

Safe Cities 2019 Presentation in Los Angeles City Council Chambers by LACSW

- Good Morning – Thank you Councilmember Nury Martinez for leading today’s City Council presentation on the Safe Cities Initiative. My name is Francesca Vega and I am a Commissioner on the CSW. The CSW applauds your leadership in making sure women and girls are safe. We also thank Mayor Garcetti and members of the City Council for your continuous efforts to achieve gender equality here in LA.
- Through the Safe Cities Initiative, we join a global call to action to end all forms of harassment and discrimination against women in public spaces. A call to protect women’s rights which are human rights.
- As local leaders, it is our job to create the conditions under which women and girls can thrive. It is our job to – in all that we do – make sure that we 1) Understand women and girl’s specific needs; 2) Account for their needs when we design city services, and 3) Allocate resources to address those needs.
- Until 2011, car- and seat belt design were based on the height and weight of the average man. As a result, female drivers are 47% more likely to be seriously injured in a car crash, in particular pregnant women.
- This is just one example of many non-gender sensitive products and services that affect women’s safety.
- Today, we are proud to stand next to Seleta Reynolds, a fearless leader that is making sure nothing that comes out of LADOT is gender-blind.
- Safe, accessible, affordable, and timely transportation play a fundamental role in women and girl’s access to education, employment, healthcare, childcare & other key services.
 - For the homeless woman seeking safety on the Metro;
 - For the single mother riding with her children, stroller, and groceries;
 - For the commuter walking home in the dark, looking for street lights;
 - For the human trafficking survivor, in and around bus stations, in desperate need of support services;
 - For the young student hoping her parents will let her take public transport so that she can participate in afternoon activities;
 - For the employee seeking a workplace without harassment and discrimination.
- In 2019, CSW looks forward to supporting the work of the City Council, City Departments, and other key stakeholders to address these needs and build a city that is safe for ALL women. And we are delighted to have Councilwoman Martinez, Mayor Garcetti, the City Council, Seleta Reynolds and LADOT leading the way.