**SUSTAINABLE CITIES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT**

**Table of Contents**

[Part A 2](#_heading=h.gjdgxs)

[Introduction 2](#_heading=h.30j0zll)

[Analysis 2](#_heading=h.1fob9te)

[Conclusion 7](#_heading=h.3znysh7)

[Reference List 8](#_heading=h.2et92p0)

# Part A

## Introduction

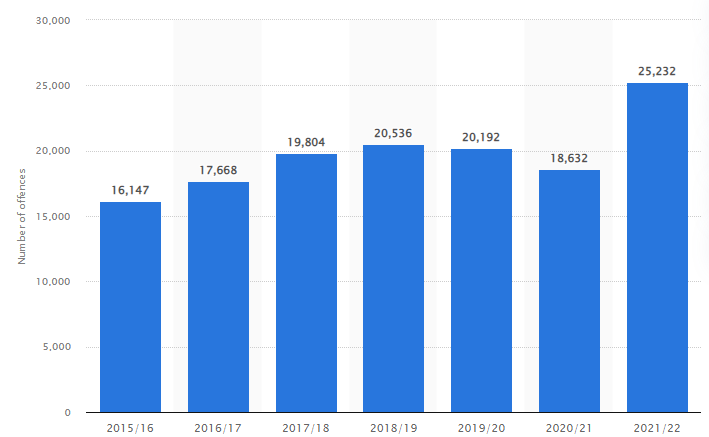
Most cities are built to meet the requirement of a specific gender. The forms of citizenship in the globalized world have been developed to maintain the way of living in a specific framework. In this essay, the focus is going to develop specific issues faced by girls or women in the cities. The experience of girls or women in maintaining personal safety in the regular way of living is going to be addressed in this essay in terms of specific examples of cities. The situation of safety and experience faced by women or girls rather than men or boys in social space are going to be focused on in this essay.

## Analysis

**Experience of women or girls in comparison with men or boys in personal safety**

The position of women in the social and domestic sphere has to be taken into consideration to analyse the way women lead an everyday life. `The everyday connectivity of women in the feminist perspective to maintain personal safety has been regulated by the globalized world. The experience of women in the domestic sphere or social environment has not changed in the globalized world which can lead them to a position of safety and security. 'Gendered identity' of women is a stereotypical phenomenon in a society that made the position of women inferior to men from the earlier period of civilization (Fincher and Jacobs,1998).

A girl or a woman has to think twice about personal safety before attending a late-night party. On the other hand, while returning from the office or college on public transport or in the domestic sphere the life of a housewife has not been found safe in terms of cases occurred physical assault, harassment, gendered bullying, domestic violence, and rape. In the ***city of London,*** the case of sexual violence, online abuse, and gender violence has been found increasing. In London, the number of female victims in terms of class, and race is increasing. In 2023 the case of sexual abuse, gendered violence, and domestic abuse increased by 30% in London (Bbc.com, 2022). Women's safety and security in personal life has not been regarded as a responsibility of the whole society; rather in London after the age of 16 almost 30% of women and girls have to go through domestic abuse. At the end of 2021, overall 40,572 women in the UK has gone through sexual violence (Bbc.com, 2022).



**Figure 1: The number of sexual offenses increased in England and Wales**

(Source- Statista.com, 2022)

The CSEW estimated approximately 2.4 million adults aged 16 years over experienced domestic abuse in London (Ons.gov.uk, 2022). Sexual offenses have increased in 2021-22 due to the increase in criminal activities and the psychological impact of a pandemic on the human mind. The murder after being sexually assaulted in the case of sex workers in the UK has been significant. In ***Berlin Germany,*** the rate of gender-based violence against women has increased in the last 5 years. Personal safety maintenance of women is a very important social responsibility of the governance structure of any country which has been violated consistently. The space of equality in terms of social position has been violated in the case of women. In Germany domestic abuse and rape have increased.

The murder of women by their partner or ex-partner in 2020 has been found to have increased to 4.9% (Eigen. Europa. EU, 2022). Case of victimization of women is increasing disproportionately in today's world. As per Asadullah *et al.* (2021), ***femicide*** which refers to the gender-related killing of women or girls has increased in Germany. In Germany in 2023 117 femicides have been witnessed and reported. In Germany, one in three women has experienced gender or sexual violence after the age of 15 (Evaw-global-database.unwomen.org, 2022). In Berlin, the safety and security of girl children and women is a matter of concern that can be estimated from increasing gendered violence in the domestic sphere and in the workplace environment.

Women have to face indiscriminate violence, and harassment in the workplace as well. Work-life balance maintenance in collaboration with the domestic lifestyle has been found challenging for women. Gender and class-related discrimination and violence in the workplace have been developed for women which made the space narrowed down for them in case of wage discrimination and personal safety issues. In both cities, it has been found visible that the personal safety of women is constantly violated and becoming a great concern due to irrespective discrimination, gendered-centric mental inhibition, and criminality in society.

**Critical evaluation of the position of women in gendered cities**

***London***

Safety is a critical issue for women in a regular way of living. In London, women may have to face trouble specifically at night. Solo women travellers avoid night visits in some specific areas of London because of safety issues. Some of the causes of women's safety in London were inadequate lighting. The trust between policy and governmental laws is poor as a result of historical inequalities in the system of justice. Because of their social culture, it is not easy to get help (Home: Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, 2023). In addition, the public transportation system is also poor and girls at night do not have easy access to vehicles. As per the latest figure from the Office of National Statistics, 177 women were killed in Europe and Wales between 2020 April to 2021 March. As per the ONS data this year a number of 9272 rape cases were recorded in London which is 24% higher of than in the last 12 months. The increase in the number and record is given the point that many women are coming forward and gaining the courage to file a report. This is a result of media coverage, campaign on the willingness to report high-profile cases as well the potential increase in the victim numbers (Women and the Criminal Justice System, 2021). The rate of domestic abuse also increased in the city. However, the authority and government of London are working hard to ensure women's safety and try to protect them from any kind of mental and physical abuse. They develop and open up many helpline numbers and share a clear message with victims to reach out on an immediate basis to the police or other support agencies to seek help. It is necessary for them to obey the laws in London for girl’s safety and provide protection. In addition, the laws and order would be effective for the girl’s safety purpose.

The authorities work with sensitivity and provide full support and safety to the victim. Society needs to work together to end the violence against girls and women.

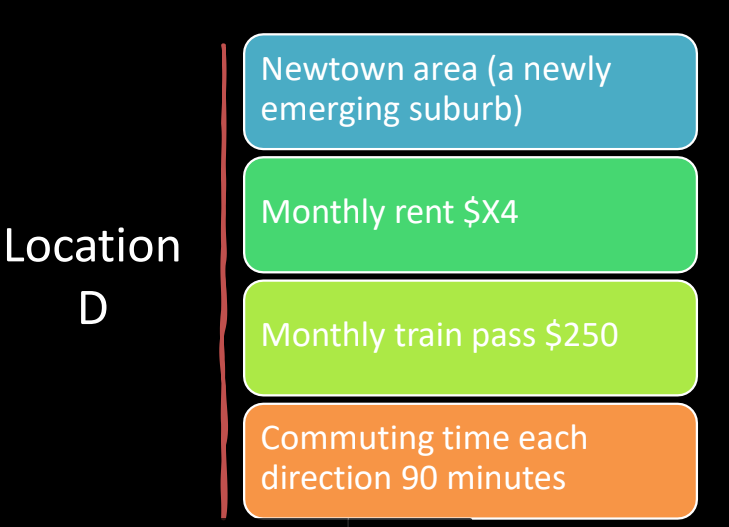
***Berlin Germany***

According to German police, a significant majority of violent acts against women are carried out by a spouse or ex-partner. According to the latest recent data from 2020, there was a rise of 4.9% over the prior year. In four out of every five incidents of violence, the victims are women, who are disproportionately more prone to do so. Additionally, 870 discrimination-related offenses based on sexual orientation were reported by police in 2021, 164 of which involved violence. It is anticipated that a change in the legislation will also have an impact on the punishment in instances involving sexual crimes, including rape. For instance, the German Supreme Court of Justice (BGH) has determined in a number of decisions that sexual misconduct conducted within a partnership is excused. Berlin is typically a safe city at night, especially for women, despite some of its less well-kept neighbourhoods. For both locals and visitors, walking alone after a few drinks is extremely common, and problems are uncommon (Hellmann *et al.,* 2018). More victims of domestic abuse have contacted help centres as a result of greater public awareness of violence against women, especially during the pandemic's peak. The public transportation system is developed in the city and they believe in feminism. They believe in equality and the law-and-order system encourages all to trust the process. The experts assert that providing victims of violence based on gender with justice goes beyond criminal justice and that they also require safety, support, and aid.

**Specific policies or Government initiative**

The government regulations and policies are there to help women and stand by them during the crisis period of maintaining personal safety. In the UK tackling violence against women and girls has been monitored to provide female security under any circumstance. The UK government has developed strategies to provide girls safety at home, online, and on the street. ***The Domestic Violence Crime and Victim Act 2004*** has been developed to ensure the safe and secure place of women and girls at home and in private spaces (Gov. UK, 2022). The criminal justice protection against rape and response to victims and sufferers has been taken into consideration to provide girls and women a safe place to live. ***Honour killing, honour-based abuse, and revenge porn*** are the sectors of criminal offenses that have been started monitoring by the *Landmark of Domestic Abuse Act.* As per Bermúdez *et al.* (2020), ***the Domestic Abuse Act 2021*** has been especially responsible to provide protection against ‘stalking, coercive behaviour and up skirting’ against women. Priority prevention has been ensured by the Homer Secretary of the government to develop survivor surveys against the crime and make a required positive approach to help the victim. The ***Violence Against Women Act*** has been developed to supervise the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) process and the provision of security to women to protect their human rights in society.

In ***Germany***, the *Equal Rights Act and the Federal Equality Law* have been developed to provide women safety and security to maintain gender equality. The increasing rate of domestic violence in Germany has been observed which can be pacified with the government's stance of punishing six months to 10 years of imprisonment. Sexual identity in terms of race, class, and sex has been maintained in Germany by the *Equality Act 2010 (*Eige.europa.eu, 2022)*.* The council of the European Government has developed safety and violence controlling regulations for women in case of honour killing, online abuse and harassment, and sexual assault. An action plan to combat violence against women has been developed in Germany to devise strategies to prevent the increasing rate of domestic violence.



**Figure 3: William Alonso Location Model**

(Source- van Meeteren, 2021)

The development and growth of the cities has been found in the recent years that has been described by the ***William Alonso Model.*** In the context of the London city the facilities and rent has been increased for people to live.

Awareness-building programs have been regulated in Germany to promote the importance of developing equal space for women in society as experienced by Men. The city ***of Glasgow*** has become a completely 'gendered city' in terms of providing women first place in the decision-making of town planning, administrative development, and encouraging women. The development of female equality and providing a female equal rather higher place in society has been gradually increasing a changing alternative in the world.

## Conclusion

In this essay, the development of the analysis has been cantered on the position of women and girls in society compared to men. The kind of sexual violence and domestic assault has been faced by women has been discussed in this essay. The critical evaluation of facing problems by women in maintaining personal security in society has been discussed in the specific reference of London and Berlin city. The required government policies and laws to protect women's rights in society and provide responses against the criminal offenses against them have been discussed and evaluated in this essay.

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