

# Montevideo, destino de paz



Foro Mundial  
de Ciudades y  
Territorios de Paz  
Montevideo, 2025



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## THEMATIC AXIS 3. RESPONSES FROM LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

### I. Context

Women and people from the LGBTI+ community experience expressions of violence in urban and territorial contexts on a daily basis. Despite the progress made by feminist, women's, and LGBTI+ movements around the world, deep inequalities continue to exist that originate in a patriarchal, colonial, and racist system.

The recent report published by UN Women and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on "Progress in Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals: Gender Overview 2024", provides data that shows that there is still a long way to go to eliminate violence against women. One in 8 women, aged 15 to 49, have experienced sexual or physical violence inflicted by an intimate partner in the past year. The document confirms a 50% increase in cases of conflict-related sexual violence since 2022, 95% of which affects women and girls. In 2020, women made up 64% of detected victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and girls, another 27%.

The impact of the social and economic structure is also reflected in the characteristics of the development of the life project to which women can aspire and their place in society. Worldwide, women spend 2.5 times more hours per day on unpaid domestic and care work than men, which substantially limits their opportunities for training, income generation, and participation in public issues. In 2023, women held 26.9% of parliamentary seats; 35.5% of positions in local governments and 27.5% of management positions in private companies.

In 2025, 30 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it is essential to address the role that local and regional governments can play in localizing gender equality and ensuring women's participation in public life and global decision-making processes.

Violence can affect women throughout their life cycles and occurs in all spheres, both public and private, including digital spaces. Currently, there is an alarming increase in cyber violence against women, including those with a high public profile who are increasingly exposed to gender-based threats and harassment. In this adverse context for women, some cross-cutting challenges are added. One of them is the rise of conservatism and the extreme right that threatens women's freedoms and openly declares its intention to repeal and eliminate laws that protect the rights of women and LGBTI people, in addition to criminalizing the feminist movement.

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There is no urban and territorial peace if women live in fear of gender-based violence. There are no safe cities and territories if security measures do not include the interests of women and girls and guarantee the right to live a life free of violence so that women can enjoy full participation in public and political life.

Addressing these issues involves prioritising issues that refer to the territory and the city understood as a common good for society as a whole and, in particular, for women. It implies the necessary participation that collects their voices in their demands and urgencies, as well as the definition of the public and the necessary instruments to act from the management and public policy in the territories. It requires cultural and symbolic transformations, which are central and at the same time the most difficult to achieve when building societies with respect for diversity (cultural violence). And, not least, it requires the promotion of greater social and environmental justice, among other relevant issues (structural violence).

With these dimensions in mind, the 5th World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace, in short, seeks to contribute to building coexistence in cities and territories, with criteria of social justice and care policies. Local and regional institutions are essential for fostering a culture of peace and empowering women to take a leading role in building peaceful communities.

## II. Methodology

The sessions dedicated to addressing the thematic axes will be addressed at two different times: a panel discussion and a workshop session with guiding questions:

### Panel of Experts: Key Perspectives and Approaches

**Objective:** To provide a technical approach to the key perspectives and approaches of the thematic axes

**Format:** Conversation between a maximum of 5 experts with a moderator.

**Duration:** 60 minutes

### Workshops on experiences and learning

**Objective:** To share innovative learnings from public policies and successful projects, carried out by LRGs, networks of cities, civil society organizations, communities or citizens around the thematic axis.

**Format:** Presentation of success stories, followed by an interactive methodology, through which attendees will be consulted to nourish the conversation. Digital instruments will be used to interact with those

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present in the auditorium and question and answer spaces will be opened.

**Duration:** 90 minutes

## III. Dimensions

**Under the concept of Participatory Management for Coexistence and Peace, Thematic Axis 3. Responses from LRGs to Gender-based Violence,** opens the space to talk about significant experiences of public policies that promote the guarantee of women's human rights in their differences and diversities, which puts the sustainability of life at the center, placing care as a job and a right, eliminating any form of violence, and promoting the full participation of women in economic, social, environmental and political life as a symbol of the legitimacy of democratic institutions. This political participation of women is fundamental for gender justice and increases the chances that their needs will be considered in highly masculinized spaces of debate and decision-making. To this end, the panel and workshop will be made up of participants who make contributions in the following dimensions:

**INITIATIVES TO RESPOND TO THE DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.** The figures associated with gender-based violence are worrying. According to data from UN Women, an estimated [48,800 women and girls died at the hands of their partners or other family members](#) worldwide in 2022. This means that, on average, more than five women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family. According to new UNICEF estimates, more than 370 million girls and women worldwide are subjected to rape and sexual abuse as children, with an alarming incidence and devastating effects on their lives (UNICEF, 2024).

"Gender-based violence against women" emphasizes the fact that violence is primarily motivated by gender and inequality between men and women. And in this sense, it is important to focus on gender in a broad way, also including LGBTI people, thus, LGBTIphobic violence, for example, is also considered a type of gender violence, since the engine of violence is related to non-compliance with "gender norms". According to [data](#) from the Trans Murder Monitoring 2023 research project, by TGEU (Transgender Europe), between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023, the murder of 320 trans and gender-diverse people was reported worldwide.

In turn, interconnected crises, including economic, climate, and armed conflict, are intensifying gender-based violence. Women on the margins face disproportionate and multiple forms of interrelated discrimination.

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## Panel Questions:

*What role do LRGs play in the prevention, eradication and reparation of the different expressions of gender-based violence?*

*What policies are needed to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence?*

*What reading and what responses do younger people make to address gender-based violence?*

## Workshop Questions:

*What lessons learned can be identified from the experiences to address this type of violence?*

*How do we guarantee the participation of women's organizations and members of the LGBTIQ+ community in the definition of public policies? What kind of spaces are necessary for the participatory management of this type of violence?*

*How do we guarantee investment in the prevention of gender-based violence?*

*How can LRGs change negative narratives around gender-based violence?*

## 2. PROGRAMS WITH A CARE APPROACH THAT HELP PREVENT AND RESPOND TO THE VARIOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

The dominant production structure and cultural patterns do not recognize the work of care as a matter of collective responsibility and a public good. The concept of time poverty provides a framework to explain the consequences that women have suffered on their health, economic autonomy, and political participation due to the disproportionate burden of unpaid work they face in caring for their loved ones. Women around the world, particularly the poorest and where social security systems are weakest, see their opportunities for study, income generation and self-care reduced by dedicating more than twice the time that men allocate to domestic chores. Therefore, the care approach in the provision of public services from the local level establishes a perspective of human rights and social justice, by putting the sustainability of life at the center, placing care as a job, betting on inclusive, redistributive and non-discriminatory development, and promoting the full participation of women in economic life. social, environmental and political.

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### Panel Questions:

*What are the keys for LRGs to carry out programs with a care-based approach that empowers women without increasing the risk of them being victims of sexist violence?*

*What kind of policies or initiatives are necessary for the mainstreaming and promotion of gender equality in all public policies by LRGs?*

### Workshop Questions:

*What lessons learned can be identified from LRG experiences in the face of governance schemes, intersectoral resource management, and cultural transformation implemented with a care approach that have improved coexistence in communities?*

*How can we ensure that this approach to care is translated into effective and sustainable public policies that last beyond political and administrative changes?*

**3. EXPRESSIONS AND RESPONSES TO POLITICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.** The way in which women who develop a political career are attacked can be devastating and is understood as a form of gender violence. Denigrating expressions that curtail the morale of women in politics, seek to hinder, limit or suppress women's participation and leadership in decision-making spaces, both in the public and private spheres. By perceiving them as transgressors of a space historically and structurally associated with men, the narratives and mechanisms used discourage female leadership and greater involvement of women in politics. Consequently, the conversation around the subject has also been inhibited. Due to their proximity to the problems, the leaders in the territory are even more exposed in their emotional and, sometimes, even physical integrity.

### Panel Questions:

*What are the keys to women's leadership in LRGs to ensure a commitment to gender equality and social inclusion in public policies?*

*What can we do to guarantee women's long-term leadership in decision-making spaces in political life in the face of the harassment and political violence they suffer?*

### Workshop Questions:

*What experiences make significant contributions to mitigating political violence against women?*

*What role do civil society and women's organizations play in guaranteeing women's leadership in the face of this type of violence?*

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*From this perspective, how do we take care of our democracies from LRGs?*

*What role can LRGs play in educating and raising awareness to confront political violence against women?*

**4. INTERNATIONAL ARTICULATIONS AND LINKS.** Subnational diplomacy is one of the most effective instruments for advancing the gender equity agenda and for confronting gender-based violence at the local level. Through international collaboration, institutional capacities have been consolidated for the local public management of these issues.

The circulation of knowledge, for example, in the implementation of Time Use Surveys and local social service provision schemes with a focus on care, as well as the channeling of financial resources from international sources, have facilitated the leadership of LRGs in the adoption of innovative approaches to action in response to gender-based violence. In conjunction with city networks, and other relevant actors in international cooperation such as UN Women and philanthropic organizations, a community of practice has been consolidated that favors the advancement of the role of women in the economic life and collective affairs of society.

## Panel Questions:

*What role does LRG's international action play in strengthening public policies that allow us to move towards new ways of doing politics by putting people's lives, their freedoms and the exercise of human rights at the centre from a feminist perspective?*

*How to create and strengthen local and regional government initiatives and networks that foster and contribute to feminist leadership?*

## Workshop Questions:

*How do we build new platforms for multi-stakeholder dialogues around gender-based violence and the role of LRGs?*

*How to maintain lines of cooperation on political leadership and narratives that promote feminist, care, human rights approaches and global solidarity in polarized contexts?*

*What are the institutions and actors that can be strategic for LRGs in advancing these alliances and articulations?*