



RE: Last chance to join key resolution to reduce urban violence by 50%

Dear fellow city mayor,

Over 600,000 people are killed every year around the world in situations of urban conflict, extremism, crime and interpersonal violence. In recent times, urban security has been on the front pages of global newspapers as Black Lives Matter protests and Covid-19 responses have led to people clashing in city streets. Yet there are also remarkable examples of cities preventing and reducing violence, especially where there is smart leadership, data-driven and evidence-based interventions focused on hot spots and social and economic prevention measures.

Nevertheless, there continues to be an absence of strong inter-city action to accelerate violence reduction measures around the world. In response to this, and to align to the UN General Assembly's focus on reducing urban violence, the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) and Peace in Our Cities are reaching out to you to help drive a global city-led violence reduction agenda.

These two networks – including over 100 mayors and city organisations – have launched a vital resolution to halve violence by 2030. The resolution is aligned to deliver Sustainable Development Goal 16 – "to reduce violence everywhere" – and you know as well as I do how important this SDG is for citizens around the world.

We put forward this resolution in response to the violence we continue to see in our global cities. In many places, Covid-19 has accelerated many of the drivers of conflict, crime, and interpersonal violence – especially violence against women and children. Conditions have been made worse by unhelpful responses from some national leaders and simplistic journalism. As city leaders, we are committed to investing in strategies based on solid data and evidence in order to prevent and reduce violence in all its forms.

To speed up achievement of SDG16, and promote inclusive economic development, our resolution sets out 11 basic commitments to deliver safety and security in cities. These commitments are informed by science and good practice, and have been developed with experts from around the world.

The resolution is accessible on the Global Parliament of Mayors virtual platform, and is non-legally binding. **By joining with our collective voice, you will be sending out a strong message about your commitment to preventing and reducing violence in your city.**

The Global Parliament of Mayors and Peace in Our Cities will be presenting the resolution, the first of its kind by cities and city movements, to the UN Secretary General on 1 October 2020. The goal is to demonstrate strong commitment to achieving the SDGs at a time of great uncertainty and complexity.

I urge you to sign and to share with your network asking them to also consider signing, before Friday 25th September. Attached to this letter are simple instructions that we would appreciate you sending out to your city and city partners. City solidarity is vital at this time of deteriorating global cooperation. We urgently need your voice added to increase the impact of this call for action.

With kind regards,

Mayor Marvin Rees