



HIGH LEVEL SIDE EVENT
RECLAIMING PUBLIC SPACES FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS
March 7th, 2013

1:15-2:30pm, Conference Room 2, North Lawn Building (NLB)

To register for a pass please write to Hawa Diallo: diallo9@un.org by March 4, 2013

Moderator: Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director UN Women

Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN Habitat

Christian Salazar, Deputy Director, Programmes, UNICEF

Suneeta Dhar, Director, Jagori, New Delhi, India

Josephine Castillo, Grassroots community leader, DAMPA (Federation of Peoples Organizations) and member of Huairou Commission, Philippines

Mary Balikungeri, Rwandan Women's Network, Rwanda

Olga Segovia, Coordinator, Women and Habitat Network, LAC, Chile

Across the world, in both developing and developed countries, women and girls experience a continuum of violence in private and public spaces. Whereas gender-based violence in the private domain is now widely recognized as a human rights violation, sexual harassment and violence against women and girls in public spaces remains a largely neglected issue, with few laws or policies in place to address it and thereby continues to be an obstacle to reaching gender equality and equity, peace and sustainable development.

This High-Level event is the result of a recommendation from the UN-Habitat Advisory Board on Gender Issues and combined efforts of UN-Women, UNICEF, UN-Habitat along with global partners (Jagori, WICI, Women and Habitat Network LAC, Groots International, ActionAid International, Plan International and the Huairou Commission) to support importance of comprehensive safe cities approaches during the 57th CSW.

This side event will highlight lessons learned and results achieved in various safe cities initiatives. It will *call on local authorities, grassroots organizations, facilitating NGOs and UN-Agencies to work in partnership from the design to the implementation of safe cities initiatives* and will generate ideas and recommendations on how to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in public spaces.

