International Study on Women’s Personal Security and Public Transport Phase 1

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Why is this topic important?
How do we learn more?
Myth or Reality

Is this a problem that is seen more in the developing world?
Is this localised?
Are we over-reacting?
Safe and Sound published today!
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Heads of household
Unhappiness with Public Transport in Cape Town (%)

- MBT
- BRT
- Bus
- Gautrain
- Blue Train
- Shosholoza
- Metrorail

Legend:
- In-vehicle
- Station/rank/stop
- Walk to/from

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First outputs

- It is an international issue but little transfer of knowledge between cities or countries leading to duplication of efforts
- Happens daily and many women have to just ‘cope’
- Appears to be widely underreported and the scope of the problem (nor the solutions) are NOT well understood by transit agencies, planners or other authorities
- There are contextual and cultural aspects but “women only transport” should not be considered as a permanent solution
- Men, although aware, tend to underestimate the scale & have an unconscious bias that women should accept it as normal female/male behaviour and women’s behaviour encourages it
- Women are not well informed or empowered generally (but once they ‘get it’ – they ‘GET IT’)

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Some Surprises

• 😊 There are a number of measures (soft and hard) that have been piloted, tested or put in place and quite a lot of ‘technology’ based ones

• 😞 Few have been properly evaluated for impacts

• 😞 Once they are seen to be ‘working’ many are not refunded

• 😞 Little learning has been shared from earlier work ... and many new projects start from zero (again 😞 and again 😞 and again 😞)
Are you an average person?

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Key output and outcomes

1. To produce practical guidance for international agencies and professional bodies, development funders, transit agencies

2. Via a network of partners who will have tested/used the methodology create ownership of the process

3. Create a legacy of knowledge with the local partners (NGOs, Universities and Womens groups) who can work more closely with transport authorities to keep up the momentum
Next steps

• Phase 2
  • Looking to use the same methodology in all continents starting with Latin America
  • Looking to increase the published data and research (now seen as a HOT topic) with more regional input
  • Looking to produce practical guidance for international agencies and professional bodies, development funders, transit agencies
  • Create mechanisms for transfer and a legacy of knowledge
This is NOT a gender issue

• We need to safeguard the important modal share that women have in all types of mass and shared transport

• Women play an important role in setting the values of their children and influencing behaviour (little monkey syndrome)

• Women (especially poorer members of society) can be empowered if they have just a little information and can be agents for change
Report available

- Free download from publications section of FIA Foundation website

- Provide us with more examples or want to get involved? Contact me!

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