelter services are shown what healthy relationships look like compared to unhealthy ones and how to recognize warning signs of violence. Girls are helped to realize the good things about themselves and to think about the way the media portrays gender roles.

Tel: 204-325-9957

Email: sccfv@mts.net

■ **Speak Out: Connecting with Rural Women about Sexual Violence**

NL Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Centre, Inc. / Avalon Peninsula, Newfoundland and Labrador

The goal was to sensitize and educate rural women about women's issues, engage them in open discussion about violence, and recruit long-distance volunteers who would provide support and services for women victims of violence by acting as a liaison between the St. John's-based Sexual Assault Centre and their community.

Tel: 709-738-2770

Email: coordinator@sexualassaultcentre.nf.net

■ **Living in Balance: Workshops from a Different Perspective on Healthy Living**

Greenstone Anti-Violence Coordinating Committee / Greenstone, Ontario

A one-day information conference was held as the least intrusive way to introduce an anti-violence campaign into the community where there is a high social tolerance for, and a high occurrence rate of, violence. Participants attended workshops/sessions on social influences related to violence against women and children, healthy sexual relationships, healthy families, financial management, safe communities, and women's safety.

Tel: 807-854-0852

Email: judy.franz@jus.gov.on.ca

SAFETY PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR PUBLIC SPACES

■ Reconstruction of the Chilco Pedestrian Underpass

ND LEA Consultants Ltd / Vancouver, British Columbia
Completed in 2003, the underpass reconstruction has provided a comfortable and aesthetically pleasing environment for Stanley Park users. Three distinct and separated lanes were constructed to safely accommodate an in-line skating pathway, a bicycle path and a pedestrian/wheelchair pathway. Personal safety was enhanced with improved sightlines, lighting and visibility of the underpass to nearby park users.

Tel: 604-685-9381

Email: vancouver@ndlea.com

Website: www.ndlea.com

■ Quartier international de Montréal

Quartier international de Montréal / Montréal, Québec
This urban renewal project aims to revitalize a district dominated by vacant lots, aging buildings and an elevated highway, and to integrate it into the city's cultural and business core. The redesign includes innovative safety features such as wider sidewalks protected from traffic with a green hedge and pedestrian-focused lighting that eliminates dark spots, as well as an emphasis on artistic activity and the involvement of property owners to draw people to the area.

Tel: 514-841-7634

Email: mmailllet@qimtl.qc

Website: www.qimtl.qc.ca

■ Dbe-Giizis Gamig/Moon Lodge: A Place of Healing for Women & Children

Social Planning Council of Sudbury / Sudbury, Ontario
A step down (medium-security) facility will provide essential services such as food and shelter as well as access to information and social services for Aboriginal women and their children who are homeless and require safety and healing. These services will have a holistic perspective that reflects Aboriginal beliefs and values. Men will be part of the process, and traditional roles defined and respected to heal the whole family.

Tel: 705-675-3894

Email: mpeltier@spcsudbury.ca / info@spcsudbury.ca

Website: www.spcsudbury.ca

■ Community Safety Audits

Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments (WISE) / Ottawa, Ontario

WISE has a series of community safety audits ongoing at any one time, tracking and documenting elements that make women and vulnerable groups feel unsafe in a space. A follow-up with the managers of the space ensures recommendations are acted upon. A follow-up phase six months to a year later ensures that the community is still on track for the changes promised and that the change is for the better.

Tel: 613-230-6700

Email: wise@bellnet.ca

MUNICIPAL GENDER-BASED POLICIES IN CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

■ Developing Our Voices for Effective Solutions (D.O.V.E.S.)

Moose Jaw Transition House / Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

Women who have lived with violence need skills to influence and implement government policies that protect them and would hopefully continue working together and building an advocacy network. Workshops included effective verbal and written communication, conflict resolution and problem solving, how government works, laws and individual rights, organizing, community supports and resources, and basic computer skills.

Tel: 306-693-6848

Email: mjoutreach@sasktel.net

Website: www.thouse.moosejaw.net

■ Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment - ODARA

Ontario Provincial Police / Orillia, Ontario

This new procedure increases the safety of women who have been assaulted by their male partner by accurately assessing their risk of being assaulted in the future. It provides front-line police officers and victim-services workers with an accessible risk assessment instrument that can help women make an informed choice about their life and assist authorities in determining whether a domestic assault offender should be released or detained.

Tel: 705-329-6150

Email: kate.lines@jus.gov.on.ca

Website: www.opp.ca

■ **Diversity Outreach Program**

Women's Support Network / Regional Municipality of York, Ontario

Focus groups led to the creation of the South Asian Diversity Outreach Program and its three main initiatives: a train-the-trainer program for women who want to assist victims of abuse; a counsellor to support South Asian

high-school girls; a South Asian Women's support group at York University. The outreach also prompted a name change from Women's Sexual Assault Helpline, a barrier to many women, to Women's Support Network.

Tel: 905-895-3646

Email: generalinfo@womensupportnetwork.ca

Website: www.womenssupportnetwork.ca

All International Projects 6.

ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

■ **Empowering the Women of Nepal (EWN)**

Empowering the Women of Nepal (EWN) Training Center & Hostel for Women / Pokhara, West Nepal
Began in 1994, this initiative run by EWN and 3 Sisters Adventure Trekking (Pvt) Ltd., aims to provide mainly poor rural Nepalese women with a means of becoming self-sufficient wage earners in the tourism industry training them to act as guides or porters in response to the need of women trekkers for a safe and comfortable trip.

Tel: 977-61-524066

Email: ewn@3sistersadventure.com

Website: www.3sistersadventure.com

■ **Advocacy on Women's Empowerment**

International Women Communication Center / Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

This is a 10-year skills-acquisition initiative aimed at reducing poverty and promoting health education through the empowerment of women and girls who are mostly from poor and peasant backgrounds in a district known for trafficking young girls to Saudi Arabia for prostitution. The program started in 2001 and has 40 to 50 participants annually, who in turn train 400 to 500 participants annually in seven other community locations.

Tel: 234-31-225688

Email: gorosogiwa@yahoo.com

■ **Let's Work Together for First-Grade Pupils**

Bosfam / Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The NGO Bosfam hit on the idea of a centre for knitting sweaters for kids entering school as a means of

reconciliation after an ethnic war, bringing Bosnian and Serb women together through mutual love of children, a tradition of handicrafts and the need to earn money. Starting with a handful of women in 2001, the project has drawn a growing number of women, donated more than 700 sweaters to children of both ethnic groups, and eased the return of Bosnian women refugees to Srebrenica.

Tel: 387-35-286-503

Email: bosfam@bih.net.ba

Website: www.bosfam.ba

■ **Empowering The Rural Women through Building Local Women Owned Organization, Creation of Network Platforms & Opportunity and Enhancing Human Resource Development in a Sustainable Manner**

Network of Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (NEED) / Sitapur District, India

Poverty and the disenfranchisement of women and girls in Sitapur villages can be fought by mobilizing women through grassroots Self-Help Groups that raise awareness and work towards gaining access to and control over physical, social, cultural and economic resources as well as political processes. Family Life Education programs provide information on child marriage, girls' education, teenage/adult problems, reproductive health, etc.

Tel: 091-522-2712671 / 2712673

Email: need@satyam.net.in

Website: www.indev.nic.in//need

www.needup.org

■ **Farm Lay Health Worker Project**

Boland District Municipality / Western Cape, South Africa

An innovative primary health care project has been implemented in a high tuberculosis-prevalent rural area with the training of selected farm workers as lay health workers. The program has operated since 1993 in 230 farms producing mainly grapes and fruit for export. The access of farm workers to formal health care is limited by their social and economic dependence on their employers and lack of public transport.

Tel: 021 8885304

Email: admin@bolanddm.co.za

■ **Programa de Atención y Prevención de la Violencia Familiar y Promoción de la No Violencia** (*Family Violence Attention and Prevention Program and Promotion of Non Violence*)

Area de la Mujer – Secretaría de Promoción Social / Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina

Services are set up for victims of family violence, including a telephone help line, shelters, coordinated social, psychological and legal assistance and a network of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Campaigns raise awareness of gender-based violence and the role of gender in AIDS prevention. Gender perspective is explained in workshops and conferences for government human resources personnel and for teachers, justice officials, police, and women's groups.

Tel: 54-341- 480-2444 x: 105 or 118

Email: Areamujer@rosario.gov.ar

Website: www.rosario.gov.ar

■ **Dukagjini Area Business Woman Network**

Kosova Woman Initiative – New Vision / Dukagjini Area, Gjakove, Kosova

A network of current and former businesswomen of various ethnic origins in a region devastated by war wants to build capacity with training in areas such as marketing, organization, communication and media relations. It aims to lobby and advocate for the integration of women in government economic policies. Women operate mostly small businesses such as clothing stores, bakeries, cosmetics shops, bookstores, carpet and handicrafts manufacturers, linen shops, and driving schools.

Tel: 99381-390-27-370

Email: kwi_nv@hotmail.com

■ **Vulnerability and Risk Reduction through a Community-Based System for Flood Monitoring and Forecasting**

Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services / Tangil, Bangladesh

The goal of this project is to reduce vulnerability to damage from flooding in the floodplains of Bangladesh. Flood-vulnerable areas cover more than 50 percent of the country and include a population in the tens of millions.

A pilot operational system produces timely information on current and forecasted flood conditions for distribution to the local government and residents in a format that is understandable and useful for flood mitigation at the community level.

Tel: 8821570-2 / 8817648-52 x 301

Email: suddin@cegisbd.com / cegis@cegisbd.com

Website: www.cegisbd.com

■ **City Women's Council**

City Women's Council / Marikina City, Philippines

The council, created in 2000 as the first official act of Mayor Lourdes C. Fernando, unites the city's many women's organizations around similar goals without destroying their individual identities. A Women's Centre allows women's groups to network and coordinate citywide programs for the economic, educational, spiritual and emotional needs of women. It also houses a crisis centre. The Marikina Women's Development Foundation ensures the work will continue even after a change in administration.

Tel: (632) 682-9574

Email: ns_bles@yahoo.com.ph

Website: www.marikina.gov.ph

■ **Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC)**

Save the Somali Women and Children (SSWC) / Mogadishu, Somalia

The initiative was launched in preparation for the first gender-sensitive Somali Peace and Security Conference (2000, Arta, Djibouti) and its follow-up (Eldoret-Nairobi, Kenya). It has largely fulfilled its aim to use the peace process to institutionalize women's rights. Women made up a third of the civil society's representation at the conferences, a woman was elected to the conference steering committees, parliament must include a minimum number of women, and the constitution enshrines women's rights.

Tel: 254-020-3744083

Email: shirdon@iconnect.co.ke

■ **Gender Based Violence**

Ikhwezi Women's Support Centre / Cathcart, Amahlati District, South Africa

Ikhwezi has mobilized women since 1997 on issues of gender-based violence in an area where domestic violence and rape are rampant. The organization campaigned for a new Domestic Violence Act, successfully fought for a No Bail policy for perpetrators of violence against women, and won the right for girl victims of rape to testify through close-circuit TV. It advocates for women seeking child support and lobbies for women's access to political decision-making.

Tel: 045-8432110

Email: ikhwezi@hazeldean.co.za

■ **16 Jours De Campagne Contre Les Violences Faites Aux Femmes (16 Days of Action Against Violence Towards Women) - Edition 2002 et 2003 – Thème: Le Viol Et l’Inceste (Theme: Rape and Incest)**

WILDAF/FEDDAF-Togo (Women in Law and Development in Africa) / Togo (Lomé and five economic regions)

WILDAF member organizations carry out awareness-raising actions in markets, schools, public places and through state and private media. Resource materials include printed information, T-shirts and calendars awarded as prizes in radio contests, televised debates, and a map showing the distribution of rape in Lomé. The 2000 and 2001 campaigns on sexual harassment led to the tabling of legislation and this campaign will hopefully produce a similar result.

Tel: 228-222- 69-86

Email: wildaf_togo@hotmail.com / wildaftogo@yahoo.fr

Website: www.wildaf-ao.org

■ **La mise en valeur de la sécurité de la femme (et la jeune fille) tirées du patrimoine culturel congolais (Using Traditional Cultural References to Promote the Safety of Women and Girls)**

Programme d’Encadrement des Paysans pour le Reconstruction Intégrale (PEPARI/Asbl) / Kinshasa, Commune de la Gombe, Congo

A campaign putting forward traditional practices and sayings from across the country that promote respect for women will improve the safety of women in the capital of Kinshasa and counter a culture of violence arising from several years of war. The message would be carried by posters, graffiti, banners, brochures and other resources in Gombe commune, a microcosm of the Kinshasa metropolis.

Tel: 243-(0)-815170436

Email: bdibendila80@hotmail.com

■ **Mujeres, contando en voz alta Estrategia de comunicación para visibilizar la problemática de derechos económicos, sociales y culturales de las mujeres líderes y de sus organizaciones sociales (Women, Publicly Taken Into Account: Communication Strategies to Improve the Visibility of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Women Leaders and their Organizations)**

Revista La esquina regional / Bogotá, Colombia

The regional magazine La Esquina Regional, with a mission to promote human rights, wanted to draw attention to women’s contribution to Colombian society by profiling Daira Quiñónez and her community council La Nupa in its pages. This led to the realization that women’s stories needed to be recovered and made public

either in the magazine or through other mass media, and that journalism students needed seminars to make them aware of women’s issues and stories.

Tel: 4 00 74 11

Email: soporte@laesquinaregional.com /

nelly@laesquinaregional.com

Website: www.laesquinaregional.com

■ **Strategy for Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence in South Africa**

Department of Social Development / City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa

The lack of shelters for victims of domestic violence has been identified as a major constraint on effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act adopted in 1998. An interdepartmental and intersectoral task force has drafted a strategy for establishing 18 new shelters for abused women and their children, and for strengthening existing shelters to meet minimum standards.

Tel: 012-312 7568

Email: Joan.Groenewald@socdev.gov.za

Website: www.socdev.gov.za

■ **A Journey towards Empowerment of Women: Solidarity Group Mahila Chetna (Women Awakening)**

INDCARE Trust / New Delhi, India

The Mahila Chetna network of women’s grassroots self-help groups advocates for women’s rights, especially land rights. Women are empowered to fight evictions and home demolitions arising from urban renewal plans and the issue of shelter has been the priority in the urban context of Delhi, where 30,000 households and 150,000 women, children and men are affected.

Tel: 91-11-25623664 or 55472791

Email: reevasood@indcare.org / contact@indcare.org

Website: www.indcare.org

■ **Propuesta de trabajo en red contra la violencia de género (Proposal for a Network Against Gender Related Violence)**

Hombres contra la violencia de género: asociación Hocovige / Badalona, Spain

The initiative proposes to spread awareness of the problem of gender-based violence to an increasingly wider public through a series of activities such as group discussion, open debate, prevention and education workshops, and a program of re-education for abusive men. This is being gradually achieved as the organization is invited to address a variety of organizations and institutions which express interest in taking part in the work.

Tel: 93-464-30-63.

Email: hocovige@badalona.lamalla.net

Website: www.lazobicolor.org

CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING

■ Fuel-Efficient Smokeless Stove

Escorts Foundation / Lahore, Pakistan

This cost-efficient sustainable technology helps slash accidents and deaths caused by the traditional open-fire cooking method. It also helps relieve pressure on the ecologically diverse Changa Manga Forest, which was being degraded under the need to collect fuel wood. The stove is made of easily available mud concrete and its manufacture can generate extra income for women who learn the technology in a one-day workshop.

Tel: 92-42-6305524 / 5 x.325 or 92-300-8406-555

Email: maisoonzamir@hotmail.com

■ Des Femmes Batisseuses (Women Builders)

Asf- Batir et Developper / Paris, France & Africa

This is architect Amélie Essesse's effort to preserve and promote the architectural traditions of African women such as the earthen structures put up by Kassena women in Burkina Faso or the palm leaf huts constructed in Niger. Workshops in Africa and in France pass on this heritage, raise awareness of its value, and raise funds for a development project that will build a traditional-style cultural centre in Burkina Faso and/or an arts centre in Niger.

Tel: 33-1-40-19-94-57

Email: Batir_developpeur@hotmail.com

■ Empowering Women with ICT to Share Ideas, and Raise Voices to Global Women Communities

Association for Advancement of Information Technology (AAIT) / Bangladesh

Women scientists, researchers and technologists learn computer literacy so they can advance in their career like their equally qualified male colleagues. More than 150 women have graduated from the two-week program that familiarizes them with standard applications such as word processing, database management and spreadsheets, special software such as statistical analysis, as well as the Internet and multimedia applications.

Tel: 8802-8126381

Email: lutfor@agni.com

■ Renforcement des capacités d'un atelier de couture à Masina Pascal (*Building Capacity at a Sewing Shop in Masina Pascal Commune*)

Collectif des Mamans pour le Développement de la Tshangu / Kinshasa, Congo

The initiative addresses the need to strengthen the skills of women and involve them in development. It is carried out by an organization aiding widows and orphans and whose mission is to improve the living conditions of communities through education and the teaching of trades. It offers literacy classes, information on health, HIV and AIDS, primary health skills education, and the training of abandoned children in trades.

Tel: 0243-9901231

Email: kusa2005@yahoo.fr

■ La femme en œuvre social: Genre et formation de la femme défavorisée (*Gender and Training for Underprivileged Women*)

Fondation Orphelinat au Congo / Kinshasa, Congo

A program that teaches women sewing with a view to helping them become economically self-sufficient needs to expand its facilities to be able to turn out 400 dress-makers a year. The initiative began with five sewing machines in 1996 as part of actions to fight women's lack of education, illiteracy and poverty but demand for the free training, which includes room and board, continues to grow.

Tel: 243-98804300

Email: focjulia@yahoo.fr

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

■ House of Crisis Intervention

Polish Red Cross / Slupsk, Pomerania Province, Poland

Pomerania's first shelter for victims of domestic abuse, HCI was opened in 1998 after women began frequently turning to the regional Red Cross for help. The shelter offers temporary accommodation, counselling and help in establishing a violence-free life. It has spawned services such as support groups for homeless women and victims of violence, a therapeutic center for children of victims of violence, and a crisis intervention centre for children and youth.

Tel: 1033-59-8428577

Email: pckslupskl@poczta.onet.pl

■ Stay Safe! A community safety resource partnership between the YWCA of Canberra and the Australian Federal Police (*ACT Policing Crime Prevention Unit*)

YWCA of Canberra / Australian Capital Territory, Australia

This partnership illustrates how committed but unlike people can make collaboration happen between two large diverse organizations. The partnership has focused on the development of a Stay Safe! video/DVD with supporting training material that address priorities and emerging

community concerns, including drink spiking, alcohol / drug-related violence and assault (including in pubs and clubs), bullying in schools and the use of weapons. It will also address safety from intruders and family violence
Tel: 02-6239 6878

Email: rebecca.vassarotti@ywca-canberra.org.au
canberra@ywca-canberra.org.au

Website: www.ywca-canberra.org.au

■ Training the trainers in India

Wenlido WEST - Women Educating in Self Defence Training / British Columbia (Canada) and India

Wenlido WEST, a non-profit organization teaching self-defence since 1986, has financially supported one instructor's trips to India to teach self-defence to women. On the first trip, she taught some classes; on the second, she began to train instructors; and on the third, she began training the trainers with a view to ensuring the existence of a self-supporting group teaching self-defence to women and children in India.

Tel: 604-521-0425

Email: jkirkey@alumni.sfu.ca

Website:

www.kwantlen.bc.ca/pscm/wenlido/wenlido.htm

MUNICIPAL GENDER-BASED POLICIES IN CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

■ Programa de Asistencia a Mujeres Víctimas de Delitos Contra la Integridad Sexual de las Personas (*Program of Assistance to Women Victims of Crimes Committed against the Sexual Integrity of the Person*)

Dirección General de la Mujer. Secretaria de Desarrollo Social. Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires / Buenos Aires, Argentina

This program, created by the municipal administration, assists women victims of sexual violence through a telephone help-line, psychological counselling at the Margarita Malharro women's centre, and training and coordination among service providers. It has also

undertaken public information and awareness-raising campaigns, set up a consultative council made up of public and private organizations; and developed a protocol of medical and psychotherapeutic procedures.

Tel: 54-11 4931-6296

Email: mariablanca275@hotmail.com /
mmcampero@yahoo.com.ar

Website: www.buenosaires.gov.ar

JURY MEMBERS

ARLÈNE GAUDREULT



Arlène Gaudreault earned a master's degree in criminology from the University of Montréal in 1988. She was president of the

Association Professionnelle des criminologues du Québec for eight years and sat as a community representative on the Québec Parole Board for 10 years.

She has taught victimology at the University of Montréal since 1994 and has been a visiting professor in the graduate diploma studies in victimology at France's Université de Pau et des pays de l'Adour since 2000.

Coordinator of the first centre to aid victims of crime in Québec, she has helped put in place several programs that have improved the response to their plight. She has been president of the Association québécoise Plaidoyer-victimes since 1988 and co-chaired the 10th International Symposium on Victimology held in Montréal in August 2000.

In 1997, Arlène won the Québec Justice Ministry's Prix de la Justice in recognition of her tireless work on behalf of the rights of victims of crime and was named Person of the Year in the courage, humanism and personal-development category by Montreal's La Press newspaper. In 2003, the Canadian Criminal Justice Association awarded her its Excellence Prize for her contribution to the field of victimology.

ANA FALÚ

At the moment, Ana Falú is Regional Director of the UNIFEM Program at the United Nations. She is also an investigator for the National Council of Science and Technology of Argentina and has been a Titular Professor at the University of Cordova (Argentina), since 1985.



An Argentinean architect, she holds a Doctoral diploma from Delft University, Holland. During the 80's, she also completed Post-Graduate and Master's degrees at ISS and Bouwcentrum International Education, Rotterdam, Holland.

Coordinator of the Masters' degree in Management and Habitational Development. FAUD - UNC. UNC Coordinator of the ALPHA Program/ IBIS Investigation Network of European and Latin American Universities (Oxford/England, Hamburg/ Germany, Venetia/Italy, Ecuador UC, FAU/ Uruguay, San Simón/ Bolivia, USP/Brasil, UBA and UNC/Argentina, UC/ Santiago of Chile and Valparaíso/Chile). From 1997 to 2002 she was Latin American Coordinator of the Woman and Habitat Network of Latin America (with members in 17 countries). Next to Virginia Vargas Valente, she was part of the coordination of Latin American Women towards the IV World Conference on Women, held in China in 1995. She was also Vice President of the International Habitat Coalition and a Consultant for different UN, World Bank and I.A.D.B. Institutions.

Among others, she has coordinated investigation groups on topics such as: "Globalization, Urban Model and Governability", "Tools for an Urban Governability: Urban Gender Indicators", "The Mercosur Program for Public Policies, Women and Municipalities", "Time Use and the Urban Space: Social and Gender asymmetries". Director of many Research teams, she supported the training of the "Young Women Researchers" group.

Ana Falú is also the author of numerous publications, scientific books, articles and information bulletins, and she has participated in many Congresses, Seminars and Symposiums.

PAMELA E. RANSOM

Pamela Ransom has been active as an environmentalist, planner, educator and community activist for many years. After completing

her undergraduate education at Harvard University and earning a doctorate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she served as Deputy Director of Town



Planning for the Government of Jamaica. She was Special Assistant for Environmental Affairs for New York City Mayor David Dinkins and served as Director of Health and Environment for the Women's Environment and Development Organization, where she developed an Action for Cancer Prevention Campaign and organized two World Conferences on Breast Cancer.

She currently serves on the faculty of Long Island University School of Business, Public Administration and Information Sciences, teaching public and health administration. She has been active as a consultant and board member for a wide variety of organizations, including the U.S Agency for International Development, the New York City Department of Health, the Huairou Commission, the Peoples Museum and the MIT Alumni Association.

She has served as Secretary to the 11th Congressional District Health Advisory Committee and currently sits on the Brooklyn Strategic Planning Committee of the Empire State Development Corporation.

CAROLYN WHITZMAN



Carolyn Whitzman joined the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Architecture, Building and

Planning in July 2003 and has been teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in urbanization and change. Previously, she worked as a social policy planner with the City of Toronto from 1989 to 1999. Her planning consultancy practice has included work with local, state and national governments; colleges and universities; non-profit organizations; and businesses, in Canada, the US, Australia, New Zealand, and the UK. She has lived in Montreal, Toronto, London, and Melbourne.

She has an international reputation for her work on the prevention of violence in urban areas, and she has been a keynote speaker at several conferences on this subject. Her work in Toronto has been cited as 'best practice' by the United Nations Commission on Housing Services (Habitat) and the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime. She has also worked on issues of housing and homelessness and on community-government partnerships.

Current research interests include the development of 'safe spaces' for recent immigrants and refugees, international linkages between women and local governance issues, and social planning for urban diversity in outer suburbs.

ELLEN WOODSWORTH

Ellen Woodsworth has sat on the Vancouver City Council since her election in 2002. Born in Toronto, she attended the University of British Columbia in the 1960s and spent several years in Toronto, where she operated a travelling women's bookmobile and founded a women's newspaper called The Other Woman. She has



made Vancouver her home since 1979.

She has worked as a social planning analyst in North Vancouver and at the Vancouver YWCA. She has also been a coordinator for WE*ACT (Women Elders in Action), the Downtown Eastside Seniors Centre and the Seniors Summit.

Ellen has fought long and hard for the rights of women, for the gay and lesbian community and for seniors. She led a successful campaign for the inclusion of questions about women's unpaid work on the 1996 Canada census, making Canada the first country to do so. She chaired the BC Action Canada Network that raised concerns about free-trade agreements and helped found Breaking the Silence, a group effort to mobilize women and Downtown Eastside agencies to work together to stop violence against women. She chaired the Bridge Housing Society for Women, which provides permanent housing, transition housing and a home for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre. She has also been a longstanding member of Strathcona Community Gardens, president of Britannia Community Centre, president of South Vancouver Family Place, and a member of the board of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Generations Project and the Reach Community Health Clinic.

PAM McCONNELL

Pam McConnell has served three terms on Toronto's city council and 12 years as a school board trustee, working for a healthy and safe city. She helped organize her City Homes building into a residential co-op and as president of the



Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto, helped open more than 25 housing co-ops. She was a school trustee from 1982 to 1994 and chaired the Toronto Board of Education in 1992. A well-known advocate for children living in poverty, she received an award from the Duke of Edinburgh in 1997 for her work with inner city youth. She helped found Parents for Better Beginnings for Regent Park, the Brighter Futures - St. James Town health project, and the Student Nutrition Coalition that began the breakfast and lunch programs in Toronto schools.

She fought user fees in city recreation centres and developed the Children's Report Card, which is now an annual item for council's review. She has worked to keep school pools open and accessible to the public. She has also worked to ensure appropriate police procedure to best assure the protection of women and introduced the Clean Toronto program to put resources back into keeping city streets clean and safe.

In 2003, she helped break ground for the construction of a new \$10-million recreation centre, library and daycare complex in St. James Town, a project she helped bring about.



SORAYA SMAOUN

Soraya Smaoun has been working for the past 7 years for the Safer Cities Program of UN-HABITAT, as an Urban Safety Specialist. She is the Gender Focal Point of the program and the author of a policy paper on "Violence against

Women in Urban Areas, an analysis of the problem from a gender perspective". She also contributes to articles and papers on gender violence and the role of women in urban governance.

She is specialized in Political Sciences with particular interests in Sociology, Municipal Governance, Urban Planning and Gender issues.

Her responsibilities within the Safer Cities Program include the ways of improving good governance by promoting safety and security at city level, and reinforcing the capacities of local authorities in developing safety policies for groups at risk (women, children and youth). She is managing several projects in Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America, focusing on capacity-building, development of crime prevention tools, knowledge management, advocacy and city to city cooperation.

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