



Planet 50-50 by 2030
Step It Up for Gender Equality

27 June 2017

Dear Mayor Brown,

On behalf of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), I thank you for your letter regarding the interest of the City of London, (Ontario, Canada) in participating in UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship. We have seen strong evidence that violence against women and girls hampers the development of local economies and undermines the efforts of municipal governments to build safe and sustainable cities. We are committed to working with all levels of government and partners to address this issue.

I am impressed with the scope of the work which is informed by the voices of women, including survivors of violence, to empower women and girls in the city of London, Ontario, and guarantee their right to a life free of violence. I note your strong political will to respond to the high incidence of sexual violence against women, drawing on the experience of organizations within ANOVA, and other community partners to ensure that public transportation is safe for all. I have noted the data you have shared on this issue, and applaud your effort in to develop an evidence and human rights-based approach to end this scourge.

Acknowledging the outstanding commitment to building a safe and sustainable city, and the efforts that the city is making to address sexual violence against women and girls in public space, we are delighted to welcome the City of London to UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship as a member city in the start-up phase, and as the third city in Canada to participate in the programme.

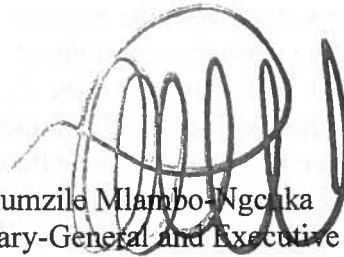
Mr. Matt Brown
Mayor of London, Ontario
300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O Box 5053
London, Ontario
Canada
N6A 4L9

In this regard, I am pleased that the mayor's office will be the entity responsible for leading the city's participation in this Initiative and that you have appointed your Senior Policy Advisor, Mr. Marcel Marcellin to support the next steps following council's approval. UN Women would be privileged to partner with the city and share knowledge and expertise derived from the experience of our partner cities around the world, as well as share tools and learning opportunities.

Ms. Laura Capobianco, UN Women's Policy Advisor for Safe Public Spaces in our Ending Violence against Women and Girls Section, will follow up with Mr. Marcellin to discuss next steps in our emerging cooperation, including publicizing this new commitment.

Once again, I am delighted that you are joining UN Women's effort to make the cities of the world safe for women, girls and for all. Please be assured that it is of utmost importance for UN Women to support the city as it develops its own successful Safe City and Safe Public Spaces Initiative.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, positioned above the printed name and title.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director