

# UCLG Culture Committee report on cultural policies, gender equality and sustainable development

“The Role of Culture in Achieving Gender Equality in cities and territories”  
(working title)

## 1. Background

In the framework of the last steps-forward of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) towards gender equality, the empowerment of women and the active participation of women in decision-making and public life, including the [Durban Political Declaration](#) and the commitment to be an equality driven movement, reinforced by the [Presidential Decalogue for the COVID-19 aftermath](#), the announcement of a new UCLG “[Pact for the Future of Humanity: For people, for the planet, for the government](#)”, and the Generation Equality process with the [LRG’s Joint Statement to the UN Commission on the Status of Women 65 \(CSW65\)](#) and [Call to action on Women’s Leadership for the post-Covid-19 Era](#), which are major inflection points for UCLG and the emergence of a global feminist municipal movement centred around care, UCLG Committee on Culture is promoting research on ‘The Role of Culture in Achieving Gender Equality’, as a contribution from the cultural perspective to address women’s rights and gender-responsive policies for sustainable development.

This research work will be led by Farida Shaheed, former UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, and supported by the UCLG Culture Committee. The report will be informed by UCLG and UCLG Culture Committee policy documents and resources, and by contributions of UCLG members and consultation mechanisms on the latest elements of the international debate on culture, gender equality and sustainable development. A draft report will be presented at the [4<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir](#).

## 2. Outline of the report

The report will include a brief explanation on the need to make more explicit the interconnections and the interdependency of the four dimensions of development (social, cultural, economic and environmental), and on the need to place gender equality as an explicit consideration in cultural policies (gender-responsive cultural policies); it will include an **analysis of existing policies, programmes and initiatives** and the **identification of relevant examples or case-studies** structured around key policy areas, including:

1. Measures for women/non-binary identity persons in decision-making bodies, especially for cultural events but also for general local policy-making
2. Measures to ensure women’s presence in public narratives, eliminate gender stereotypes and transform representation and role models

- Statues, visual imagery, narratives of women's stories/herstory in museums and expo halls events, public pageants events etc.
  - Official history/narratives of the city/locality
3. Access for women to the labour market in the culture and creative sectors, including festivals, film, literature, tv, radio, advertising, visual and performing arts
  4. Ensuring (public) spaces that encourage women's participation – timings, nursing stations/creches, bathrooms, transport, including for accessing & participating in cultural events but in city life as a whole
  5. Policies to make the city safe and accessible for all genders (safety is a big gender issue but not sure can cover – i.e. lighting, emergency numbers) – this also relates to gender responsive budgeting (examples clearing the snow in winter; safety of women using public transport at night)

### **3. How to contribute?**

UCLG Culture Committee will welcome the contributions of cities and local and regional governments, as well as partners, to this initiative on **one or more key policy areas identified in this concept note, including policies, programmes or projects recently implemented at the local level and which constitute inspiring achievements** in the above-mentioned fields.

**Contributions will be made through this [form](#) and will not exceed 1000 words. They will be preferably received in English. If the explanation requires more than 1000 words, please kindly contact us**

**We invite you to send your contribution before 21 May 2021 at last to the following email address: [culture@uclg.org](mailto:culture@uclg.org).**