



## **Declaration of Bogota Safe Cities for Women and Girls**

25 November 2004, Bogota D.C., COLOMBIA

WE ARE representatives of local governments from the Americas, Africa and Europe, from the United Nations System, international and regional networks, NGOs, social organisations, grassroots women's groups and academics, participating in the Second International Conference on Safe Cities for Women and Girls, organised in the city of Bogota, D.C. Colombia, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2004. We are from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic Ecuador, United States, Jamaica, Kenya, Peru, Russia, Scotland and South Africa.

We acknowledge the recommendations from the following International Conferences, Cairo 1994 (Population and Development), Belém do Pará 1994 (Interamerican Convention to Prevent, Sanction and Eradicate Violence Against Women) Beijing 1995 (4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Women, Istanbul 1996 (Habitat II, the City Summit), Johannesburg 1998 (Develop Networks in Crime Prevention and Community Safety), Naples 2000 (Forum on Safety and Democracy), Montreal, 2002 (1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Women's Safety), Durban, 2003 (Municipalities at the Crossroads), Monterrey 2004 (International Conference on Youth at Risk).

### **CONSIDERING THAT:**

- Gender-based violence is deeply entrenched in the cultural and social relations between men and women and is the result of an imbalance of power between men and women
- Gender-based violence must be considered within the general framework of human rights violations
- Gender violence is aggravated when poverty and social-political violence ends in internal armed conflict, bringing even greater obstacles to the achievement of gender equality and the fulfilment of the rights of women and girls
- Private is public as far as gender-based violence is concerned and it is an issue which must be addressed by society in general and demands partnerships between national and local governments and civil society organisations, especially women's organisations and organisations working with children
- The traditional focus given to urban violence and its costs does not incorporate a gender equality perspective, therefore, the risks and damages incurred by women and girls in the context of urban violence has not been adequately recognised or addressed

**We acknowledge the main United Nations Declarations and Recommendations, in particular the Beijing Platform of Action and the Habitat Agenda that states:**

"Governments commit themselves to: develop programmes and practices that promote the total and equal participation of women in the planning and in the decision-making process regarding human settlements and urban development".



## **We recognise** the international, regional, national and local progress regarding:

- Broader consensus on basic principles and norms of human solidarity and the necessary policies for their development
- **Better knowledge of necessary measures to ensure that cities safer for women and girls are safer for all**
- More violence prevention programmes with joint participation of the community, governments, private sector and other key actors
- Formal recognition of the central role of municipalities and a more commitment of local authorities and other stakeholders
- More recognition of this issue in local, national, regional and international agendas
- Significant practices that can be scaled-up and replicated

### **Challenges:**

- To ensure committed local governments, developing pro-active public policies, incorporating a gender approach
- To create and/or reinforce integrated programmes with appropriate human and economical resources for their implementation
- To develop adequate tools for the reinforcement of the citizenship of women (i.e. measurement and monitoring tools)
- To develop and/or reinforce strategic alliances between women's organisations, popular movements, the criminal justice system, private sector and other key actors
- To reach agreements and highlight existing partnerships between women's networks and organisations and local authorities
- To encourage and guarantee institutional spaces for women's issues with adequate resources to ensure a gender approach in the development of public policies
- To reach and/or strengthen the links between decision makers and those responsible for gender policies within governments

### **We therefore call upon:**

#### **National Governments –**

To ensure appropriate policies, mechanisms and resources to address the causes of violence; as well as guaranteeing full safety for women participating in politics either as candidates or elected leaders.

#### **Local Authorities–**

To implement municipal safety policies with a gender perspective; to build the capacity of those who are responsible for the formulation and implementation of public policy, aiming at the protection of human rights and the reinforcement of civic responsibility, especially the police force, in terms of the prevention of violence



against women and girls in the private as well as public space; to increase the number of women police officers, specifically attending cases of violence against women and girls; specific prevention programmes for adolescents and girls, shelters for battered women, adequate infrastructure, public transport, adequate lighting and the promotion of more women in local decision-making, encourage peace programmes and community solidarity and create special programmes for violent men.

### **Private Sector –**

To exercise their social responsibility including violence prevention programmes, good practices awards, adequate resources for capacity building in responsible citizenship, security and peace through media, as well as establishing internal mechanisms for sanctioning sexual harassment in the workplace.

### **Universities and Research Centres –**

To collaborate with local and national authorities ensuring adequate tools for measuring safety in our cities and our homes; to create urban observatories together with local authorities and popular movements in order to monitor urban safety; to create new measurement tools and to include this topic in curriculum and specific courses.

### **Police Forces –**

To promote an attitude of service and civic responsibility that encourages practices of human solidarity and common agreement between authorities and citizens, as well as to reinforce the awareness and capacity of public officials in order to ensure a more adequate response to the needs of women and girls who are victims of violence.

### **Mass Media –**

To work with communities and with local authorities in the dissemination of the norms and principles of mutual respect and solidarity, the use of symbols, images and language which promotes human solidarity and a more inclusive culture which respects gender, age, and diversity.

### **UN and International Development Agencies–**

To support national and municipal governments, civil society organisations in the development of programmes aiming at the reduction of domestic and urban violence, promoting citizen responsibility and the social/economical/political integration of society; to facilitate South/South and South/North exchange, between the members of the Safer Cities for Women and Girls Network; and to give technical assistance to local, national and regional Networks.

### **Community based organisations, women's organisations, NGOs, Religious organisations and Human Rights organisations–**

To continue to be the monitors for urban safety, especially regarding the safety of women and girls; to serve as the "thermometers" of peace and citizens responsibility, awarding local authorities and



communities that put in practice in a consistent and sustainable manner joint actions that promote safer cities for women and girls.

#### OUR COMMITMENTS:

### **UN SYSTEM (UN-HABITAT, UNIFEM-Andean Region and Office for Brazil and Southern Cone, UNICEF) commits itself to**

Continue supporting the policies and actions resulting from this Declaration.

### **UN-HABITAT commits itself to**

Support the development of strengthening of the Safer Cities International Network; to partner with Bogotá D.C. in the design of an adequate resource mobilisation strategy for the regional co-ordination of the Safer Cities for Women and Girls Network; to co-ordinate the Third International Conference Safer Cities for Women and Girls, together with the Huairou Commission and the Women and Cities International; and to assess the progress in this process during the Third World Urban Forum, Vancouver, 2006.

### **Women and Cities International commits itself to**

Develop an international webpage which links the different regional networks; to co-ordinate the next Women's Safety Awards in 2006 and to participate in the co-ordination of the Third International Conference Safer Cities for Women and Girls together with UN-HABITAT and the Huairou Commission.

### **FEMUM-LAC commits itself to**

Elaborate and develop regional projects that institutionalise a gender perspective in municipal urban safety policies, ensuring women's participation and monitoring; as well as promoting the South/South and South/North exchange of innovative municipal experiences in gender aware urban safety measures.

### **The Huairou Commission commits itself to**

Facilitate communication and global links between the different organisations, including the members and partners of its Networks, UN-HABITAT, Women and Cities International, the Women and Shelter Network, the Union of Cities and Local Governments, grassroots women's organisations and other counterparts such as: UNIFEM, FEMUM and the Municipality of Bogotá; include a Five Year Work Plan as part of its Local Governance Campaign, conformed of grassroots women's organisations, local authorities and NGOs.



Política de  
Infancia  
y Adolescencia  
Bogotá 2004-2008



2<sup>da</sup> Conferencia Internacional  
Bogotá 2004



*Ciudades Seguras*  
**para mujeres y niñas**

"Ciudad de Paz" Premio UNESCO 2004 - 2006

### **Bogotá D.C. commits itself to**

Consolidate and continue to develop public policies with a gender perspective as well as the perspective of children, adolescence and youth in the plan, programmes and projects contained in the Development Plan 2004-2008 "Bogotá Without Indifference, a Social Commitment against Poverty and Exclusion". It also commits itself to co-ordinate the new Safer Cities for Women and Girls Network for Latin America and the Caribbean.

