

# Safe Cities London Advisory Committee

## Terms of Reference

### Background

#### United Nations Women Safe Cities Initiative

Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces (Safe Cities) is a worldwide United Nations Women initiative that draws attention to the issue of violence against women and girls in public spaces, such as the workplace, a school, a restaurant or bar, while using public transportation or recreational spaces, or in a park.

In 2013, sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces was identified as an area of concern by the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women, who called on governments around the world to prevent violence against women and girls. The goal of the Safe Cities initiative is to empower women and girls and create safer communities by identifying strategies for preventing and responding to violence.

#### Safe Cities London

Safe Cities London is committed to making London a safe city where women, girls, nonbinary and trans individuals, and survivors access public spaces and participate in public life without fear or experience of sexual violence. A collaborative, city-wide initiative, Safe Cities London engages researchers, community leaders, service organizations, community members, and individuals with lived experience. The timeline below outlines the formation and evolution of Safe Cities London.

- 2017** London City Council unanimously endorsed the Safe Cities initiative. London became the third Canadian city to be part of the United Nations Safe Cities initiative, along with Winnipeg and Edmonton.
- 2018** London City Council allotted financial resources for the Safe Cities London scoping study. A Community Advisory Committee and Research Sub-Committee were created to guide the scoping study. The scoping study was conducted between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.
- 2019** The Community Advisory Committee and Research Sub-Committee prepared the Safe Cities London Scoping Study which included local and national statistical data, results from the scoping study, and a series of next steps.
- 2020** The Community Advisory Committee worked collectively to develop the Safe Cities London Action Plan.

## Safe Cities London Scoping Study

Between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, Safe Cities London conducted a scoping study to examine the incidence of sexual violence in public spaces in London (where, what, who, when), the factors women, girls, nonbinary and trans individuals, and survivors reported affected their sense of safety, and local and national trends.

The Safe Cities London scoping study sought to better understand the local context related to targeted acts of violence experienced by women, girls, nonbinary and trans individuals, and survivors including sexual violence in public spaces, as well as factors that influence the perceptions of safety for women, girls, nonbinary and trans individuals, and survivors. The Safe Cities London Scoping Study provides a summary of the results, including results from the participative mapping tool and focus groups.

## Safe Cities London Advisory Committee

### General Purpose

The Safe Cities London Advisory Committee will be responsible for the following:

- Overseeing and guiding the implementation of the Safe Cities London Action Plan
- Monitoring and measuring the performance and impact of the Safe Cities London Action Plan

### Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the work of the Advisory Committee:

- **Intersectionality:** We will prioritize the use of an intersectional lens.
- **Accountability:** We will take responsibility for actions and outcomes.
- **Innovation:** We will take calculated risks and implement innovative approaches.
- **Collaboration:** We will provide strategic guidance and share roles and responsibilities.
- **Evidence-Informed:** We will make decisions based on evidence.<sup>1</sup>
- **Accessibility:** We will ensure that everything we do is in an accessible format.<sup>2</sup>
- **Trauma-Informed:** We will embed a trauma-informed lens in our work.

### Areas of Focus

The Safe Cities London Advisory Committee will have three areas of focus, in alignment with the Safe Cities London Action Plan:

- Social Norms
- Policy and Practice
- Collaboration

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<sup>1</sup> Evidence includes, but is not limited to academic studies and the experience and expertise of researchers, practitioners, and individuals with lived experience.

<sup>2</sup> This includes compensating individuals with lived experience for their contributions to this work.

The areas of focus are set within the context of the following public spaces in London: in transit; parks, paths, and green spaces; residential areas; local businesses, shopping areas, and service centres; downtown; nightlife and entertainment spaces; campuses and schools; and online/virtual spaces.

### Membership

UN Women requires member cities to have the community involved in the development and implementation of actions that are part of the initiative.

Member agencies/organizations and community members recruited to the Safe Cities London Advisory Committee should be reflective of the diverse make-up of the community. Members will have lived experience, expertise on sexual violence, intersectionality and diversity, as well as the areas of focus identified in the Safe Cities Action Plan.

### Membership Term

The term of the appointment is 12 months, from January – December. This term can be renewed on an annual basis.

### Responsibilities of the Chair(s)

- Set the agenda for Safe Cities London Advisory Committee meetings.
- Encourage broad participation from members in discussion.
- End each meeting with a summary of decisions and assignments.
- Find replacements for members who discontinue participation.

Should the Chair be unable to attend a meeting, they will contact one of the other members to serve as Committee Chair.

### Responsibilities of Safe Cities London Advisory Committee Members

- Understand the goals, objectives and outcomes of Safe Cities London.
- Act on opportunities to communicate positively about Safe Cities London and share information within their own organization.
- Participate in meetings through attendance, discussion, and review of minutes, papers, and other documents.
- Send an alternate when attendance at meetings is not possible. When sending an alternate is not possible, Advisory Committee members will follow up with the Advisory Committee Chair or another member to receive an update about the meeting discussion and results.
- Commit to working in alignment with the Safe Cities London Guiding Principles.
- Support open discussion and debate and encourage fellow Committee members to voice their insights.
- Participate on at least one Action Team to support the implementation of Safe Cities London Action Plan initiatives.
- Seek input beyond the Advisory Committee membership to ensure the use of an intersectional lens.

## Action Teams

Action Teams will be established to align with the areas of focus in the Safe Cities London Action Plan. The purpose of the Action Teams is to allow smaller groups of the Safe Cities London Advisory Committee to focus on the implementation of actions and initiatives. This will allow sufficient and specific attention and expertise to be given to each area. Action Teams are temporary in nature and will be formed to complete specific initiatives and dissolved once initiatives are complete.

Members of the Action Teams are from the Safe Cities London Advisory Committee, noting that additional representatives from member organizations may be invited to participate as required. Members are able to join more than one Action Team.

## Decision-Making Process

The Safe Cities London Advisory Committee will follow a group consensus decision-making model. If a decision cannot be reached through a consensus and reasonable amount of discussion, then the Chairs will have the authority to move the decision to a vote.

Any documents, reports, media or tools produced for Safe Cities London will be brought to the Safe Cities London Advisory Committee for official approval before distribution to the broader community.

## Frequency of Meetings

Meeting will be held bi-monthly on a regular schedule or as required by the call of the Chair.

## Agenda, Minutes, and Decision Papers

A package will be sent to members electronically in advance of a meeting. This package will include the following:

- Agenda for upcoming meeting
- Any other documents/information to be considered at the meeting