Speaker: *Suzanne Lea*
Co-Authors: *Andrea Adams*
Presentation title: Adaptations to Sexual Violence: Reduced Access to Opportunity Structures by Women Victimized by Sexual Abuse and Harassment

Sexual and gender-based violence is a global pandemic impacting one in three women around the world (Gaynair, 2013). This violence takes many forms, to include non-verbal, verbal, and physical violence, intimidation, and harassment in public and private spaces. These abuses generate from a patriarchal mindset that prioritizes men over women, portraying women and girls as vulnerable beings in need of protection from men—the irony being that the men who might protect too often become the predators. These stereotypes and socio-cultural norms are reinforced by religion, culture, lack of education, media and influencers in a society (Madan and Nalla, 2016). These dynamics also reinforce the belief that women are the cause of the harassment and therefore must stay silent when they are victimized, lest they bring shame and dishonour to themselves and their families.

The Safecity (https://safecity.in) reporting platform, which was launched in Dec 2012, has been crowdsourcing anonymous stories of sexual and gender-based violence to make visible the under-reported nature of these incidents. With a dataset of now 19,000+ reports, it is insightful to study the patterns and trends within the data, based on location, time of day, day of week, etc. This provides a better understanding of the context in which the crime occurs and *what might contribute to the location being the comfort zone of the perpetrator.*

Through three case studies, one in New Delhi, India, and another in Mumbai, as well as one in Nairobi, Kenya, we offer here a deep dive into how the location and the cultural context associated with these crimes contribute to the violence, impact the opportunity structure afforded women, and influence the kinds of solutions that have worked. We detail what teen girls were able to do with imagination and very few resources to change the gender dynamics in their communities-- to include changing the laws in Kenya based upon the stories the girls collected and shared.