



**HIGH LEVEL SIDE EVENT**  
**RECLAIMING PUBLIC SPACES FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**  
**March 7<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:diallo9@un.org) by March 4, 2013

**Moderator:** Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director UN Women

**Dr. Joan Clos**, Executive Director, UN Habitat

**Representative of 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

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 57<sup>th</sup> 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 safer cities initiatives and will generate ideas and recommendations on how to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in public spaces.

