

International Women's Day

The city is joining the UN Global Initiative Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls

Montréal, March 8, 2019 – On this International Women's Day, Mayor Valérie Plante, is happy to announce that our metropolis has joined the [UN Global Initiative "Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls"](#).

By participating in the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces initiative, Montréal makes the commitment to elaborate and efficiently implement comprehensive policies to prevent and to counter sexual violence in public spaces, to invest in the safety and economic viability of public spaces, and to change attitudes and behaviors in order to promote the right of women and girls to enjoy our public spaces without any violence.

"By making this UN initiative our own, Montréal shows its leadership once again with respect to promoting equality between women and men. Our participation in this movement will enable us to draw our inspiration from best practices world-wide, in order to make our city one of equality and safety," said Mayor Plante.

"We are pleased that the Montréal will be the 5th Canadian city to participate in the UN Global Initiative Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls, focused on the prevention of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces. We look forward to our partnership with partners in the Montréal Safe City programme to advance women's safety, equality and empowerment, and the sharing of the city's integrated human rights based approach with over 37 cities that form part of this Global Initiative," said Kalliopi Mingeirou, Chief, Ending Violence against Women Section, UN Women.

Montréal, a safe and egalitarian city

Montréal is multiplying its actions to acknowledge the contribution of women and to streamline their access to civic participation and to a harmonious cohabitation.

For instance, as part of the Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and Girls, the city adopts a yearly declaration in this respect. More recently, a declaration against sexual violence was also adopted by city council. Moreover, Montréal is working on introducing the gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) as an element for the prevention of various forms of systemic discrimination in municipal services.

Among other municipal and partner initiatives, we also have the mock city council, Cité Elles MTL 2019, to be held at city hall at the end of March. This event will allow some fifty Montréal women to become familiar with city council procedures. There is also the future Place des Montréalaises, the development of which is the result of an international interdisciplinary architecture and landscaping competition. This outdoor exhibition showcases Montréal women with exceptional life paths.

“For several years now, Montréal has been a beacon for equality and countering violence against women. I am counting on the commitment of Montréal women from every walk of life and of all ages to make Montréal more inclusive and unifying,» concludes the mayor of Montréal.

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Source :

Youssef Amane
Directeur des relations médias
Cabinet de la mairesse
et du comité exécutif
438 832-1221

Renseignements :

Gabrielle Fontaine-Giroux
Relationniste
Service de l'expérience citoyenne
et des communications
514 872-0333