

# Cities Alive

Designing cities that work for women

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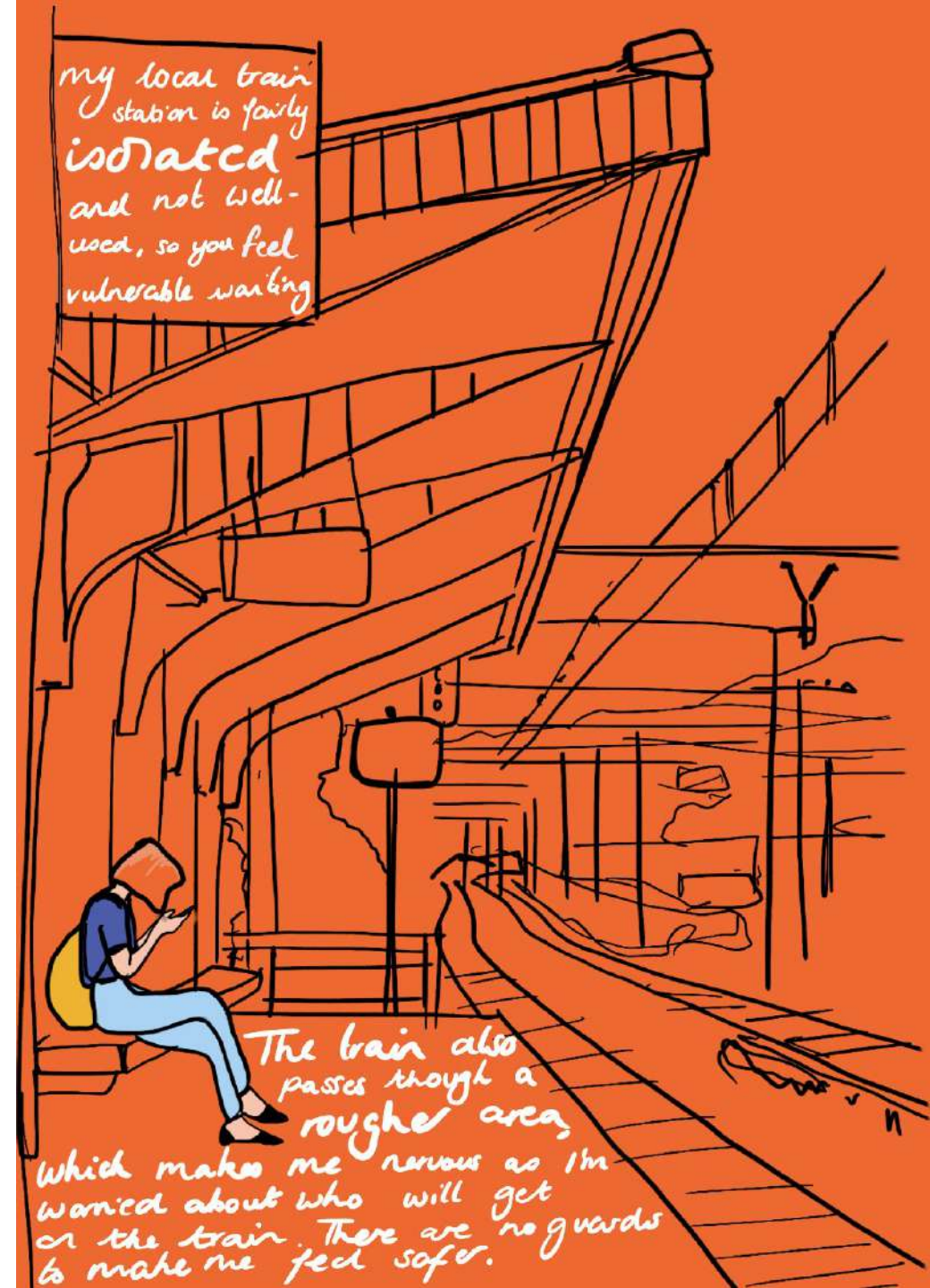
# Why cities for women?

## Setting the context

In cities across the world, women of all ages and gender identities face a range of barriers and vulnerabilities.

Barriers and vulnerabilities are made worse by global drivers of change such as climate change, rapid urbanisation, wars and conflicts.

An historic gender bias is built into our urban spaces. Across countries, cities have been largely designed without considering the diverse needs of women.

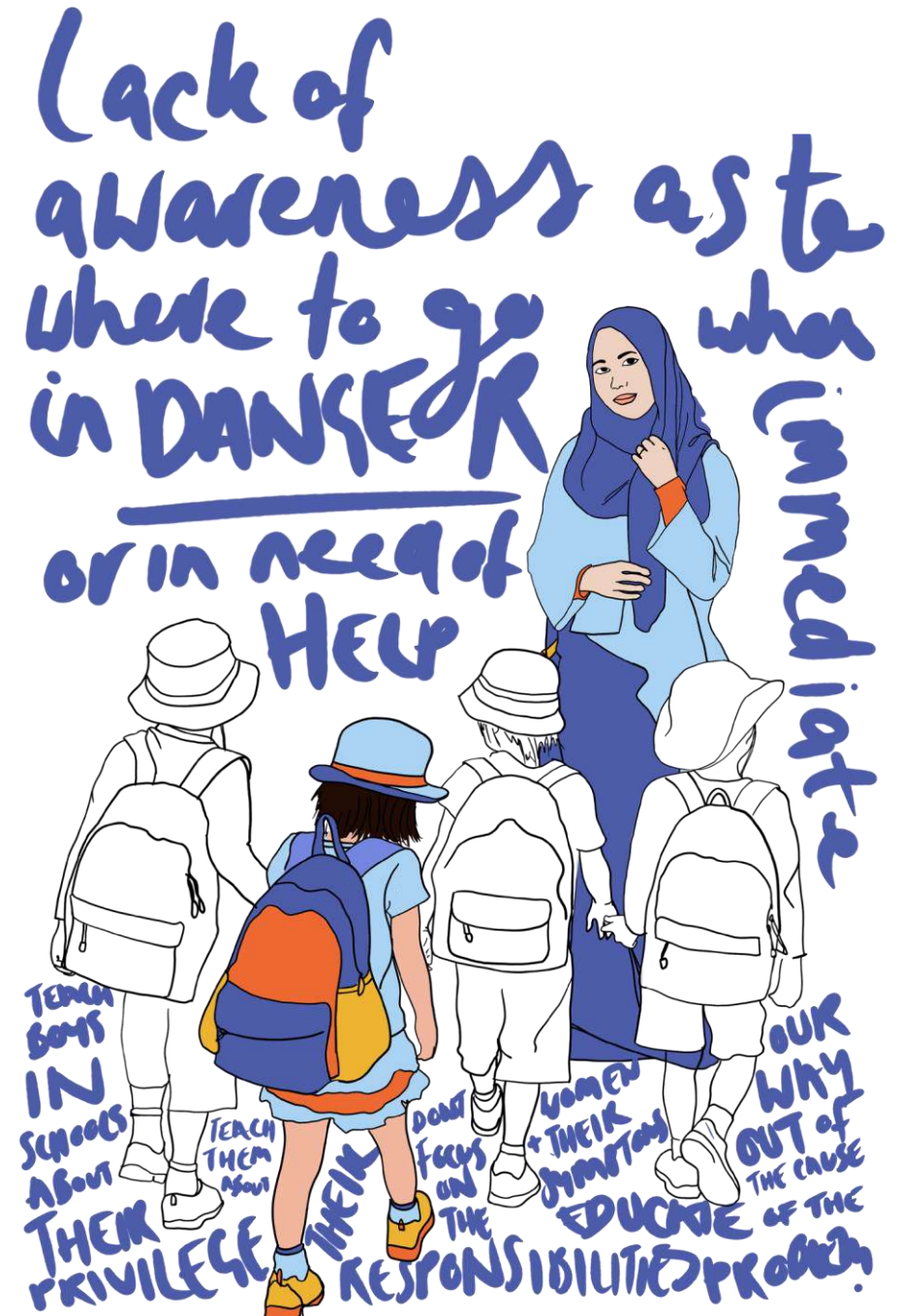


# Why cities for women?

## Setting the context

- In the UK, **97% of young women** have experienced sexual harassment in public.
- In Italy, **every three days** a woman is killed by a man.
- In Ireland, **55% of women** feel unsafe travelling on public transport after dark.
- In India, only **20% of women** are employed.
- **One in three women** globally do not have access to high quality, inclusive, and safe toilets that meet their needs.
- Across the EU, women earn **37% less** than men.
- Only 2-3% of statues across the world represent women.
- Globally, only **29% of women** are in senior decision-making positions.

**Urgent action is needed to remove the gender bias built into cities and improve women's safety, their health, and access to education and employment.**



# Designing cities that work for women

## Research approach

1. What **challenges** and **opportunities** do women face and see in cities around the world?
2. What's the **role of the built environment industry** in creating better spaces for women?
3. What **strategies** and **spatial interventions** can contribute to making the built environment a safer, more inclusive and equitable space for women to live, work, play and thrive in?



**770**

Respondents to our  
global survey

- 87% are female
- 111 have a disability
- 151 minority groups

**2**

Global workshops held

- 40 global locations
- 20 countries
- 6 continents

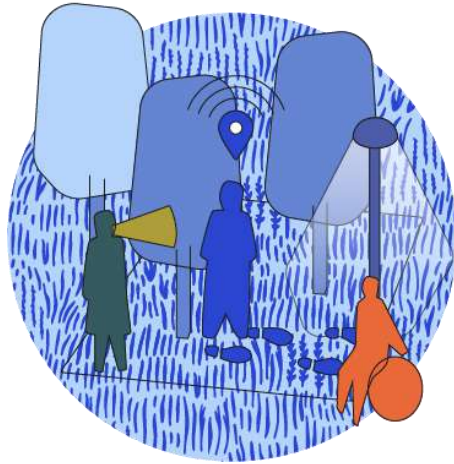
**14**

Global Arup  
Champions sharing  
knowledge



# Designing cities that work for women

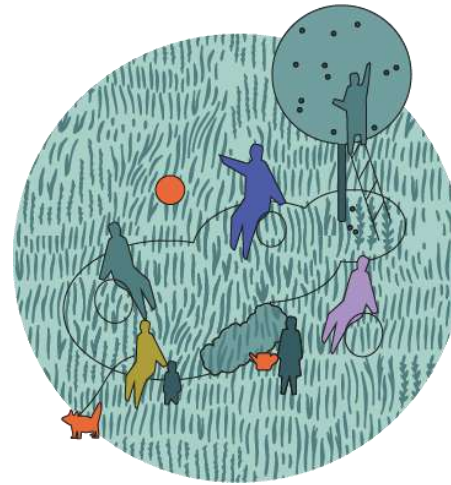
## Thematic framework



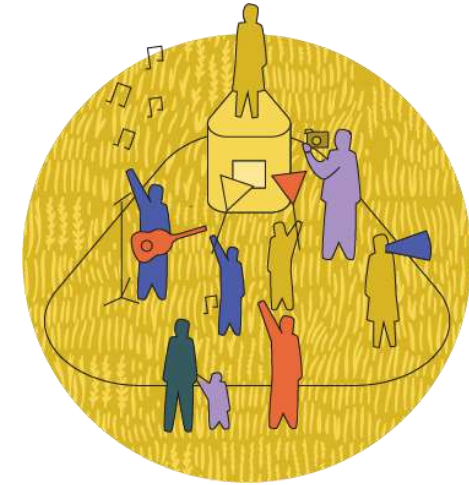
**Theme 1**  
Safety and security



**Theme 2**  
Justice and equity



**Theme 3**  
Health and wellbeing



**Theme 4**  
Enrichment and fulfilment

# Safety and Security

## Why it matters?

A sense of safety and security is fundamental to one's quality of life. The experience or fear of danger in the built environment causes mental and physical stress and hugely impedes women's personal wellbeing.

*I was attacked on the street a couple of years ago. It turned out the police knew of a gang attacking women, but they're not doing anything about it and they're trying to keep it out of the press to avoid mass hysteria. Absolutely unacceptable!*



## Strategies:



Create safer streets and public spaces by design



Provide safer mobility experiences



Integrate gender-responsiveness in urban climate strategies and plans



Incorporate violence prevention in laws and raise awareness

# Safety and security

## Case study

### Improve lighting design in streets and public spaces

#### XYX Lab Lighting Study

*Melbourne, Australia*

- Research on women's negative experience of the city
- Identification of lighting requirements to improve perception of safety
- Development of Night-time Vulnerability assessment





# Justice and equity

## Why it matters?

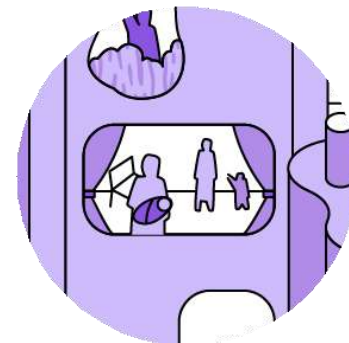
A spectrum of stakeholders needs to be involved to improve urban justice and equity for women – from central government to city leaders, urban designers and planners, and grassroots community organisations.



## Strategies:



**Mainstream gender- responsive planning in national laws**



**Support women participating in urban governance at all levels**



**Support the collection of gender disaggregated data**



**Protect women's right to land and property**



# Justice and equity

## Case study

**Leverage gender disaggregated data to measure and monitor progress on gender equity**

*Los Angeles (USA), Barcelona (Spain)*

- Intersectional set of indicators for measuring progress on gender equity (Los Angeles)
- Use of gender and race disaggregated data to ensure public transport are suited to women's needs (Barcelona)



# Health and wellbeing

## Why it matters?

The built environment can provide for women's specific needs relating to physical and mental stability. It can also, directly and indirectly, counteract the many ways in which gender-based discrimination causes distress and leads to disproportionate health risks.



## Strategies:



Create inclusive, active and restorative public and green areas



Increase access to physical and mental healthcare and nutrition facilities



Enhance access to inclusive water, hygiene, and sanitation facilities



Provide adequate accommodation and housing models



# Health and wellbeing

## Case study

### Older Women's Co-Housing

*London (UK)*

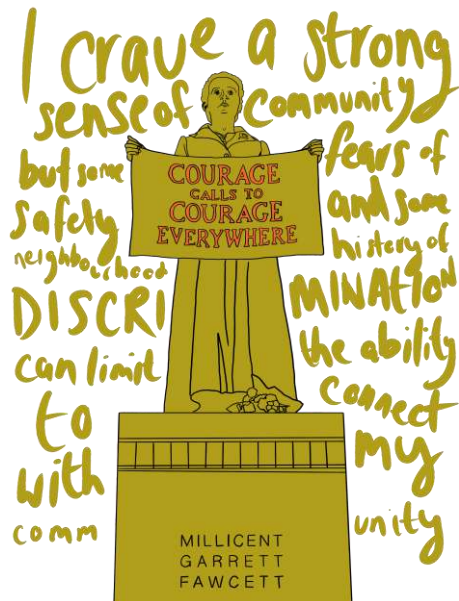
- Older Women's Co-Housing are a group of women over fifty who are the first senior co-housing community in the UK.
- OWCH came together as a group to have friendly, helpful neighbours as they got older, as an alternative to living alone.
- The 2-3 bed flats are clustered around a walled garden and all have their own patio or balcony, and with a communal meeting room.



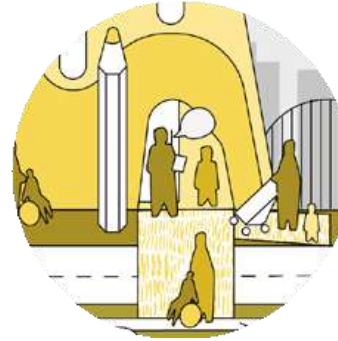
# Enrichment and Fulfilment

## Why it matters?

The types of spaces, facilities and events cities provide, and the hierarchies and narratives they promote, can help – or hinder – women as they seek to fulfil their own potential and achieve a meaningful and rewarding life.



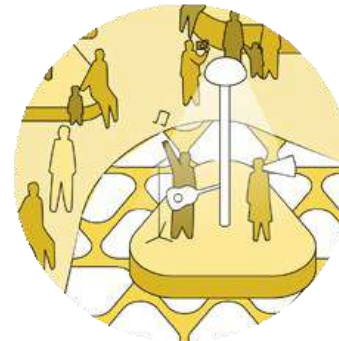
## Strategies:



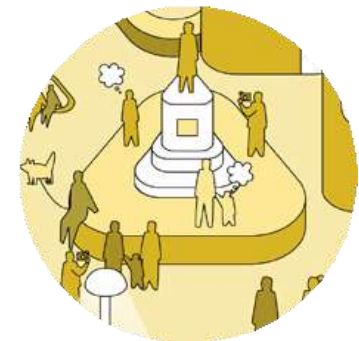
**Provide accessible and inclusive workplaces and schools**



**Design for diverse and flexible use of public spaces**



**Provide safe and inclusive leisure and cultural spaces**



**Use the built environment to uplift women and recognise their history**



# Enrichment and fulfilment

## Case study

### **Design parks in response to women's safety needs**

#### **Tribute Garden**

*New York, USA*

- Park designed to raise awareness of, and pay respect to, victims of domestic abuse.
- Health benefits of green spaces provide a way of reconnecting with new surroundings for displaced women seeking asylum.



# Making change happen

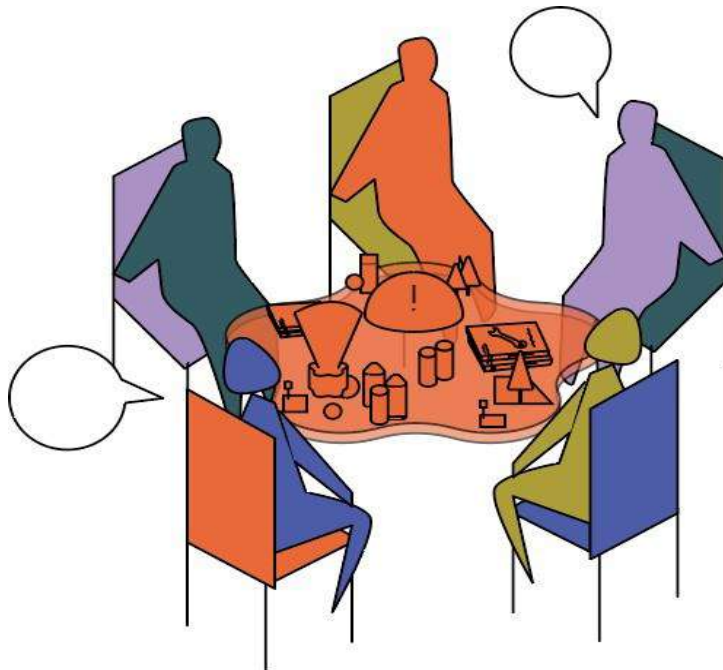




# Putting into practice

## Gender-responsive city making

An integrated, gender responsive and participatory approach to city making is needed. **Commitment and collaboration** from public and private stakeholders, as well as **women's active participation**, are integral.



1. Gender-responsive project foundations
2. Gender-responsive project roadmap



# Gender-responsive city making

## Project foundations

Twelve foundational principles that create the optimum environment in which to deliver gender equity.

### Key stakeholders



City leaders and  
policy makers



Built environment  
professionals



Developers  
and investors



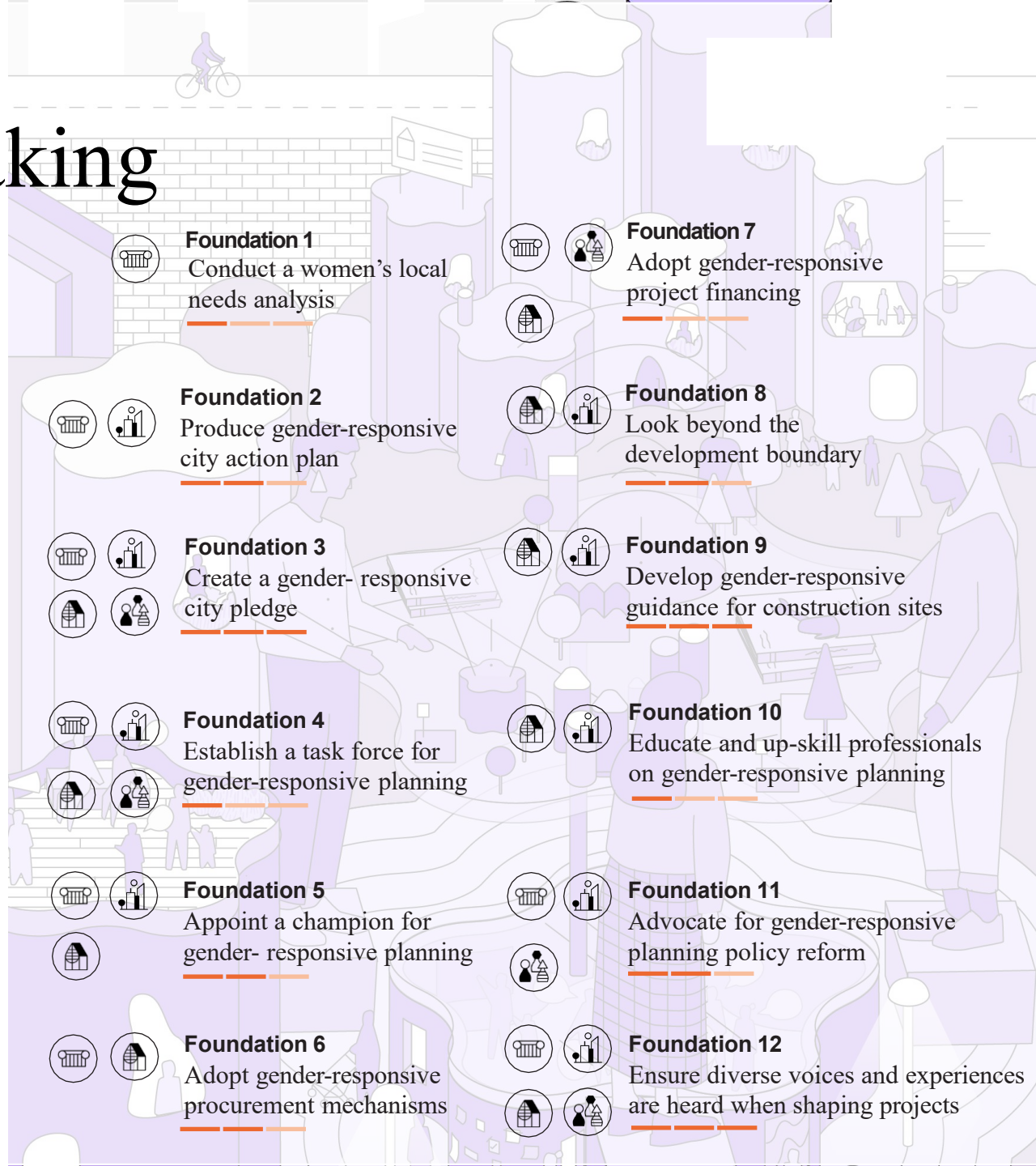
Community  
groups

### Implementation timescales

Short term

Medium term

Long term

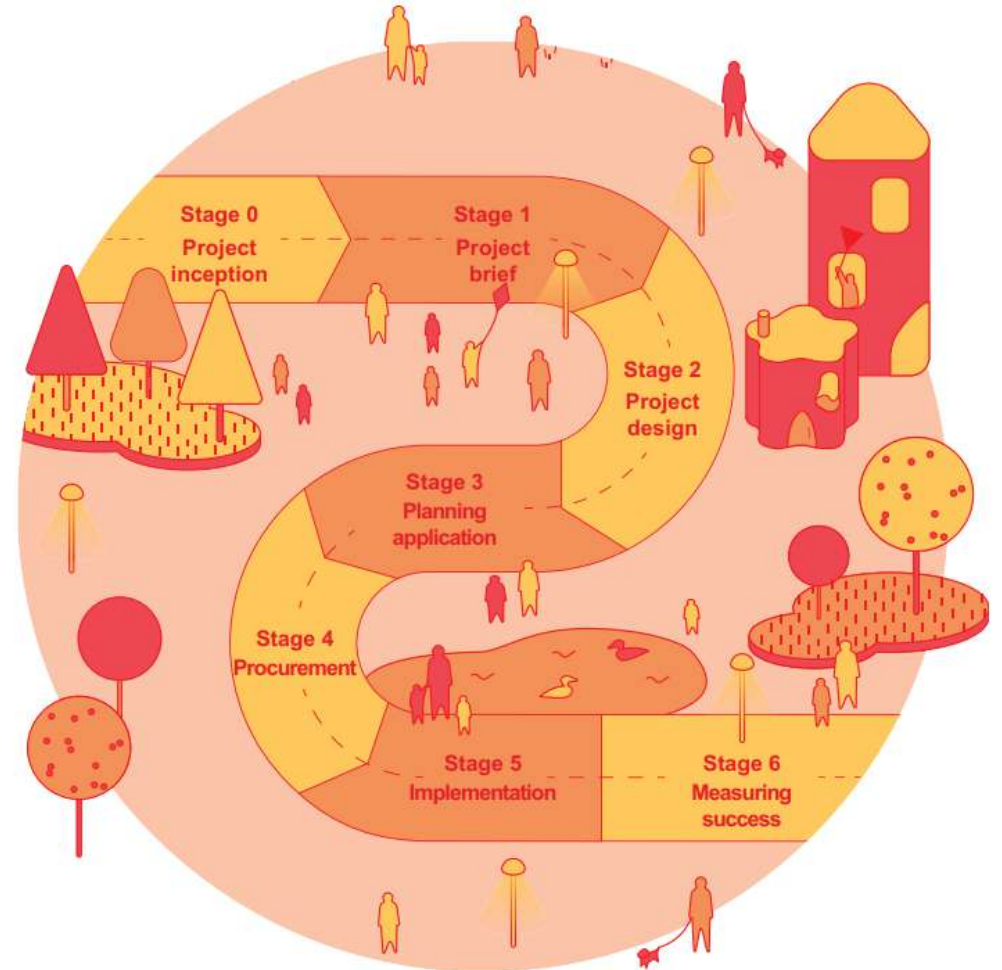


# Gender-responsive city making

## Gender-responsive project roadmap

Sets out the actions that should be implemented at every stage of a project. It ensures that:

- Women have a voice throughout the project lifecycle
- Inclusive and equitable working practices are used
- Project outcomes address the local needs of women





# Gender-responsive city making

## Gender-responsive project roadmap



### 0 Project inception

Establish a diverse team that understands the intersectional challenges faced by women.

Ensure that the project team is multi-disciplinary, thinking wider than the traditional disciplines.

Explain the social value and equality, diversity and inclusion commitments to the team.

Establish a commitment to gender equity amongst the project team.

Make 'Inclusion Moments' a standing agenda item for team meetings.



### 1 Project brief

Identify gender-responsive project outcomes which address the local needs of women.

Map the user stories of women to communicate the project requirements from their perspectives.

Produce a gender-responsive engagement plan which sets out how engagement with women will be carried out at all stages of the project.

Use a mix of engagement methods to promote full, active participation of women.



### 2 Project design

Develop a multi-criteria assessment tool for options appraisal.

Continue stakeholder engagement particularly around key project changes.

Deliver a multi-disciplinary design team workshop to identify and address any competing impacts.

Manage team personnel changes and milestone transitions ensuring the project vision is maintained.



### 3 Planning application

Local planning authority should ensure the needs of women have been considered by developers.

A 'gender-responsive design plan' should be submitted with every planning submission.

Conditions should be included by local planning authorities to require developers to implement women's safety measures.

Developer contributions should go towards achieving inclusive outcomes.

# Gender-responsive city making

## Gender-responsive project roadmap



### 4 Procurement

Gender-responsive procurement mechanisms should be adopted by organisations.

The supply chain should commit to supporting the needs of women through their contractual requirements.

Social value commitments which enhance the visibility of women should be required.



### 5 Implementation

Risk registers should include standing risks and mitigation around the experiences of women.

Design changes made during delivery should be re-tested with women.



### 6 Measuring success

The project should be monitored to identify whether the anticipated outcomes are being achieved.

Feedback of the impact of the project should be shared with the Local Planning Authority.

A 'lessons learnt' log should be kept.



How can you help make  
where you live, work and  
play be more inclusive –  
a place where people can  
thrive regardless of  
gender?

**This is only the start of what  
we hope to achieve.**





ARUP