

COMMONWEALTH
WOMEN
IN PLANNING NETWORK

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ISSUED AT THE COMMONWEALTH
ASSOCIATION OF PLANNERS'
BIENNIAL BUSINESS MEETING

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
OCTOBER 14, 2018

COMMONWEALTH WOMEN IN PLANNING NETWORK

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INTRODUCTION

All things being equal, we are not.

Women have a fundamental role to play as designers of, and active participants in, the built environment. Women's participation is essential in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, and the International Guidelines for Urban and Territorial Planning, now and in the future.

When women directly participate in developing policy and are meaningfully included in the decision-making process - both as professionals and as stakeholders - development policies are more effective, inclusive, and sustainable, the built environment is more equitable, and community-wide resilience is enhanced, benefiting all members of the community.

This Manifesto is a Call to Action.

When community development challenges arise, gender inequalities are often exacerbated. When one gender is under-represented or unrepresented while planning and designing the built environment, their concerns and needs are often overlooked or ignored. Planning policy does not always recognize the fact that women and men use public space differently and have different concerns about how the built environment meets their needs – needs which are contextually and culturally specific. The impact of gender inequality in planning, designing, and occupying the built environment is intersectional and varied, contributing, in part, to:

- gender-based violence and vulnerability of women in public spacesⁱ;
- limited physical and social mobility, including unequal access to jobs, training, education, and land or financial capital for entrepreneurial activitiesⁱⁱ;
- prolongation of discriminatory social norms and policies, including limited rights to land title and useⁱⁱⁱ;
- decreased housing security and access to affordable housing^{iv};
- limited or inconsistent access to and use of public amenities, including public transportation, parks, roads, and sanitation services, particularly for breastfeeding mothers and women travelling alone^v;
- inhospitable environments and lack of proximity contributes to uneven distribution of responsibilities for the burden of care and limitations for women^{vi};
- limitations regarding girls' and women's pursuit of non-traditional careers and majors^{vii};
- under-representation of women in the built environment professions^{viii}; and
- increased workload or burdens resulting from climate change-related impacts (e.g. increased walking distances to fetch water and greater risk of mortality from natural disasters)^{ix}.

The Commonwealth Women in Planning Network is part of the Commonwealth Association of Planners, which represents over 40,000 professional planners from across the Commonwealth. Its members include professionals who participate in governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, and civil society organizations, as well as academic institutions and private businesses worldwide.

The Commonwealth Women in Planning Network recognizes the potential of intersectional, gender-inclusive planning, policy, and design to contribute positively toward global economic, social, cultural, and environmental objectives, by creating a more equitable and inclusive built environment. This Manifesto was created with the objective of developing an international call to action for advancing the role of women in the planning profession and highlighting the impact of planning and design on women's safety, prosperity, and empowerment.

The Commonwealth Women in Planning Network is dedicated to providing an intersectional, gender-based lens through which we can examine the built environment, advance the Sustainable Development Goals, and support women working in the planning profession -to ensure inclusiveness and equality - as advocated for by the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, and the Paris Agreement.

This Manifesto was conceptualized and drafted in conversation with a diverse group of planners and built-environment professionals from across the Commonwealth. Comments were received from 34 female planners across 10 countries, including planners in urban and rural communities, planners representing Aboriginal communities, and professionals from international, gender-based civil society organizations. This Manifesto was circulated to all Commonwealth Association of Planners Vice Presidents for review and comment on behalf of all member organizations.

Adopted and signed at the Commonwealth Association of Planners' Biennial Business Meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa on 14 October 2018, this Manifesto serves as the foundation for ongoing international collaboration and as a global call to action to governments, professionals, academics,

To ensure all self-identified women and girls have the **social, economic, and political power** to shape our shared built environment.

organizations, individuals, and stakeholders. Together, bold steps will be taken to enable all self-identified women and girls to exercise their human rights and realize their full potential in designing and occupying the built environment, thereby helping to create public spaces which support equal access to economic and social opportunity for people of all genders.

VISION

To ensure all self-identified women and girls have the social, economic, and political power to shape and benefit from our shared built environment, making it safer, more prosperous, and more inclusive of all members of society, particularly the most vulnerable.

DECLARATION

The Commonwealth Women in Planning Network has convened to express a shared commitment to recognizing the crucial role of women as designers of - and active participants in - the built environment. The Commonwealth Women in Planning Network affirms the fundamental role of women in achieving and advancing all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, and the International Guidelines for Urban and Territorial Planning, furthering these objectives in the Commonwealth in alignment with the Commonwealth Association of Planners' Fiji Declaration on sustainable, resilient, and inclusive human settlements.

This Manifesto, signed in the presence of Commonwealth Association of Planners member organizations and observers, marks the first international commitment by planning associations across the Commonwealth to advancing the role of women as active participants in planning, designing, and shaping the built environment.

CALL TO ACTION

This Manifesto is a **Call to Action**.

It is a call to national, regional, and local governments, academic institutions, public and private organizations, practitioners, citizens, and stakeholders of all genders to ally and engage with women - as planners, designers, and equal participants in the built environment - through gender-inclusive policies, practices, and partnerships.

It is a call to equalize the gender balance within the planning profession by actively and consciously encouraging girls and women to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) studies and careers, providing mentorship and support to women working in the built environment professions, and endorsing merit-based appointments of women to high-profile leadership, governance, and political positions.

It is a call to planners worldwide to assume a leadership role, positioning themselves as ambassadors of women and girls, and calling for gender-inclusive, responsive, sustainable, and equitable built environments in the face of global challenges.

Recognizing that planning leadership is critical to the delivery of gender-inclusive land development and management policies and methodologies, which contribute to a more equitable and sustainable future, this Manifesto is a

Call for:

Active Pursuit of a gender-balanced work force in planning by attracting and retaining female talent in the work place and supporting merit-based appointments for women to high-profile and leadership planning, policy, and political positions.

Capacity-building and Leadership in support of women working in planning and the built environment professions at all stages of their careers through networking, collaborations, and partnerships.

Recognition of Gender-inclusive Planning by professionals, political leaders, decision-makers, and influencers of all genders - across all sectors of society - to equalize the role of women in planning, designing, and occupying the built environment.

Enhancement of Gender-inclusive Planning Education and Research, through educational institutions and planning associations, to provide science-based evidence and information relating to the importance and impact of gender-inclusive planning practices around the world.

Development of Toolkits and Resources that include gender-disaggregated statistical indicators, data, measures, standards, codes, best practices, and legal protections to better understand and evaluate the impact of planning on women and girls throughout the Commonwealth and globally.

Resilient Planning Approaches to ensure that planners consider gender-inclusive

solutions that are responsive to physical, social, cultural, and environmental risks caused by natural disasters, conflict, rapid urbanization, and migration, which profoundly and disproportionately affect quality of life for women and girls.

Culturally-sensitive Planning Frameworks that recognize and consider the impact of culture on women's use of, and relationship to, the built environment.

Commitment to Responsible Design that acknowledges the significant impact resulting from planning practice - including the enormous capacity of planning policies and interventions to be beneficial or detrimental - and maintaining a commitment to ethical, inclusive, and equitable development practices.

We, the undersigned, hereby declare and commit to the following:

Acknowledge the intrinsic capacity of planning, policy, and design to serve as global agents of change to create a world that is environmentally sustainable, economically viable, socially equitable, and culturally diverse.

Recognize the diverse range of contexts, both formal and informal, where gender impacts, and is impacted by, the design of the built environment.

Promote the rights of all self-identified women and girls, in all their diversity, with respect to land use and ownership, policy-creation, governance, planning, programming, and design.

Empower planners, governments, policy-makers, and stakeholders by sharing information that enables us to better

understand and address intersectional, gender-based issues in our communities.

Emphasize the importance of creating gender-inclusive built environments, based on the meaningful participation of self-identified women and girls in all aspects of the planning, decision-making, and governance of their cities and communities.

Acknowledge the immense value of local and traditional cultural knowledge for appropriate, sustainable, and innovative gender-inclusive planning solutions.

Consider the needs of people with diverse gender identities – including, but not limited to, transgender, non-binary, agender, gender questioning, and gender fluid individuals – as equal and active participants in the design and occupation of the built environment.

Incorporate intersectional contexts and considerations that impact gender expression and individual lived experiences, including race, culture, religion, age, sexuality, class, income, and education.

Recognize the need for strategic leadership on gender-inclusive development and policy matters at local, regional, national, and international levels, and the need for gender-inclusive governance models, political agendas, and policies.

Develop the capacity of governments and organizations working towards the goal of gender-inclusive, sustainable, and equitable global development.

And confirm the value of working in a collaborative, holistic, and intersectional way to share knowledge and employ planning and policy practices for the good of all people.

We therefore, express our intent:

To support self-identified women and girls as change agents and leaders – whether as professionals or as stakeholders – as they participate wholly and meaningfully in planning, programming, governance, and decision-making related to the built environment.

To align with international policies, frameworks, and directives related to advancing gender equality, women’s empowerment, and women’s rights in the built environment.

To ensure that gender is considered in resourcing urban planning initiatives, including the development of infrastructure, amenities, and leisure facilities.

To collaborate as associations and individuals - together and with other gender-based organizations - to advance gender equality worldwide.

To align with global goals and objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, International Guidelines for Urban and Territorial Planning, UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Commonwealth Association of Planners’ Fiji Declaration, and others.

To collectively initiate projects that foster and enhance the role, responsibility, and authority of women – both as professionals and as stakeholders - in the built environment.

To influence and support decision-making, locally and globally, on gender-inclusive policy, programs, and resources, giving women an effective, united voice, and inspiring planners to better serve all people.

All people. All places. All genders.

PROJECTS

The annexed list of potential projects and initiatives showcases a broad spectrum of efforts that could be undertaken collectively, at both the local and global level, to demonstrate, enhance, and advance the objectives outlined in this Manifesto.

We acknowledge that undertaking any of these projects requires human and financial resources, coordination, and management. A process will be created to determine the projects to be launched and, therewith, their sequencing, funding, management, and implementation. Projects will be undertaken by coalitions of interested participants and, where possible, matched with partners and sponsors.

Networking and Outreach

Project 1: Develop an Action Plan, to be kept under regular review, which identifies specific priorities, projects, partners, and opportunities that will be pursued by the Commonwealth Women in Planning Network, as well as opportunities for sponsorship and/or funding.

Project 2: Establish a standing international advisory group, comprised of CAP member representatives and other partner organizations, to serve as a resource for governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, and civil society organizations, as well as practicing professionals, academic institutions, and other stakeholders.

Project 3: Advocate for the development and implementation of gender-inclusive land access, control, and use policies across the Commonwealth through background papers, position statements, best practices, and partnerships. Develop a toolkit of sustainable processes to

influence landowners to support women's access, ownership and use of fertile lands for their farm activities as a means of addressing poverty, inequality, and vulnerability.

Project 4: Develop, maintain, and enhance partnerships with CAP member organizations, UN Women, Women in Cities International, Women Transforming Cities, and other organizations pursuing similar gender-related objectives in the built environment.

Project 5: Map the relationships, objectives, and indicators between SDG 5: Gender Equality and the other 16 Global Goals, with a particular focus on SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Planning Education

Project 6: Develop a gender-responsive professional toolkit for students, emerging professionals, and practitioners working in the built environment. This toolkit may include links to information about local, national, and international mentorship networks from member organizations, lessons learned from senior professionals, best practices for organizing and maintaining professional networks, and/or access to articles, blog posts, and other information specific to women working in the built environment.

Project 7: Collect, develop, and share new platforms and curricula for planning education and research dissemination - for use by academic institutions, planning associations, and the public - with a focus on gender-inclusive planning, policy and design. Recognize and promote training on gender-responsive planning for people already working professionally as part of continuing professional learning requirements.

Project 8: Support and encourage more girls to enter STEM fields – with a view of having more women working as planners, engineers, architects, and designers – through local outreach by Network members to schools, youth organizations, and community-based groups.

Publication and Research

Project 9: Develop a toolkit for professional planners to assist them in applying a gender lens to planning projects worldwide, including qualitative and quantitative indicators, case studies, policies, partnership strategies, and reporting mechanisms. This toolkit should consider the role of planning in enhancing and celebrating cultural and ethnic diversity as it relates to women in the built environment.

Project 10: Develop a platform for information sharing and discussion. This platform may take the form of a blog, creative commons, clearinghouse, database, and/or newsletter.

Project 11: Support and promote online and print publications written by Commonwealth Women in Planning Network members, including blog entries, journal articles, white papers, and books, to increase research, information-sharing, and collaboration between international planning professionals.

Project 12: Develop and maintain an international database which maps gender-inclusive planning organizations, initiatives, and policies to create an international resource that identifies strategic partners, advisors, best practices, and lessons learned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

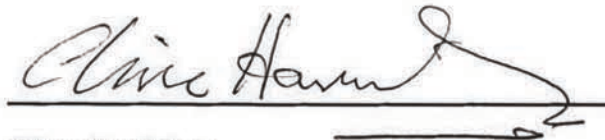
The Commonwealth Women in Planning Network gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the numerous women who contributed to the content, creation and revision of this Manifesto. We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Women in Cities International, Women Transforming Cities, Women in Planning UK, UN-Habitat, UN-Women, the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Royal Town Planning Institute, the Planning Institute of Australia, and the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP), including CAP's Patron Trudi Elliott, the CAP Vice Presidents, and representatives of national planning organizations across the Commonwealth.

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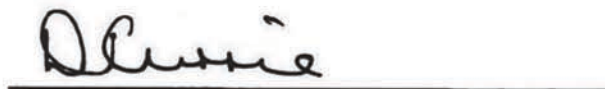
We, the undersigned, hereby endorse this
Commonwealth Women in Planning Network Manifesto

SIGNED, this 14th day of October, 2018
in the presence of member organizations and observers
at the Commonwealth Association of Planners' Biennial
Business Meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Endorsed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clive Harridge", written over a horizontal line.

Clive Harridge
Secretary-General,
Commonwealth Association of Planners

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dyan Currie", written over a horizontal line.

Dyan Currie
President,
Commonwealth Association of Planners

Presented by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin Agnello", written over a horizontal line.

Kristin Agnello
Co-ordinator,
Commonwealth Women in Planning Network

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