
PRESS RELEASE

International Women's Day 2013

Local and Regional Government's Global Agenda for Equality A peaceful world: zero tolerance of violence against women and girls

Barcelona, 8 March 2013- UCLG's Standing Committee on Gender Equality and the whole of the **World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments** join all partners, and in particular elected women and their associations, in the celebration of 2013 International Women's Day.

UCLG calls local and regional governments worldwide to condemn violence against women and girls and calls its members to promote the **Paris Local and Regional Governments' Global Agenda for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life**.

"A peaceful sustainable world cannot be conceived with tolerance of violence against women and girls. It is our responsibility to stop this creating policy and changing mentalities" **Anne Hidalgo, Vice-Mayor of Paris and Chair of the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality**
Women continue to be under-represented in the decision-making bodies in all aspects of politic, economic and social life but their full participation is critical to answer the challenges that humanity is facing.

Local and regional governments should commit to:

- 1. Fostering increased participation of women in local decision-making, in order to guarantee equal representation and to achieve a successful development agenda Post-2015;**
- 2. Situate equality between women and men on the top of the agenda of local public policy making and promote adequate service provision that will contribute to improve the condition of women and to unlash their power;**
- 3. Contribute to a safe world in particular for women, who are traditionally the most vulnerable to all types of violence.**

Global solidarity strengthening international cooperation between central, local, regional governments and civil society, in order to help eliminating barriers to women's participation in local decision-making, will be key to a sustainable future.

UCLG would like to pay special tribute and celebrate the work done by the local elected women networks of METROPOLIS, CEMR, UCLGA-REFELA, and FLACMA-REDLAMUGOL. It further salutes the work done by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Huairou Commission. All of these institutions are fostering female leadership and equality.

UCLG looks forward to collaborating with UN Women, UN-Habitat and all other development partners towards a more equal world in 2013.

Visit women.uclg.org and our Twitter [@uclg_women](https://twitter.com/uclg_women) to follow our work

About UCLG. Founded in May 2004, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government. Representing over half of the world's population, the members of UCLG are present in 140 UN Member States across all world regions Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, Middle East-West Asia, Latin America and North America –covered by seven continental section and a metropolitan section. Over 1.000 cities and regions are direct members of UCLG, as well as 112 national associations. UCLG's major areas of policy focus include local democracy, climate change and environmental protection, Millennium Development Goal achievement, local finance, urban development, city diplomacy for peace building.

United Cities and Local Governments
Tel + 34 933 428 750 - Fax + 34 933 428 760
www.uclg.org - info@uclg.org