**Designing Cities that work for Women across the motu**

In cities across the world, women of different ages and identities, face a range of barriers and vulnerabilities. These include gender-based discrimination, inequality, violence, poverty, unpaid care work, limited control over assets, and unequal participation in private and public decision making. ​

We also know that by involving women, and by considering their needs, the challenges they see and face in everyday life, and their aspirations, we can create more inclusive, equal and sustainable urban environments, that not only encourage women to actively travel but work better for everyone. In fact, women are shown to plan and design with diversity in mind. ​

Though much has been written about the challenges women face in cities around the world, sustained efforts to address them have struggled to maintain momentum. This is why thought leaders at Arup, as well as the United Nations Development Programme and the University of Liverpool, decided to partner to bring attention to this inadequately addressed issue of gender inequity in the built environment. ​ Arup’s Cities Alive: Designing cities that work for women report considers how cities may look if they were designed for women.

Leaders in Arup’s New Zealand office are proposing to bring this important discussion to conference delegates, with an Aotearoa lens, that teases out how to design active travel with women in mind. We are proposing both a panel and poster session that discusses:

The research approach and findings from living and professional experiences.

The four key thematic areas that can be used to understand women’s challenges and opportunities in cities, and to influence how cities are designed to be more inclusive and welcoming for women.

Tools and methods for putting these actions into practice and delivering cities in the motu that work for women.