



August 25, 2017

RE: Partnership to Establish London as a UN Women's Safe City

City Council and Mayor Matt Brown:

Women and Politics is an organization committed to advancing policies that address issues of inequity faced by all women. We are writing this letter to provide our support for the partnership of establishing London as a UN Women's Safe City.

As we understand it, the City of London has been accepted as a champion city with the Safe City program. Sexual assault and violence are an all too common experience for women, both in Canada and in our own community. To address these issues, municipalities must prioritize initiatives that aim to end sexual violence against women and ensure city spaces and policies provide a safe space for all people.

This UN partnership is one that will assist London in meeting its strategic goal to be a "diverse, inclusive, and welcoming community". The partnership and its initiatives also support the recommendations of the Community Diversity and Inclusion Plan to address gender issues and gender violence. We need concrete tools and strategies to put the plan into action and this UN initiative will provide the support and guidance to create these.

London is a leader in many ways on women's issues, and this partnership will ensure London continues its work to be a safe city for women. We are enthusiastic about this opportunity and provide our support for its next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawna Lewkowitz".

Shawna Lewkowitz

Chair, Women & Politics