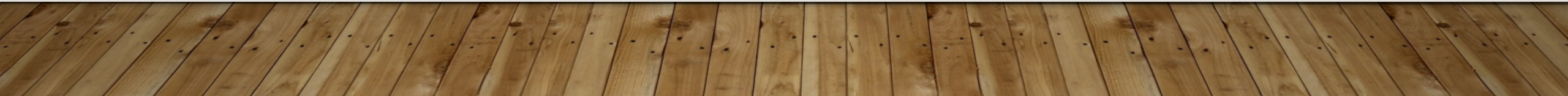


MY SPACE- YOUR SPACE BUILDING GENDER SENSITIVE CITIES

NTOMBI MBADLANYANA



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY A GENDER SENSITIVE CITY



- Modern Cities are designed by MEN and are FOR MEN thereby limiting women's access to economic and social development (World Urban Forum)
- A gender sensitive city is a space where all can thrive and grow, cities are built as structures to reflect designated gender roles.
- Apartheid South Africa- Men would leave their wives in the rural areas, in search of better economic opportunities, discovery of gold, mining. Men would sometimes settle in the city and have a new family, and just send remittances to support their families in the villages.
- Cities were never created for women, economic opportunities were always geared towards men however women in the Bantustans Apartheid SA, ended up coming to the cities as domestic workers in order to support their families.
- This continues today, with certain groups only being able to access the cities while the minorities continue to have limited access to the city.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR HOOD?



- Langa commuters in the morning leave to go work in the cities
- Leaving the township in the morning – coming back from the city in the afternoon people bring their “labour” only to the city no space to really enjoy, and feel free
- Access to services by women and children and other minority groups- specialised care
- Certain spaces still pose a danger “ old beer halls”/ “dark alley ways” men and boys chilling on the corners. Cat calling women, and children.
- Safe spaces in the townships vs the city for those who are part of the LGBTQI+

URBAN PLANNING CHALLENGES

- Apartheid Geographical Planning / Langa/ Pinelands/ Bonteheuwel
- Economic opportunities should be created closer to spaces, where people live and play
- Town planning fractural barriers
- Safety- high mast lights especially in the townships/ no street names especially in the informal settlements
- Gender inclusive planning-Where are spaces for women and children/ minority groups to feel included in the city? What about even ablution facilities/ gender neutral spaces/ breastfeeding facilities
- Security and visibility within the city, Law Enforcement agencies



WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT –WHERE ARE THEY PLACED?



- Women's participation in decision- making within local government. Women who are at senior management level are limited within the local government sector.
- Advocates of decentralisation argue that it opens up avenues for women to articulate their interests, to enter arenas of political decision-making, and to advance women interests.
- Local government is the closest form of government to our communities, women at this level need to be trained and capacitated to ensure that they are part of key decision making processes within the local government space, including at local councils and senior management.
- IDP Planning and Gender Mainstreaming at local government level- gender spatial planning
- Women in local government need to be empowered through this process to analyse policies and ensure that they have participation in key decision making processes. Most projects such as drought, electrical engineering, geohydrologists, are all male dominated spaces

MY SPACE – YOUR SPACE



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- Cities should not only be used as spaces for a select few, and others being excluded
 - Women's visibility including safety should be prioritised, creating economic opportunities to places closer to where people live should be encouraged.
 - LGBTQI+ minorities should also feel safe and included and not only during the “Pride Week Activities”
 - Gender sensitive planning – spaces where all of us can live , work and play
 - Eliminate anxiety causing spaces, that tend to exclude others on the basis of race, class and gender.
 - Create spaces that reflect new urban planning and inclusivity