## EXPLORATORY SAFETY WALK: AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE QUITO A SAFE CITY- FREE OF VIOLENCE

Quito, 13 October 2016.- This Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>, from 18:30 to 19:30 the UN Women Ecuador country office will be organizing an exploratory walk in the Mariscal area. The aim of this initiative is to identify, together with the community the unsafe places in this neighborhood as well as strategies that can be undertaken to prevent violence against women, adolescents and girls in this neighborhood.

The tour will begin at the House of Culture (Casa de Cultura) in Jorge Washington street, passing through Juan Leon Mera, Diego de Robles Street and Amazonas Avenue and will end at the intersection of the October 9th street and Carrion. Women living in this part of the city and authorities of the UN Women office will take part in this initiative.

During this walk various security issues will be observed such as adequate lighting, signs, police stations, uninhabited sites where aggressors could hide, visibility etc. The exploratory walks are a participatory exercise that that seek to identify the least safe places in cities for women.

The lack of lighting, the existence of obstacles, abandoned lots, or sites where potential attackers can hide are critical spots that need to be identified for the safety of everyone, especially women and girls.

The information that will be collected in the exploratory walk will allow to make decisions to guarantee the full enjoyment of the city and its spaces for women and girls thereby improving the quality of life of everyone.

The UN WOMEN Safe Cities Program and exploratory walks take place in various cities around the world. Quito is part of this initiative since 2010.





Las Caminatas Exploratorias de Seguridad son un ejercicio participativo que busca identificar los puntos menos seguros para las mujeres en las ciudades.

La falta de iluminación, la existencia de obstáculos, lotes abandonados, o sitios donde posibles atacantes puedan ocultarse; son puntos críticos para la seguridad todas las personas y especialmente de las mujeres y las niñas.

La información que se recoge en estos ejercicios permite tomar decisiones para garantizar, a las mujeres y las niñas, el pleno goce de la ciudad y sus espacios, mejorando la calidad de vida de toda la sociedad.