


CREATING SAFE & EMPOWERING SPACES


#SafeCityLDN Initiative

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A reminder -what is it?




- 5 year initiative, Council unanimously passed
- Letter signed between Mayor's Office & UN Women- government body is responsible to the UN
- Steering Committee: Western University, Fanshawe College, Women & Politics, London Police Services, Business & Professional Women London




Actions to focus on:

1. **Step 1:** Establish Steering Committee and develop a scoping study- incidence/prevalence of sexual violence in public spaces
2. **Step 2:** Undertake the scoping study
3. **Step 3:** Use this data to identify gender-responsive locally relevant and owned interventions
 - Develop and effectively implement comprehensive policies to prevent and respond to sexual violence in public spaces
 - Investments in the safety and economic viability of public spaces
 - Change attitudes and behaviors to promote women's and girls' rights to enjoy public spaces free from violence




A reminder- why?



- 1/3 London women will experience sexual assault
 - 1/3 LGBTQ+, 82% of women with disabilities
- 4/10 Ontario girls are target for unwanted sexual comments/gestures
- When women experience sexual objectification, they feel uncomfortable/less safe and in the long term these experiences impact their mental health
- Since 2004, the incidence rate has not changed
- Community Diversity & Inclusion Strategy: London is a diverse and inclusive community that honours, welcomes, and accepts all people; where people have the power to eliminate systemic oppressions.
 - Have zero tolerance for oppression, discrimination and ignorance
 - Connect and engage Londoners

Public Spaces = workplaces, parks, schools, transit etc
Some flashpoints locally in the last 6 months



What we've done



- ✓ met with the initiative lead within United Nations Women
- ✓ had conversations with representatives from the Winnipeg Safe Cities Initiative
- ✓ launched social media presence and have started speaking about the initiative to the public during workshops/events
- ✓ consulted with city staff around how City Hall can take this work on and support the initiative
- ✓ have had multiple emails/calls from Londoners disclosing particular experiences and action areas they want to see
- ✓ compiled existing data on the incidence of sexual violence- four student interns from Western University


The vast majority of the research and quantitative data we have is on a national level and pertains to sexual violence occurring in private spaces.

But we know that London women are experiencing sexual violence in public spaces.

#MeToo

“People who identify as women with disabilities are experiencing violence, sexual assault and harassment on LTC conventional buses and specialized transit buses. There’s a call to implement safety measures like diversity training and putting security cameras on specialized transit buses.”

“We have also received disclosures about living in LMHC buildings and how LMHC reacts to and supports instances of sexual violence- this is especially a reality for women who have disabilities or health issues, combined with low income.”



What we need- understand girls' and women's experiences

Creating safe & empowering spaces

- Where do girls/women feel safe & unsafe?
- Mapping technology: **CrowdSpot**
- Used by over 40 different organizations in Australia & the US including Melbourne's SafeCity Initiative
 - <http://demo.crowdspot.com.au/place/60040>
 - <https://walkandwheel.crowdspot.com.au/page/welcome>
 - <https://morelandits.crowdspot.com.au/page/welcome>
- Focus groups with subpopulations of women and girls to understand their unique experiences

Findings used to steer development of policies, programming and city planning to make public spaces safer for girls and women



Project requirements/costs-

| Staff support | Details | Staff time |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Project coordination | Coordinate mapping project and focus groups, ensure optimal community engagement | 20% |
| Mapping project | Details | Cost |
| Design and build | Build mapping/survey configuration and branding | \$6,500-\$8,500 |
| Community engagement | Promote mapping tool to enhance community participation | \$400/month for three months |
| Data insights | Develop spatial maps and reports | \$3,000-\$6,000 |
| Total | | \$10,700-\$15,700 |

Questions?

future without violence.

24/7 Helpline:
519.428.2272

