



# Municipalities making cities safer for **women** and **girls**

A safe city for women, in the words of *UN Women*, is one in which women feel safe in public spaces and have their rights upheld by both the government, and the general public.

Data on women who feel unsafe in public spaces and who report being raped, groped, catcalled, and whistled at are widely available, and local governments, as the custodians of public spaces, have a crucial role to play in fostering safe cities for women and enabling them to participate in all facets of social and public life, including work, education, politics, and recreation.

A non-profit organisation called *The Pixel Project*, whose mission is to raise awareness, fund and volunteer power for the cause of ending violence against women, lists a number of interventions that municipalities can implement to make public spaces safer for women, including well-lit streets, surveillance cameras, making public transportation accessible, safe, and affordable, and municipalities working with feminist urban planners in the design of urban spaces, to mention but a few.

Additionally in 2010, UN Women introduced their “Safe Cities, Safe Public Spaces” program, which worked with over 20 cities internationally to develop, put into practice, and assess comprehensive strategies to prevent and address sexual harassment of women and girls in public spaces.

This was done in recognition of the fact that cities and public spaces were not created with women in mind and that remedial measures were required.

Therefore, Women’s Month offers local governments the chance to evaluate whether they are doing enough to make women feel safe in public places, which is more urgent than ever.

### **SALGA National Executive Committee (NEC) and Provincial Executive Committees (PEC).**

The highest decision-making body of SALGA, the National Executive Committee (NEC), will meet from August 16 to 17. Meetings of the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) will also take place from August 21 to August 25.

### **Commemorative events**

- Every year, in August, our country marks Women’s Month. We also pay tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest against the extension of Pass Laws to women. A system meant to control women even further and reduce women to passive beings, at the mercy of men.
- National Science Week (NSW), 1-6 August is an annual event aiming to exhibit and communicate awareness in science. It is an initiative of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), a countrywide celebration of science connecting various stakeholders and role players conducting science-based activities during the week, an annual celebration of the role and value of science and technology in people’s daily lives.
- South Africa celebrates Arbor Week in the first week of September annually. National Arbor Week is an opportune time to call on all South Africans to plant indigenous trees as a practical and symbolic gesture of sustainable environmental management.

#### **Follow hashtag.**

#InspiringServiceDelivery, #Kasi2Kasi, #Asisho! #LetsSayIt, #LocalGovTodayEveryday and look out for more activities on the SALGA website: [www.salga.org.za](http://www.salga.org.za) and all our social media platforms including:



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