

WOMEN'S SAFETY

From Dependence to Autonomy



**Acting
together**
for women's safety

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Some history: women's safety in cities



1970s AND 1980s:

The pioneering role of women's groups

On September 18, 1981, in response to the call of the *Regroupement québécois des CALACS* (Québec Coalition of sexual assault crisis centres) in conjunction with Canadian and American associations of rape crisis centres, thousands of women took to the streets in more than 31 cities to chant *LA RUE LA NUIT FEMMES SANS PEUR*, or *TAKE BACK THE NIGHT*. The women who participated “expressed their desire to live freely, without fear of being assaulted, without the need for protectors; tonight, we will march together, women without fear.”

Women were already protesting the various forms of violence against them (sexual assault, harassment, spousal violence) and the impact of such violence on women's sense of safety and freedom of movement. But they were also celebrating women's struggles “to have our space respected, to take our place and individually and collectively take back public spaces.”

In the years that followed, various awareness events marked the **third Friday of September**, the Day of Action against violence against women. The Polytechnique tragedy in 1989 added a new date to the annual calendar of events highlighting violence against women: **December 6**.

1990s IN MONTRÉAL:

Women's safety in urban environments through the development of partnerships between women's groups and city and local authorities

In 1988, women citizens in Montréal asked elected city and local officials to take into account the specific realities of women in urban development activities. In response, the City of Montréal created the *Femmes et ville* (Women and city) committee, which by 1990 had made actions “For Montréal women's safety” its priority. Montréal drew on work being done at the time in other Canadian and European cities as well as researchers pioneering work on women's participation in the development of cities. Working right from the start in partnership with women's groups and other public agencies and community organizations concerned, the City has published various guides aimed at encouraging women to appropriate public spaces as their own and to make city and local authorities, partners and professionals aware of the principles of safe planning and design from the point of view of women (SEE FILE 11). It also extended its crime prevention programme (*Tandem Montréal*) to include a women's safety component. Finally, it began working with the public transit commission (STM) to ensure that women users' needs for safety are taken into account in the design of certain stations.



Femmes et ville
Ville de Montréal

For
more
information

- DOCUMENTATION IN TOOL KIT
- ACTIVITIES IN CAFSU'S DIRECTORY

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J'ACCUSE LA PEUR

1992 | Actes de la conférence montréalaise sur les femmes et la sécurité urbaine

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POUR UN QUARTIER PLUS SÛR : LES INTERVENTIONS EN MATIÈRE D'AMÉNAGEMENT SÉCURITAIRE

1999 | Comité femmes et sécurité de la Petite Patrie

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LA SÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES EN MILIEU URBAIN

1999 | Actes du séminaire tenu à Montréal

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Dépliant de **LA MARCHÉ MONDIALE DES FEMMES DE L'AN 2000**

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In June 1992, in the wake of the *J'accuse la peur* conference ("I accuse fear"), public authorities in Montreal who were concerned with urban safety undertook to participate in the work of a regional working committee that included representatives of women's groups and community organizations. This committee was named *Comité d'action femmes et sécurité urbaine* (CAFSU—Women and urban safety action committee). Its work is aimed at improving women's safety and sense of safety, since two out of three (60%) women in Montréal say that they are afraid to go out alone at night, even in their own neighbourhood (Gallup poll). The CAFSU has since carried out numerous education, awareness, advocacy, research and intervention activities. These include the process leading up to the establishment of the STM's *Between stops* service, which was chosen by the United Nations as a "Best practice" in local development for 2000.

Outside Montréal, the "Aux portes des cités sûres" project ("At the gates of safe cities") carried out by the *Développement québécois de la sécurité des femmes* and sponsored by the *I'R des Centres de femmes* and the *Regroupement québécois des CALACS* marshalled ten or so municipalities around the goal of women's safety during the 1990s.

1995-2000:

Local women's safety committees

Following consultations on Montréal's priorities in health care and social services, the Régie régionale de Montréal-Centre (the regional health and social services board) made the issue of women's safety part of its *Violence against women* priority in 1995. Three local inter-sectoral committees (Petite Patrie, Plateau Mont-Royal, Montréal-Nord) were then set up on the Island of Montréal. They initiated various activities aimed at improving women's safety and sense of safety. A fourth local committee was created in 2000 (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) in the framework of the federal government's *National Crime Prevention Strategy*, which includes specific funding for efforts to enhance the personal safety of women and girls.

2000:

World March of Women—

Women without fear, at any time of the day or night!



On Friday, October 13, 2000, as part of the World March of Women which called for the elimination of violence against women as one of its two main demands, the CAFSU and the *Comité femmes et sécurité de la Petite Patrie* promoted principles of safe planning and design from the point of view of women in the renovation of exits from Montréal's subway stations. Organizers of the night march harked back to the slogan of the 1980s, *La rue, la nuit, Femmes sans peur, femmes sans peur, à toute heure!* (Take back the streets, at any time of the day or night), celebrating the progress made since, while acknowledging all that remained to be done to ensure that women can move freely and confidently through the streets of their city.

Causes and consequences of women's fear of crime

CAUSES OF WOMEN'S FEAR OF CRIME

Violence against women

- › The various forms of violence against women are the main cause of women's fear of crime or sense of a lack of safety.
- › This fear is founded in the reality of assaults against women.
- › According to the largest survey of violence against women, conducted by Statistics Canada in 1993, one out of two Canadian women (50%) has suffered some form of violence by a man since she turned 16, for which criminal charges could have been laid.

Violence against women takes different forms:

- › Spousal violence (including violence in love relationships between young people)
- › Psychological violence (denigration, insults, threats, jealousy, control, etc.)
- › Sexual and moral harassment (at work, in the street, in personal life, etc.)
- › Sexual assault (including incest)
- › Exhibitionism
- › Assault
- › Residential break-and-entry
- › Theft of handbag while travelling or in public spaces
- › Exploitation of girls and women for prostitution
- › Homicide (mainly by ex-spouses).



Most sexual crimes are not reported to the police (only about 10% are). This means that the real scope of the phenomenon of violence against women can only be known and documented through studies or surveys of women themselves.

The reality of all this violence against women is not found in the official statistics used by public authorities and the media to determine crime levels. Women's sense of a lack of safety is related to the "off-the-record" figures for crime –all the expressions of violence that never turn up in official reports or complaints.

Physical and spatial factors that aggravate women's sense of a lack of security in urban environments:

- › Lack of civic spirit; run-down neighbourhoods; destruction of street furniture; aggressive, noisy behaviour; presence of seemingly threatening individuals.
- › Urban environmental factors: darkness; inadequate lighting; deserted spaces; corners, hiding-places, vacant lots; lanes; presence of garbage; few businesses open late in the evening.

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□ DOCUMENTATION IN TOOL KIT
○ ACTIVITIES IN CAFSU'S DIRECTORY

- 3 LE SENTIMENT D'INSÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES EN MILIEU URBAIN : QUELQUES APPROCHES THÉORIQUES**
S. Paquin | 1996 | Ville de Montréal (Femmes et ville)
- 4** Articles parus le 19 novembre 1993 faisant état de la recherche pancanadienne de Statistiques Canada sur la violence faite aux femmes:
- 5 « VIOLENCE FAITE AUX FEMMES : L'ÉTUDE LA PLUS IMPORTANTE AU MONDE »** | *La Presse*
« UNE FEMME SUR DEUX VICTIME DE VIOLENCE » | *Le Devoir*
- 6 FEMMES ET LOISIRS : UN NOUVEL ENJEU SOCIAL**
Extrait du rapport de recherche | N. Gagnon et D. Dupont | 1996 | Université Concordia et Ville de Montréal (Femmes et ville, Service des sports, des loisirs et du développement social)
- 31 LA SÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES EN MILIEU URBAIN**
1999 | Actes du séminaire tenu à Montréal
- 7 SÉCU.CITÉS : L'APPROCHE DIFFÉRENCIÉE PAR SEXE EST-ELLE PERTINENTE EN MATIÈRE DE SÉCURITÉ URBAINE ?**
2000 | Actes du séminaire tenu à Francfort en octobre 1999 | Forum Européen de la sécurité urbaine
- 8 LA VIOLENCE ENVERS LES FEMMES EN MILIEU URBAIN : ANALYSE DU PROBLÈME SELON UNE PERSPECTIVE DE GENRE**
2000 | Programme de gestion urbaine, Nations unies

Socio-economic gender barriers

- › Gender gaps in access to collective wealth and property
- › Socialization of girls; reproduction of sexual stereotypes (including the stereotype of the vulnerable woman/male protector)
- › Non-recognition of the value of women's paid and unpaid work
- › Obstacles to the participation of women in public life
- › Economic dependence on government, a spouse, etc.
- › Tenant status; poverty; dependence on public transit
- › Double discrimination: the situation of some women – age, handicap, sexual orientation, belonging to an ethnic minority, etc. – also has an impact on their fear of crime (greater vulnerability, racist, homophobic prejudices, etc.); economic dependence and poverty that limit choices with respect to travel and personal and social development activities; problems of mental health, homelessness, being a young streetperson, drug addict, victim of sexual exploitation
- › Women blamed for their sense of a lack of security or assaults committed against them (“There is no reason for women to feel afraid, but if something happens, it's because they weren't careful enough”)
- › The culture of violence and sexism disseminated by mass culture (among youth)
- › The failure of men and society to take responsibility (“Violence against women is a women's issue”)
- › Women's experience not validated (“Women have no reason to be afraid, it's all in their heads”).

CONSEQUENCES OF FEAR OF CRIME FOR WOMEN

- › Fear of circulating freely at any time of day
- › Restricted mobility
- › Obstacles to participation in social life: physical and recreational activities, studies, work, social or political involvement
- › Dependence on protection by someone else (real or virtual man) or gadgets (alarms, etc.)
- › Lack of self-confidence, lack of autonomy
- › Restricted choices (foregoing an evening activity)
- › Perception of the outside world as dangerous (mistrust)
- › Isolation (particularly for older women)
- › Effects on physical and psychological health: stress, consumption of anxiety-relieving drugs (much more widespread among women)
- › Fear passed on to girls and other women
- › Development of protective or avoidance strategies that lead to isolation
- › Sense of responsibility (Do I follow all the safety instructions? How do I dress? How do I behave?) and guilt in the event of an incident (I left my wallet in my handbag, it's my fault)
- › Perception of oneself and women as “victims”
- › Invalidation of one's own experience (I shouldn't be afraid; I'm not being reasonable), so lack of confidence in one's own judgment and perceptions in various situations
- › Fear for one's children; fear of violence at school
- › Obstacle to fulfilling one's full potential, as an individual and as a member of the community (survival rather than fulfilment).

Myths and prejudices: what's wrong with this picture?

Myths and prejudices about women's sense of lack of safety in urban settings often prevent other players and parties involved from grasping the real causes and issues involved in this problem. They influence the nature of their actions. The predominant discourse on urban safety and crime prevention from institutions and the media have a definite impact on public opinion, which often accepts and endorses the myths and prejudices. Many women internalize these ideas, even if they contradict their daily experience of reality with respect to fear of crime and gloss over the consequences of this fear for their own freedom of life and movement.

So deconstructing these myths and prejudices is crucial. It is very important to grasp their impact on women themselves and on the actions taken by various public and community players in the area of women's safety and crime prevention in general.

It should be noted that a number of myths and prejudices are aimed at proving that women are wrong to be afraid. Paradoxically, one of the traditional forms of intervention consists in providing women with lists of instructions to follow in order to avoid assaults.

STATEMENT NO. 1

Two out of three women in Montréal (60%) say that they are afraid to go out alone at night.* But Montréal is a safe city. So women have no reason to be afraid.

* Gallup poll

What this statement implies for women: Women are responsible for and victims of their own sense of insecurity (it's in their head, they must be "brought to their senses"). Society infantilizes women and invalidates their sense of a lack of safety. Contributes to girls' and women's lack of self-esteem and self-confidence. Reinforces victimization and isolation. Discourse "about" women who are the "object" of the statement.

What this statement implies for crime prevention workers: Crime prevention workers must work to convince women that there is no reason to be afraid (citing statistics on crime). They are experts who know better than women what the latter should feel, and they have to pass on this knowledge to women.

What's wrong with this picture? Montréal is said to be a safe city because crime rates are not as high as in big U.S. cities. These crime rates are derived from statistics that reflect crimes reported to the police. But approximately 90% of assaults against women are not reported to the police (apart from homicides, which generally are reported). So statistics alone cannot reflect the reality of violence against women. Conclusions based solely on such statistics conceal the actual scope of violence against women and distort reality. They invalidate the reality experienced by women since the official methods of monitoring crime do not take this reality into account.

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□ DOCUMENTATION IN TOOL KIT
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LA SÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES EN MILIEU URBAIN

1999 | Actes du séminaire tenu à Montréal

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SÉCU.CITÉS : L'APPROCHE DIFFÉRENCIÉE PAR SEXE EST-ELLE PERTINENTE EN MATIÈRE DE SÉCURITÉ URBAINE ?

2000 | Actes du séminaire tenu à Francfort en octobre 1999 | Forum Européen de la sécurité urbaine | p. 11-16

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FEMMES ET LOISIRS : UN NOUVEL ENJEU SOCIAL

Extrait du rapport de recherche | N. Gagnon et D. Dupont | 1996 | Université Concordia et Ville de Montréal (Femmes et ville, Service des sports, des loisirs et du développement social)

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Article *LE BEL ÂGE*

Juillet-août 2000 | p. 35-43

AN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF THE ACTION SELF-DEFENSE COURSE FOR WOMEN WITH REGARD TO THE CONCEPT OF EMPOWERMENT

L. Heilig | 1995 | Thèse de maîtrise Université de Sherbrooke | disponible pour consultation au CAFSU

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The fact that official statistics do not accurately reflect the reality of violence against women and its impact on women's sense of safety has highlighted the need to find other ways of getting this information (the "off-the-record numbers" or undetected violence against women). These methods include national and local surveys (questionnaire surveys on victimization, commissions of inquiry, public meetings, polls, focus groups, safety audits, etc.), all used to obtain information from women themselves, and particularly from the women who are most closely affected.

Survey methods put women at the centre of the interventional approach, and documentation of facts and events experienced by and told by women becomes the reality from which crime prevention workers proceed. All this information-gathering puts workers in the position of first listening to and then accompanying and supporting women.

The use of statistics must be combined with surveys done of and with women in order to have a more realistic portrait, and consequently direct workers' actions more accurately.

STATEMENT NO. 2

Rates of fear of crime should drop when crime rates drop. But even if crime rates drop, women do not feel any safer. So women's fear is not related to objective factors of crime rates. We have to inform them of crime rates so that they will understand that they have no reason to be afraid.

What this statement implies for women: That women's fear of crime is not related to objective factors like crime rates. That here too, women do not have any reason to be afraid. Public discourse once again invalidates the reality of women's sense of a lack of safety.

What this statement implies for crime prevention workers: That crime prevention workers must inform women about the decline in crime rates and show them that they should therefore feel less insecure.

What's wrong with this picture? This statement is based on a mathematical approach to the problem, as if, for example, a 10% rape rate means that 10% of women fear being raped. But if one woman is attacked in a street where 100 women live and the neighbours talk about it, it will be 100%, not 1%, of the women living on that street who feel unsafe (not to mention parents of both sexes who will be afraid for their daughters). **One sexual assault on one woman is an effective means of social control over women in general.** On the other hand, all women know from childhood on that assault is a possibility, and this potential danger is one of the factors that contribute to the development of a sense of lack of safety among girls and women. When the media give sensationalistic coverage to the disappearance of a young woman, many families feel afraid; when a woman over the age of 75 is killed in her home by a gang of young men, this fear of crime is driven home for older women living alone who are exposed to what the media report.

STATEMENT NO. 3

Women are the main victims of pickpockets (thefts of wallets and handbags) in the subway. If they are robbed, it's because they aren't paying attention, they are careless. So we have to tell them how to protect themselves from this type of attack. Similarly, women are the main victims of sexual assault. It is often said that women have no reason to be afraid of being assaulted by strangers in public places because the majority of such crimes are committed by a man the woman knows. So they are told that they can circulate in peace in public places. But they are given lists of advice to follow, and if an assault occurs, it is often assumed that they did not follow the advice (how they were dressed, the place, the time, etc.).

What this statement implies for women: Women are responsible for assaults against them because their careless behaviour is the reason they are robbed/assaulted. When women suffer this type of attack, they feel guilty as well, since they assume they should have acted differently to prevent the incident.

What this statement implies for crime prevention workers: Teaching women the behaviour they should adopt to avoid being robbed/assaulted, drawing up lists of rules for women to follow. The crime prevention worker is the expert who has to teach women how to behave.

What's wrong with this picture? Through this statement and the ensuing actions (rules for women on how to behave or not to behave), women are made responsible for crime instead of the assailants or society as a whole (for example, there could be a campaign describing perpetrators' behaviour and inviting people to take responsibility for the safety of others). The strategy of preventive rules aimed solely at women can aggravate their isolation and sense of guilt instead of making them see that all members of the community support them in dealing with attacks on them and the resulting fear of crime.

We cannot deduce from the fact that women are mainly assaulted by men whom they know that they should therefore feel more confident with strangers. Assaults by acquaintances or relatives have a definite impact on the self-esteem and sense of safety of the women attacked. This also makes them more distrustful of the strangers they have been warned against ever since they were young.

STATEMENT NO. 4

Older women's fear of going out alone at night is entirely unjustified, because they are very rarely the victims of assaults in the street at night.

What this statement implies for women: Invalidation of older women's sense of a lack of safety; greater isolation since they don't feel comfortable talking about it, fearing they will be judged ("It's in your head, you're not at risk"); infantilization of older women ("Don't be silly, dear, there's nothing to be afraid of").

What this statement implies for crime prevention workers: We have to explain to older women that they are wrong to be afraid, giving them statistics that show that it is very rare for older women to be attacked in the street at night.

What's wrong with this picture? Older women don't go out at night; therefore, they cannot be assaulted; their fear is related to a kind of vulnerability due to their age, their diminished physical capacities, frequent isolation and what they pick up from the media (television, newspapers). So the sense of a lack of safety is accentuated with age and reinforced by isolation: the less women go out, the more isolated they are, and the more isolated they are, the more afraid they are when they do have to go out. Older women are the main users of anxiety-relieving drugs.

Recognizing the legitimacy of their fear of crime is a crucial first step in working with older women in a process that facilitates their participation in community life. Meetings organized with seniors must focus more on listening and having women share their experiences with each other as a source of support. The community must be made aware of the reality of older women feeling unsafe, and the impact this has on their quality of life and the steps that can be taken by all members of the community to improve seniors' sense of safety.



STATEMENT NO. 5

Indoor parking garages are the places where women are the most afraid of attacks. But the reported crime rate is very low for these places. So women have no reason to be afraid there.

What this statement implies for women: Invalidation of women's sense of a lack of safety. Their fear is not founded on objective factors (reported crime).

What this statement implies for crime prevention workers: Crime prevention workers must make women understand that the rate of assault reported for parking garages is low and that there is therefore no reason to be afraid. The crime prevention worker is the expert who possesses the knowledge and has to convince women of the objective facts in order to reassure them.

What's wrong with it? Women feeling unsafe in indoor parking garages is directly related to urban environmental factors that have an impact on women's sense of safety. Indoor parking generally combines several unsettling factors: gloomy décor, isolation, lack of assistance in case of need, poor lighting, noisy ventilation that covers up voices, possibility for a perpetrator to hide between cars, etc.

Recognition of the impact of these factors on women's sense of safety has given rise to the development of "safety planning and design from the point of view of women" (SEE FILE 11), with the goal of making women living in cities feel safer and reducing opportunities for assault.

For an approach that empowers women

Although many organizations work for women's safety, they don't all take the same approach in their work. While they are complementary at times, in other circumstances they are at cross-purposes. This can sow confusion among women who receive contradictory messages from the actors involved. There are two basic schools of approaches that can be distinguished: safety through dependence and restriction; safety through autonomy and freedom.

1. SAFETY THROUGH DEPENDENCE AND RESTRICTIONS:

The paternalistic approach

This approach suggests reliance on constraint, restrictions on mobility, protection by a real or virtual man or the use of protection systems. Women are responsible for doing whatever needs to be done to reduce fear of crime, and the strategies used are aimed at changing women's beliefs and behaviour (victim control). The validity of women's fears or their feeling that they are not safe is not recognized, and the advocates of this approach often try to convince women that there is no reason for them to be afraid. This makes women the object of an approach in which others are the experts who know more than they do about safety and who must reason with them by presenting statistics on reported crime rates.

This approach is often at the root of a displacement of fear, in which the source of the fear (fear of being assaulted by a man) is masked or glossed over and becomes fear of the street, fear of the dark, etc. Crime prevention workers try to reassure women by giving them instructions or rules about what they should or shouldn't do. They attach little importance to listening or understanding the phenomenon of feeling unsafe and its various manifestations. Finally, they play the role of protectors by proposing the use of solutions that come from the outside.

This approach bears its own contradictions, since it relies on many precautions—don't open the door to strangers; have someone accompany you at night—while at the same time trying to convince women that they have no reason to be afraid.

2. SAFETY THROUGH AUTONOMY AND FREEDOM:

The empowerment approach

The empowerment approach is based on women's right to freedom of choice and their ability to make judgments about their own life and do what is appropriate in terms of their experience. This approach proposes tools for prevention rather than making restrictive suggestions. Women can thus choose what they want to do about their safety without feeling guilty about their choices. From this perspective, responsibility for preventing assaults lies with society as a whole, not just women.

This approach, based on a recognition of social and economic inequalities between men and women, considers that violence against women is one of the most flagrant manifestations of these inequalities. It recognizes that women feel unsafe as a result of this violence and hinges on having men take responsibility as an important component of putting an end to gender violence.

This approach hinges above all on women's strengths and capacities, their empowerment, the development of their self-esteem, mobility and autonomy, in the context of a collective process. It also recognizes that women's fear is legitimate; women's sense that they are unsafe is the main indicator underlying the work. Women are the actors and subjects in the work and therefore participants in the action. The role of the organizational representatives is to support, listen and accompany women as they move towards autonomy. Advice about prevention is presented as options rather than rules to follow, and women are invited to find solutions that suit them. The empowerment approach is distinguished from the traditional, paternalistic approach built on dependence and restrictions.

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4 **LE SENTIMENT D'INSÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES EN MILIEU URBAIN : QUELQUES APPROCHES THÉORIQUES**
S. Paquin | 1996 | Ville de Montréal (Femmes et ville)

31 **DE LA DÉPENDANCE À L'AUTONOMIE : JEU DES MESSAGES DE PRÉVENTION**
A. Michaud | 1999 | Ville de Montréal (Femmes et ville) | page 29

AN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF THE ACTION SELF-DEFENSE COURSE FOR WOMEN WITH REGARD TO THE CONCEPT OF EMPOWERMENT

L. Heilig | 1995 | Thèse de maîtrise Université de Sherbrooke (disponible pour consultation au CAFSU)

□ DOCUMENTATION IN TOOL KIT
○ ACTIVITIES IN CAFSU'S DIRECTORY

**Women can be
the focus of intervention**

as

Object
Beneficiaries
Source of
problem

or

Subject
Experts
Actors

From Dependence → to Autonomy

Safety through dependence and restrictions:

THE PATERNALISTIC APPROACH

- › Convinces women that there is no reason for them to be afraid
- › Promotes dependence to protection
- › Holds women responsible for their feeling of insecurity
- › Seeks to change women's beliefs and behaviour
- › Makes women feel they are to blame when incidents occur
- › Consider safety solely in terms of statistics on reported crimes
- › Sends contradictory messages (gives rules to follow but says that there is no reason to be afraid)

The role of the actors involved is to:

- › Be experts who tell women what to do and feel
- › Act as protectors
- › Provide solutions for women

Safety through independence and freedom:

THE EMPOWERMENT APPROACH

- › Makes the connection between insecurity, violence against women and gender inequalities
- › Relies on women's strengths and abilities
- › Recognizes that women are right to be afraid
- › Is based on women's experiences in this area of work
- › Emphasizes the responsibility of men and the community
- › Considers that women have the solutions

The role of the actors involved is to:

- › provide support
- › listen
- › learn from women's experience

A comprehensive intervention model

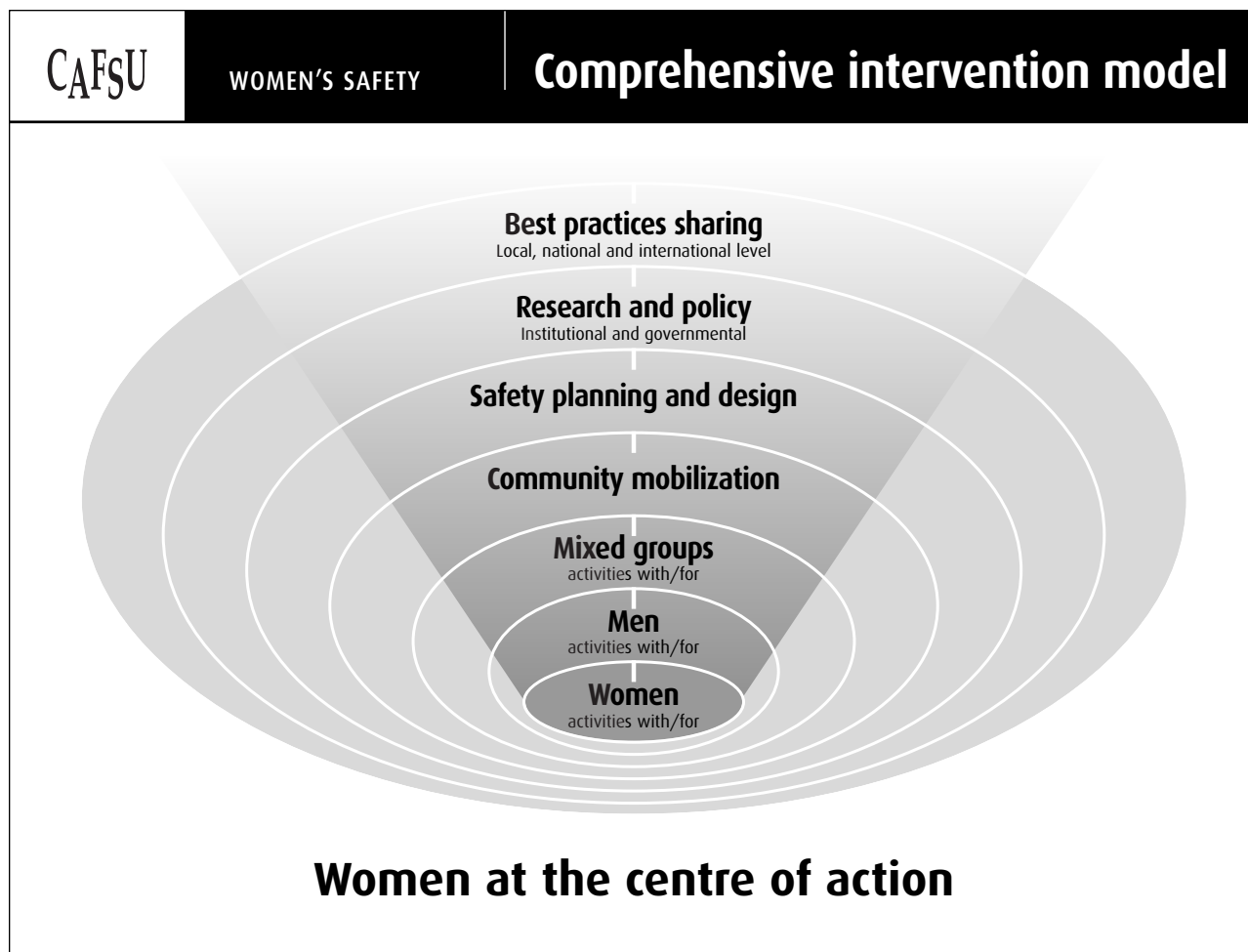
After more than ten years of activities in Montréal by all the public and community partners concerned, we can see that these activities can be grouped into a number of basic strategies and that they form a whole. None of the strategies alone can meet all the needs. But they are all necessary if we want to achieve real and lasting change that will enhance women's safety and sense of safety in urban settings.

So these strategies are inter-related, and at each level they depend on the collaboration of all the sectors concerned, be they citizens, women's groups, community organizations, businesses, local or regional agencies and authorities, researchers or various levels of government.

For each of the strategies developed, **the point of reference must be women's firsthand experience** with a fear of crime or a sense of lack of safety, and women must necessarily participate in and guide the actions of the various actors.

These strategies are the following:

- › Activities with women (FILE 7)
- › Activities with men (FILE 8)
- › Activities with the general public (FILE 9)
- › Community mobilization (FILE 10)
- › Safety planning and design for public spaces (FILE 11)
- › Research and institutional policies (FILE 12)
- › Sharing and promoting best practices (FILE 13)



The main types of actors

There are various types of partners and participants with mandates for urban safety and prevention of violence against women. This means they engage in activities dealing with women's safety in cities.

Here is a list of the main public and community partners in Montréal:

- › Women's groups (women's centres, shelters for battered women, crisis centres and sexual assault centres)
- › Community organizations working with various caseloads (youth, children, seniors, cultural communities, disabled people, etc.)
- › Crime prevention organizations (*Tandem Montréal*, *Surveillance Anjou*, *Coalition for Gun Control*)
- › Local women's safety committees (bringing together public and community partners at the local level: Plateau Mont-Royal, Petite Patrie, Montréal-Nord, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)
- › The regional committee (*Comité d'action femmes et sécurité urbaine*) (CAFSU)
- › The Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM—Montréal police department)
- › Ville de Montréal (*Femmes et ville*)
- › The health and social services network (CLSCs, public health)
- › The school system
- › Researchers (particularly in the fields of urban planning, criminology and women's studies)
- › Various levels of government (Québec ministry of Public Security, National Crime Prevention Centre)
- › International networks on crime prevention, urban development and the promotion of gender equality.

For
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- ☐ DOCUMENTATION IN TOOL KIT
☐ ACTIVITIES IN CAFSU'S DIRECTORY

10	22	Comité J’AIME LE PLATEAU, C’EST SÛR !	
19	20	26	Comité FEMMES ET SÉCURITÉ DE LA PETITE PATRIE
11	23	Comité POUR LA SÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES À MONTRÉAL-NORD	
12	CENTRE DE PRÉVENTION DES AGRESSIONS DE MONTRÉAL		
13	STELLA		
14	FEMMES ET VILLE (Ville de Montréal)		
15	16	TANDEM MONTRÉAL	
17	18	CAFSU www.cafsu.qc.ca	

CENTRE NATIONAL DE PRÉVENTION DU CRIME

Stratégie sur la sécurité personnelle des filles et des femmes | www.crime-prevention.org

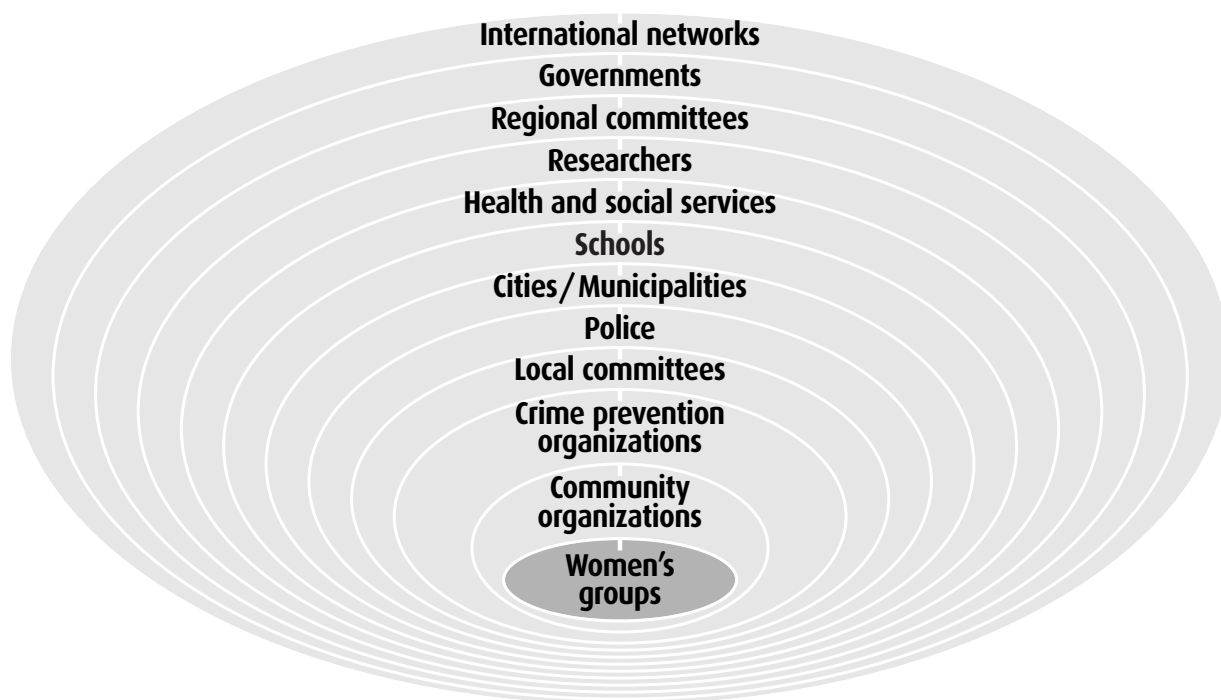
CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE LA PRÉVENTION DE LA CRIMINALITÉ (CIPC)

www.crime-prevention-intl.org

CAFSU

WOMEN'S SAFETY

Main types of actors involved



Activities with women

The CAFSU pursues the following objectives in organizing activities with women:

- › overcoming women's isolation;
- › recognizing the legitimacy of women's sense of a lack of safety;
- › encouraging the sharing of women's daily experiences with safety concerns and the methods they have developed to enhance their sense of safety, accompanying women in a process aimed at developing their autonomy;
- › mobilizing and making their right to live and circulate freely a reality;
- › promoting an "empowerment" approach rather than a traditional paternalistic approach in which crime prevention workers tell women how to behave (SEE FILE 4)



EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES FOR WOMEN

Workshops, meetings, discussion groups

Meetings organized with women's groups are an opportunity to overcome women's isolation by getting them to talk about their experiences with a lack of safety, validating their experience, providing them with information and guiding them towards existing resources; also, encouraging them to take individual and collective action to develop their autonomy and freedom of action and play their role as citizens (participating in social, public and political life).

At the end of a series of meetings with women's groups from various cultural communities in Montréal-Nord in 2000, the CAFSU developed a discussion guide for the use of workers in various circles concerned about women's safety. The guide proposes a process to follow for organizing a half-day meeting, and includes a questionnaire designed to make it easier for participants to speak out and to orient discussion around specific actions that can be taken by the women themselves and all members of the community.

Women's self-defence courses

In these courses, women learn techniques for defending themselves verbally and physically against attacks. There are a number of courses varying in length and content. For the past two years, the CAFSU has identified and evaluated self-defence courses delivered on the Island of Montréal. The results of this survey were published in June 2001, making recommendations to women to guide them in choosing among the courses offered.

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□ DOCUMENTATION IN TOOL KIT
○ ACTIVITIES IN CAFSU'S DIRECTORY

24 GUIDE D'ENQUÊTE SUR LA SÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES EN VILLE
1993 | Ville de Montréal (Femmes et ville)

19 LES AGRESSIONS SEXUELLES ET LES DROGUES DU VIOL
2000 | Dépliant produit par le Comité femmes et sécurité de la Petite Patrie

ÉVALUATION DES COURS D'AUTODÉFENSE POUR FEMMES
2001 | CAFSU | disponible au printemps 2001

GUIDE D'ANIMATION À L'USAGE DES INTERVENANT-ES EN SÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES
M. Chappaz, C. Hamel et A. Michaud | CAFSU | à paraître au printemps 2001

WOMEN'S SAFETY AUDITS

Reading the city in terms of safety

For the uninitiated, urban planning often has the reputation of being too technical, especially for women, since for a long time they did not participate in reflections or discussions on urban building and planning practices. Not many people have the training or knowledge to “read” a city’s built environment easily. This is even more true when it comes to scrutinizing the configuration of spaces in planning and design to identify their strengths and weaknesses in terms of personal safety. Women are more sensitive to environmental factors that affect safety, because they are confronted with many forms of violence and must protect themselves and their children. For a long time, though, they did not have an accessible, user-friendly framework to help them articulate their analyses of personal safety in cities. Safety audits have filled this gap. They are now an internationally recognized practice that can equip women and communities to identify what corrective measures are needed to improve personal safety in urban settings.

How it started

In the early 1990s, women and professionals in Toronto working as part of the *Metro Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children* (METRAC) developed a guide for doing safety audits of urban sites and then making recommendations to the parties concerned on the changes and corrective measures needed. Based on women’s daily experience and their awareness of what makes them feel safe or unsafe, this collective process aimed at identifying environmental factors that make certain areas or spaces more conducive to assault or harassment.

This approach puts women at the centre of the action by recognizing their role as experts in personal safety. With this safety audit framework, our understanding of the urban environment from women’s perspective is given a decisive theoretical and practical foundation. Safety planning and design of public spaces has now become part of the working vocabulary of many planners and designers.

Montréal is helping the process flourish

In Montréal, there have been one hundred or so safety audits of various public spaces and municipal facilities since 1992. Drawing on Toronto’s guide, the City of Montréal’s Women and City (*Programme Femmes et ville*) programme produced the *Guide d’enquête sur la sécurité des femmes en ville*. This guide was subsequently translated into a number of languages. International discussions involving the Women and Cities programme, the European Forum for Urban Safety (EFUS) and the Safer Cities programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) have made it possible to adapt and use the guide in European and African cities.



Definition and objectives of safety audits

The concept of safety audits was introduced to give women a tool for analysing urban safety from their perspective. The process consists in bringing together a group of a dozen or so women to travel through an area of the city already identified as a place where they do not feel safe. The group of women is accompanied by facilitators-recorders. Men are invited as observers, to raise their awareness by exposing them to women's perceptions of what is safe or not. The group uses a questionnaire-guide designed explicitly for this purpose.

The group observes the environment in terms of the basic principles of safety planning and design: it analyses signage, visibility, the possibility of being heard if a woman needs help, the possibility of getting away or asking for help, as well as maintenance and the general layout and design. Observations are compiled and requests for corrective measures sent to the appropriate authorities, be they the city, businesses or property owners. Requests resulting from the safety audit have to be followed up with the appropriate authorities to ensure that the proposed solutions are in fact implemented.

In addition to enhancing citizens' safety, safety audits seek to develop the participants' sense of taking ownership and control of their environment. This grassroots process undertaken with a view to improving local safety and quality of life also enhances the presence of women in public life. The tangible changes made to the urban environment as a result of safety audit recommendations lead participants to see themselves as effective social actors. In this sense, safety audits contribute to building women's capacity for action and developing their autonomy, while promoting active citizenship.

Activities with men



Information and awareness activities with men correspond to the objective of making men take responsibility for violence against women. They are aimed at questioning demeaning and violent attitudes and behaviour towards women. They also propose a search for alternatives to the model of man as protector that will support women in a process aimed at enhancing their sense of safety and their autonomy.

THESE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS CARRIED OUT. "Le nom des hommes contre la violence faite aux femmes" (1993-1995)

The "Men say no" project was launched by *Tandem Montréal* in the wake of CAFSU's campaign "Et si 2 millions de femmes et d'hommes décidaient de s'allier pour la sécurité des femmes en ville?" (What if 2 million women and men decided to join together for women's safety in the city?). It was aimed at making men aware and above all encouraging them to take responsibility for all forms of violence against women. The campaign highlighted violent looks, words, gestures and anger.



There were two phases to the campaign. The first involved distributing an information leaflet about the issue of violence against women, how men consciously or unconsciously contribute to this violence and what they can do to become part of a process aimed at eliminating all forms of violence. The second phase involved getting men to sign a declaration **Le nom des hommes contre la violence—Un engagement à refuser la violence faite aux femmes** (Men say no to violence—A commitment to reject violence against women). The declaration was more than a simple petition: a crucial aspect was that the men who signed it were men who had become at least somewhat aware of the role they have to play in eliminating violence against women.

More than 20,000 signatures were collected. Hundreds of men (including many from *Tandem Montréal*) realized the role they have to play. The process ran out of steam towards the end, however, and never really reached its culmination. Perhaps the objectives should have been defined differently. It was also hard to say definitely that all the men who signed the declaration were sufficiently aware and truly believed in the goals set. Despite these reservations, however, the overall results of the process were very positive.

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L'AUTRE FAÇON D'ABORDER LES FEMMES

Comité femmes et sécurité de la Petite Patrie

LE NOM DES HOMMES CONTRE LA VIOLENCE FAITE AUX FEMMES

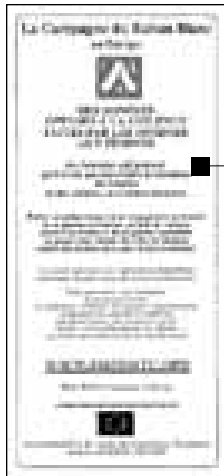
1993-1995 | Tandem Montréal | www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/tandem

LA CAMPAGNE DU RUBAN BLANC

www.whiteribbon.ca

LA CAMPAGNE DU RUBAN BLANC

Réseau hommes Europe | www.menprofeminist.org



The White Ribbon campaign

The White Ribbon campaign was launched by a city councillor in Toronto in 1990 to mark the first anniversary of the École polytechnique tragedy. Initially focused on commemorating that event, the White Ribbon campaign was soon transformed into a movement of men all across Canada; since 1999, the *European Profeminist Men's Network* has joined the campaign.

The White Ribbon campaign's goals are to:

- › wear a white ribbon between mid-November and December 6;
- › encourage men to never commit or condone acts of violence against women and to not protect such violence by remaining silent;
- › support any legislative initiative aimed at protecting women from any form of violence or at creating resources for victims. It is also important to support intervention programmes for violent men;
- › encourage the establishment of education programmes in schools and workplaces with police officers and judges on the issue of men's violence;
- › encourage as many organizations, companies and institutions as possible to organize activities as part of the White Ribbon campaign.

Through a whole gamut of awareness activities ranging from luncheon speeches to debates between men on the issue of violence, individual action and collective awareness, the White Ribbon campaign seeks to mobilize to put an end to men's silence and men's violence.

Activities with the general public



Organizing activities around women's safety with groups composed of men and women (or boys and girls) is a way of making men aware that women experience lack of safety differently, and helping them realize the impact that this sense of a lack of safety has on women's lifestyles. Men are sometimes more sensitive to the realities experienced by women whom they know (mothers, spouses, sisters, daughters, colleagues, fellow students, friends). In a training session on women's safety, for example, young crime prevention workers were astonished to learn that their colleagues of the same age had to cope with various limits stemming from their sense of a lack of safety (e.g., sleeping with the windows closed during a heat wave for fear of an intruder, refraining from going out at night, etc.) and that many of them had been subjected to various types of assault (sexual harassment, exhibitionism).

This education and awareness work can be accompanied by discussions aimed at determining what type of contribution men can make to dealing with the issue, not as protectors ("I will accompany you whenever you go somewhere") but by playing a support role ("What can I do to help you?").

Various exercises and role-playing scenarios have been developed to foster this type of discussion between men and women (SEE *J'ACCUSE LA PEUR*).



It may also be relevant to organize these types of meetings in workplaces, neighbourhoods, at school, in evening classes, etc. Training about violence in love relationships between young people that is given in schools and for youth organizations are excellent examples of the kind of activity that can be done with a mixed public. However, they should also incorporate the dimension of the consequences of this violence on teenagers' sense of safety.

For
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information

□ DOCUMENTATION IN TOOL KIT
○ ACTIVITIES IN CAFSU'S DIRECTORY

1

Exercices tirés de *J'ACCUSE LA PEUR*

1992 | Actes de la conférence montréalaise sur les femmes et la sécurité urbaine

Des yeux tout le tour de la tête, p. 50-52 | *Le silence complice*, p. 53 | *La peur en nous*, p. 53 | *Loup y es-tu?* p. 54

VIOLENCE DANS LES RELATIONS AMOUREUSES

REGROUPEMENT DES ORGANISMES COMMUNAUTAIRES AUTONOMES JEUNESSE DU QUÉBEC (ROCAJ)

www.cam.orgrocajq/formation.html

RÉPERTOIRES

www.santepub-mtl.qc.ca/Violence/jeunes/prevenir.html

VIRAJ. PROGRAMME DE PRÉVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE DANS LES RELATIONS AMOUREUSES DES JEUNES

www.meq.gouv.qc.ca/cond-fem/viraj-off.htm

Community mobilization



Community mobilization activities are directed at encouraging all members of the community to develop a shared sense of common responsibility in dealing with the phenomenon of women's sense of a lack of safety. Neighbours, merchants, public authorities, bus drivers, taxi drivers and ordinary citizens circulating in city streets can all help enhance women's safety and sense of safety.

Here are a few examples of community mobilization activities:

THE CAFSU CAMPAIGN

"Et si 2 millions de femmes et d'hommes décidaient de s'allier pour la sécurité des femmes en ville? Tout le monde y gagne!"

In 1993, the CAFSU launched a vast campaign aimed at educating the entire population on the island of Montréal about the importance of fostering social solidarity as a way of improving women's safety and sense of safety. It was directed at men in particular as potential allies in the process of getting all members of the community to take responsibility for the issue. More than 60,000 leaflets were distributed to the general public, and 6,000 giant posters were put up in public spaces, bus shelters and subway stations.



"Ici vous êtes entre bonnes mains", "Ici la sécurité des femmes nous tient à cœur" and "Réseau commerçants-secours"

"Ici vous êtes entre bonnes mains" (Here you're in good hands) was developed by the Ville-Marie Tandem Montréal office as a pilot project for the area bounded by Saint-Laurent, Sainte-Catherine, des Pins and Berri streets. Since then, the project has been copied in many areas of Montréal. It was adapted for the Plateau Mont-Royal neighbourhood with the slogan "Ici la sécurité des femmes nous tient à cœur" (Women's safety is important to us here) as part of the local women's safety committee activities on the theme "J'aime le Plateau, c'est sûr!" (I like the Plateau, it's safe to say). The women's safety committee for Montréal-Nord also implemented it with the logo "Réseau commerçants-secours" (You're safe with local merchants).

The project's main goal is to make storeowners and their employees aware of women's safety inside and outside their businesses. It seeks to foster civic-mindedness among employees by inviting them to provide assistance for people concerned about their safety. At the same time, it encourages women who feel threatened on the street or in a public space to ask employees in near-by stores for assistance.

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- DOCUMENTATION IN TOOL KIT
- ACTIVITIES IN CAFSU'S DIRECTORY

- 21 **ET SI 2 MILLIONS D'HOMMES ET DE FEMMES DÉCIDAIENT DE S'ALLIER POUR LA SÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES EN VILLE ?**
CAFSU
- 16 **ICI VOUS ÊTES ENTRE BONNES MAINS (CITÉS SÛRES)**
2000 | Tandem Montréal | p. 7
- 22 **ICI LA SÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES NOUS TIENT À CŒUR !**
Comité J'aime le Plateau c'est sûr!
- 23 **ICI COMMERÇANTS-SECOURS : NOTRE QUARTIER, NOTRE SÉCURITÉ ON Y VOIT !**
Comité pour la sécurité des femmes à Montréal-Nord

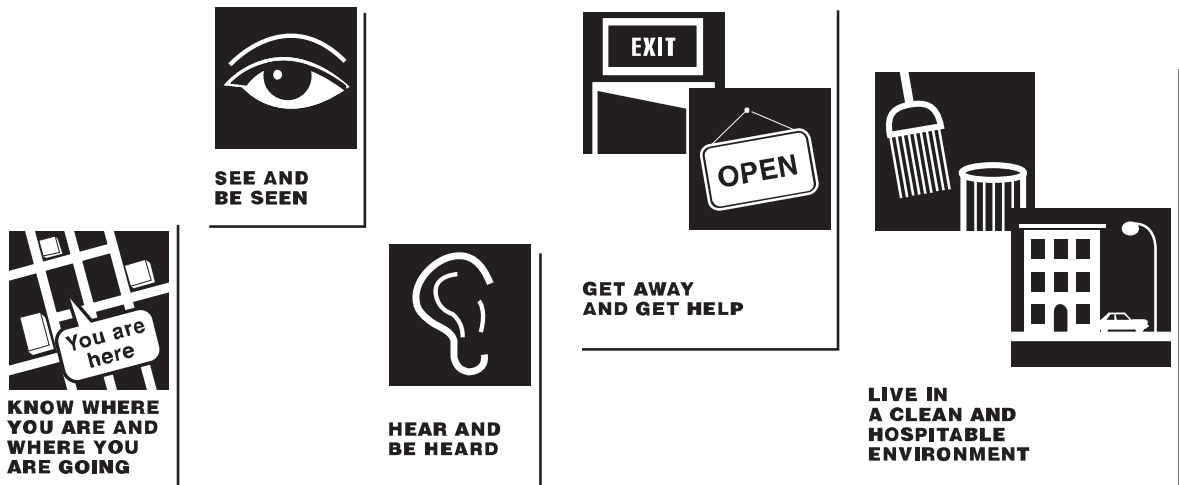


Local merchants are invited to offer refuge to a woman, listen to her and provide the direct assistance she requests; to assess the situation and phone 911 if necessary; to take into consideration what the woman wants to do, rather than imposing a method or tactics; and proposing possible solutions, if need be.

Tandem Montréal consultants are available to offer short education-awareness sessions for the employees and owners of participating stores. Once this training has been completed, stickers are placed on the door of the store and near the cash register to make that store's support for the project visible. In Montréal-Nord, the women's safety committee produced a leaflet with a map locating each participating store.

Safety planning and design

For women, a safe urban environment is one that makes it possible to:



© Femmes et Ville—Ville de Montréal

Safety planning and design from the point of view of women: everyone wins!

The introduction of the concept of safety planning and design in Montréal dates back to the early 1990s, in the context of activities conducted by the City of Montréal's *Femmes et ville* programme. Drawing on experience elsewhere, in particular Toronto, the City published a handbook in 1993 the *Guide d'enquête sur la sécurité des femmes en ville* (Guide for auditing women's safety in cities) which has since been used to conduct hundreds of safety audits in different neighbourhoods of Montréal.

The handbook explains the basic principles of safety planning and design as seen by women, and invites women to identify how their environment (indoors and outdoors) can be improved to enhance their safety and sense of safety. Since women are the ones who suffer most from a sense of a lack of safety (four times more than men), they are the ones who are most sensitive to various factors such as inadequate lighting, places where an assailant could hide, deserted areas, lack of help, etc.

Paradoxically, the handicap of fear of crime becomes a source of expertise for women that can be of benefit to the population as a whole. A city that is safe for women, thanks to women, is a city that is safe for everyone!

For
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information

- DOCUMENTATION IN TOOL KIT
- ACTIVITIES IN CAFSU'S DIRECTORY

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GUIDE D'ENQUÊTE SUR LA SÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES EN VILLE

A. Michaud | 1993 | Ville de Montréal (Femmes et ville, Service des sports, des loisirs et du développement social)

25

« L'AMÉNAGEMENT SÉCURITAIRE DU POINT DE VUE DES FEMMES : L'EXPÉRIENCE DE LA VILLE DE MONTRÉAL »

A. Michaud | 1996 | Revue *Plan Canada*

26

POUR UN QUARTIER PLUS SÛR : LES INTERVENTIONS EN MATIÈRE D'AMÉNAGEMENT SÉCURITAIRE

S. Paquin | 1999 | Comité femmes et sécurité de la Petite Patrie

POUR UN ENVIRONNEMENT URBAIN SÉCURITAIRE : GUIDE D'AMÉNAGEMENT

S. Paquin | Ville de Montréal (Femmes et ville, Service des sports, des loisirs et du développement social) | parution mars 2001



APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES

Safety planning and design handbooks and partnerships

Subsequently, the City of Montréal developed safety planning and design guidelines and checklists for use by planning professionals (architects, engineers, urban planners, landscape architects) as well as organizations interested in seeing these principles applied in the design of parks and public places and spaces. In 1994, it published the *Guide d'aménagement sécuritaire des stationnements* (Safety planning for parking lots) and the *Guide d'aménagement sécuritaire des ensembles résidentiels* (Safety planning for housing developments). As well, the STM (Montréal public transit commission) produced an internal guide to safety planning for bus terminuses.

While this work was being done to develop planning and design principles and criteria, various partners in Montréal, including the members of the *Comité d'action femmes et sécurité urbaine* (CAFSU) endorsed the concept and promoted it through a vast education-awareness campaign carried out in 1994 on women's safety. Subsequently, partners acting through local women's safety committees (Petite Patrie and Plateau Mont-Royal) endorsed the principles and worked to ensure that they were incorporated in the renovations of subway stations in 1997-98. The participation of grassroots organizations and women in the preparation of designs and plans for subway stations produced some very striking results: large window areas to "see and be seen"; lots of well-lit phones to "get help"; clearly visible signage to "know where you are and where you are going"; etc. These improvements helped to reduce opportunities for assault and enhance the sense of safety, as well as improving the overall quality of these public facilities. In recent years, the *Tandem Montréal* programme has also helped apply safety planning and design principles in the context of local urban renewal projects.



What next? Disseminating tools and training

To ensure the dissemination of the concept of safety planning and design both among professionals and in the general community, the City of Montréal will publish a *Guide pour un environnement sécuritaire* (Guide for a safe environment) in 2002. This guide reviews the principles of safety planning and design from the point of view of women and illustrates how they can be applied to different types of urban spaces.

To publicize and promote the development of safety planning and design on the Island of Montréal, the CAFSU will organize training sessions in 2002 for city managers and professionals as well as interested organizations, in collaboration with the urban planning faculties of Montréal universities. This training will also be given as part of an international seminar on women's safety, to be held in Montréal in 2002.

Research and policy



Governments and public institutions have a fundamental role to play in enhancing women's safety and sense of safety in urban environments. Various measures can be taken, such as passing legislation, adopting policies and establishing programmes both nationally and locally.

Research helps document the issue of women's safety and orient the policies to be established by public institutions. For example, in 1996 the *Comité d'action femmes et sécurité urbaine* (CAFSU) conducted an "Enquête sur le développement de politiques institutionnelles visant à prévenir le sentiment d'insécurité et la violence faites aux femmes sur le territoire de la CUM" (Survey of the development of institutional policies aimed at preventing fear of crime and violence against women within the territory of the CUM). The goal of the study was to identify the policies, programmes and projects put in place by Montréal institutions (health and social services system, municipalities, educational institutions, unions, etc.) in this field and to develop possible actions that these institutions could take. The survey sought to identify the following measures:

- › Safety planning and design policies
- › Education-awareness programmes on violence against women
- › Employee assistance programmes
- › Occupational health and safety programmes
- › Policies to combat sexual harassment
- › Staff training to combat violence against women



Following the survey, various priority actions became obvious, such as documenting the lack of safety of home-care workers in the health and social services system, particularly in the framework of the shift towards ambulatory care, which put women on the front line of home care. An exploratory study was therefore done from 1997 to 1999, culminating in a number of recommendations for the various institutions concerned, such as the ministry of Labour, CLSCs, regional health and social services boards, municipalities, community organizations, etc. The study was later repeated in other CLSCs to further document the problem and establish measures aimed at ensuring the safety of employees in the health and social services system.

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- DOCUMENTATION IN TOOL KIT
- ACTIVITIES IN CAFSU'S DIRECTORY

27 ENQUÊTE SUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DES POLITIQUES INSTITUTIONNELLES VISANT À PRÉVENIR LE SENTIMENT D'INSÉCURITÉ ET LA VIOLENCE FAITE AUX FEMMES SUR LE TERRITOIRE DE LA CUM
S. Paquin | 1997 | CAFSU

28 LE SENTIMENT D'INSÉCURITÉ DES TRAVAILLEUSES DU SERVICE DE MAINTIEN À DOMICILE D'UN CLSC MONTRÉALAIS: UNE ÉTUDE EXPLORATOIRE.
S. Paquin et F. Bernèche | 1999 | CAFSU | Sommaire

29 Dépliant du SERVICE ENTRE DEUX ARRÊTS DE LA STCUM



The research, combined with education-awareness work with public bodies, political lobbying, and training for staff and workers are all vital ingredients in establishing measures that can enhance the safety and sense of safety of the users and employees of various institutions. Partnerships between women's groups, community organizations, public authorities and researchers greatly facilitate this kind of work, for the benefit of all. The use of rigorous methodologies that make known women's realities with respect to lack of safety is especially important, given the qualitative nature of this type of research. The use of the same methodologies also makes it easier to compare different neighbourhoods and cities.

The choice of services to the public is usually a result of the policies and orientations of the institutions in charge. These policies may also be instituted in response to citizens' requests directly emphasizing the needs of their members and users. Partnerships between women's groups and public institutions can make it easier to take women's needs into consideration in the organization of public services. Thanks to this type of partnership, for instance, the women's centres in Montréal obtained the support of all the members of CAFSU in advocating and obtaining the *Between stops* service of the STM (public transit), which allows women and girls to get off a bus between two regular stops in the evening when it is closer to their destination. Similarly, American research done in Los Angeles showing the connection between the location of bus stops and the commission of assaults resulted in the transit commission relocating certain stops.

Sharing practices and developing discussion networks



In recent years, actors from various sectors working on women's safety have expressed the need to share their practices and draw on those of other partners, with a view to avoiding duplication and maximizing the impact of their work. This sharing is also aimed at promoting "best practices" locally, nationally and internationally. Numerous networks are currently emerging to promote the best possible dissemination of experiences. Various methods are also being used to promote good practices and develop knowledge in the field, such as resource directories, competitions, seminars, international conferences and exchange missions.

The implementation of projects related to women's safety has also been highlighted in international competitions and events dealing with the more general issue of women's participation in urban development and having local governments take their specific needs into account.

For example, the process leading up to the introduction of the *Between Two Stops* service by Montréal's transit commission (Société de transport de Montréal–STM) was recognized as one of the Best Human Settlements Practices (United Nations) in 2000, and the Comité d'action femmes et sécurité urbaine (CAFSU–Women and urban safety action committee) gave presentations on the work at the Grassroots Women International Academy (GWIA) in June 2000, in Germany in July 2000, and in New York City in June 2001, in response to an invitation from the Huairou Commission as part of the Istanbul+5 proceedings.



For more information

- DOCUMENTATION IN TOOL KIT
- ACTIVITIES IN CAFSU'S DIRECTORY

- 1 J'ACCUSE LA PEUR**
1992 | Actes de la conférence montréalaise sur les femmes et la sécurité urbaine
- 30 AGIR POUR UNE VILLE SANS PEUR**
Actes du forum organisé par le CAFSU le 23 novembre 1993
- 31 LA SÉCURITÉ DES FEMMES EN MILIEU URBAIN**
1999 | Actes du séminaire tenu à Montréal
- 7 SÉCU.CITÉS : L'APPROCHE DIFFÉRENCIÉE PAR SEXE EST-ELLE PERTINENTE EN MATIÈRE DE SÉCURITÉ URBAINE ?**
2000 | Actes du séminaire tenu à Francfort en octobre 1999 | Forum Européen de la sécurité urbaine
- 8 LA VIOLENCE ENVERS LES FEMMES EN MILIEU URBAIN : ANALYSE DU PROBLÈME SELON UNE PERSPECTIVE DE GENRE**
2000 | Programme de gestion urbaine, Nations unies
- 32**
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« Concours des Meilleures Pratiques d'Habitat (Nations unies): le service Entre deux arrêts de la STCUM parmi les 40 finalistes. »
- 33**
Applications à l'échelle régionale de l'approche différenciée selon le sexe: sécurité des femmes et transport en commun
A. Michaud | 2000 | Ville de Montréal (Femmes et ville) et CAFSU
- 34 UNE VILLE À LA MESURE DES FEMMES : LE RÔLE DES MUNICIPALITÉS DANS L'ATTEINTE DE L'ÉGALITÉ ENTRE HOMMES ET FEMMES**
1997 | Ville de Montréal et Fédération canadienne des municipalités
- 35**
Conférence d'ouverture de l'atelier Violence et ville des femmes au Forum de la sécurité et de la démocratie
Naples, décembre 2000 | A. Michaud, Ville de Montréal (Femmes et ville) et CAFSU
- J'AIME MONTRÉAL BIEN SÛRE !**
Concours du CAFSU en février 1997 | www.cafsu.qc.ca
- Meilleures pratiques d'Habitat | Nations unies | www.unhcr.org |
Forum européen pour la sécurité urbaine | www.urbansecurity.org



The development of networks of cities, particularly in the framework of the European Forum for Urban Safety (EFUS), has also helped make a gender-based approach part of the concerns of European cities—for example, by adapting tools for work on this issue that were developed in Montréal and Toronto. This type of discussion has also been held in activities in the UN's "Safer Cities" programme, through a transfer of Montréal's expertise to programme officers working in a number of African cities. The International Centre for Crime Prevention (ICCP) has also helped promote crime prevention practices and knowledge internationally.

So there is growing international interest in the issue of women's safety in cities, particularly in the wake of the commitments made by UN member countries at the City Summit (Habitat II) in 1996. As part of its policy on "Women and urban governance" and its campaign for good urban governance, the United Nations has selected this theme as a focus for work.

In the current context of worldwide mobilization on issues of personal safety, the development of discussion networks and sharing of practices related to women's safety and to the integration of a gender approach in the policies and strategies of governments and cities is a burning issue.

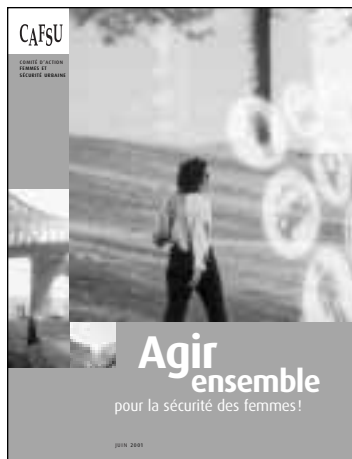
CAFSU directory

Copies of the directory can be obtained from CAFSU, at cafsu@qc.aira.com or consult at: www.femmesetvilles.org

This directory of women's safety activities (in french) was prepared by the *Comité d'action femmes et sécurité urbaine* (CAFSU) as part of its regional work of dialogue, consensus-building, advocacy and support for community partners and public authorities in Montréal.

It is aimed at promoting practices and knowledge in this field, encouraging exchanges between the organizations concerned and enhancing the continuity and coherence of actions with communities.

The directory is divided into several categories and sub-categories, corresponding to those used in the information files of this Tool Kit:



Activities with women

- Self-defence courses
 - › organizations, resources
- Self-defence courses
 - › organizations offering courses
- Meetings
- Education-awareness work

Activities with men

- Education-awareness work

Activities with the general public

- Conferences
- Education-awareness work

Community mobilization

- Dialogue and consensus-building
- Partnership
- Education-awareness work
- Services

Safety planning and design of public spaces

- Articles
- Workshops
- Studies
 - › plans
- Guides
- Safety audits
- Guided tours
 - › organizations that have offered guided tours

Research and institutional policy

- Conferences
- Studies
- Partnership
- Services

Sharing and promoting best practices

- Conferences
- Studies
- Training
- Education-awareness work

