

16<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## **Report of Scoping Study for Dublin City Council Safe City Programme**

In March 2013 Dublin City Council signed up to the UN Women Safe Cities Global Programme. The SCGP is working in over 20 cities across the globe to prevent and reduce sexual harassment against women and girls. There is evidence to support the idea that a city that is safer for women and girls is safer for everyone and helps to enhance social and commercial life. The decision to join the Global Initiative was taken not because Dublin is an unsafe city but because the city wants to share and learn from knowledge in other cities and to proactively strengthen efforts to prevent sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces.

The scoping study was undertaken to establish an indication of the levels and pervasiveness of harassment and violence in the city. The study focused on a specific geographic area namely the corridor from Heuston Station to Abbey Street. The study findings show that sexual harassment is a frequent and distressing occurrence for women and girls in Dublin City. The aim of the scoping study was to inform the design of Dublin's Safe City Programme.

Key among the recommendations are the following:

- Upgrade the design of the public realm along the intervention site.
- Implement educational programmes for the public and service providers, in particular An Garda Síochána, clearly defining what constitutes sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public space.
- Develop public awareness campaigns.
- A stronger Garda presence
- Raising awareness of how to make a complaint and encouraging reporting of all forms of sexual violence.

The individuals and organisations who participated in the study are as follows:

Akidwa, BeLongTo, Cllr. Janice Boylan, Cosc: The National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, Chrysalis Drugs Project, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, Feminist Ire, Focus Ireland, Josephine Henry, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Inner City Organisations Network, Macro Centre, National Women's Council of Ireland, Pavee Point, Transdev, We are DublinTown: Dublin City's Improvement District.

The research was undertaken by Dr. Jackie Bourke, Independent Research Consultant, in association with Ciaran Cuffe of the School of Spatial Planning and Transport Engineering, Dublin Institute of Technology and Dr. Kevin Lalor, Centre for Social and Educational Research, Dublin Institute of Technology. September 2015.

I am meeting with Dr. Jackie Bourke, co-author of the research and report, on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017. I will communicate any updates or suggestions for delivery from the report in due course.

**Ann O'Donovan**  
**Administrative Officer**