



## PRESS RELEASE

### YOU CANNOT ASPIRE TO BE, WHAT YOU CANNOT SEE: UITP PLACES A FOCUS ON WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP



**BRUSSELS, 1 MARCH 2021**

**Public transport serves all people, and half of our populations are women - but are the specific needs of women being met within the sector?**

Public transport networks and services have traditionally been **designed, operated, and maintained by men**. We need to **attract more women to jobs across the sector** to be **more customer oriented and redress this imbalance**.

This year, UITP is **placing a focus on Women in Leadership**, with a series of activities and outreach, to take **a closer look at the issue of gender within public transport**.

***Working with our global membership, here's what's happening so far...***

On [International Women's Day](#) (8 March 2021), our staff will be participating in the **#ChooseToChallenge** campaign to show our support for challenging those in decision-making roles to address gender balance issues.

Also on 8 March, we will host [a webinar focused on 'Women in Leadership'](#), with an impressive **array of recognisable names gathering** to discuss what the sector needs to do in order to move forward on gender.

...And the second series of our hugely successful [Women Who Move Nations podcast](#) will also be launched from our team in Australia and New Zealand, where we will **sit down with eight of the leading female transport leaders** to hear about their professional journeys so far. [Catch up on the entire first series now!](#)

*"Over the last few years we have been making small but significant steps towards gender equality here at UITP. It is exciting to see progress made in some areas so far, but there is always more to be done. Focusing on Women in Leadership will not only bring benefits to UITP as an association, but it is important for public transport as a sector. It's a huge privilege for us to bring together many recognisable names and important voices to this discussion, and to see the enthusiastic reaction of our members around the world."*

**Lindsey Mancini**

**Head of Secretary General's Office at UITP**

### **Why focus on women in leadership?**

Multiple studies have proven that **gender-balanced boardrooms lead to better results**, regardless of the sector.

A balance within leadership brings complementary visions and skills, and **all women in the public transport sector can be role models**.

At a global level, **less than 15% of the workforce within public transport are women: you cannot aspire to be, what you cannot see**.

At UITP, we're also looking at our own actions by aiming to **increase the gender balance within our boards** and launching **a working group on Diversity and Inclusion**, which meets to discuss the progress being made, and the current challenges, for women within public transport.

In order to attract and involve more women to a sector that clearly increases the quality of life by transforming our cities and societies, **our women role models need to be more visible**.

By promoting our women leaders, we hope to **attract more women and talent to the sector**, ensuring that public transport in the future counts on a **diverse range of skills to better serve the whole of society**.

There are challenges ahead, but together we can enact lasting change...

**And with much to focus on, there's much to achieve.**

## [A focus on Women in Leadership throughout 2021](#)

[Join our International Women's Day webinar](#)

[To view this release in webpage form, click here](#)

## FOR EDITORS



**(UITP) The International Association of Public Transport** works to enhance quality of life and economic well-being by supporting and promoting sustainable transport in urban areas worldwide. As a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility, UITP is internationally recognised for its work to advance the development of this critical policy agenda. With more than **1800 members** in **100 countries**, UITP has a long history to its name, and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. Visit the [newsroom](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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