



Global Platform for the  
Right to the City

## Global Call for Women's Right to the City: Let's Build Caring Cities!

International Women's Day 2024

**We, civil society organizations and local governments, participating in the Global Platform for the Right to the City<sup>1</sup> -women and girls of all ages, dissidents and backgrounds - from all regions of the world, demand that the matter of living in cities, the everyday life, and thus, care<sup>2</sup>[1], essential for life reproduction, be integrated into urban planning and policies, towards fairer, more diverse, and feminist cities and territories.**

**We need cities and human settlements that prioritize life** over the commodification of proposals. We aspire to cities where **all women and girls can have equal opportunities and develop our lives equally, in an inclusive way, based on our diversities, without violence, and by making our contributions visible.** A city that **recognizes, values, and redistributes care work** in families, society, and particularly in the community, all primarily undertaken by women. All of this demands **investment in public services and facilities** that consider the use of time by caregivers and of people in need of care, as well as proximity, and quality. **Care must be recognized as a right and as work, thus as a public and social responsibility, with the active engagement of regional/local governments.**

The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the climate crisis - resulting in significant losses and damages at local and national levels-, along with processes of democratic setbacks and growing inequalities, has highlighted the need for care and state investment in comprehensive care infrastructure. However, despite the evidence gathered, a **contradiction persists between the vital and essential role played by care work**, as well as community care networks, in sustaining reproduction, life and ecosystems, and the **lack of visibility, recognition, and support received by caregivers.** Therefore, it is urgent to guarantee the recognition of the **rights and demands of groups that require care** and are also marginalized (especially children, older people and people with disabilities).

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<sup>1</sup> The Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) is an open, flexible, diverse network of civil society and local government organizations committed to political action and social change through the promotion, defense and fulfillment of the Right to the City at all levels, paying special attention to people and communities affected by exclusion and marginalization. Visit: <https://www.right2city.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Care work refers to activities ensuring reproduction and vital support, encompassing care for individuals with specific needs and daily activities in the domestic and community sphere that ensure the maintenance of life under suitable conditions, such as cooking and cleaning. Definition included in the PGDC thematic document "Cities and human settlements with diverse and inclusive economies": <https://www.right2city.org/en/document/citieswithdiverseandinclusiveeconomies/>



## Global Platform for the Right to the City

**We call on all levels of government to radically transform how care is distributed, made visible, remunerated, and supported by infrastructure and services in our cities, which implies:**

- **Revising traditional approaches to urban planning and policies through a critical lens,** incorporating new concepts and methods (including participatory research and a gender-sensitive, plural, and multicultural perspective) to account for the differentiated demands and uses of the city from an intersectional perspective that considers gender, ethnicity and race, income, disability, age, and sexual diversity in environments of citizen security.
- **Establishing the necessary infrastructure and policies for the development of care systems that reconcile reproductive and productive work in cities with a focus on gender equality, proximity, and accessibility.** In other words, cities that promote socio-spatial inclusion and integration, social cohesion, social and intergenerational interactions, a sense of belonging and identity, and an improved urban quality of life through public space and urban design.
- **Recognizing and including the various cultural, memory, social, and economic characteristics of the communities that inhabit it.** Through active citizenship exercises, with participatory policy formulation and public budgeting processes, fostering a sense of belonging and responsibility through democratic governance. Eliminating violence and discrimination in all its forms, ensuring security, peace, equal rights, opportunities, and access to the city's goods and services.
- **Supporting community care networks, formed both by caregivers** (housewives, professionals in education, healthcare, domestic workers, among others) **and by people in need of care** (older people, dependent individuals, more vulnerable groups according to the current care system...), social organizations, and public and private entities linked to this sector. These networks must also include feminist organizations, local and national governments, and other relevant actors to ensure a sustainable process for the implementation of actions.

**For Women's Right to the City: Let's Build Caring Cities!**