

# Gender-inclusive regeneration strategies for inner city housing

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## ABSTRACT

Urbanization significantly affects inner-city housing, drawing attention from specialists worldwide. While industrialized nations have made strides through government interventions, emerging countries often face worsening conditions for vulnerable groups, especially women, leading to increased homelessness and marginalization. Despite urban regeneration initiatives aimed at revitalizing neighbourhoods, gender disparities persist, with women's interests frequently underrepresented in redevelopment programs. This manuscript presents a structured literature review to address these gaps and proposes a novel framework for implementing gender-inclusive strategies in inner-city housing projects. By critically assessing the successes and failures of regeneration efforts in both developed and developing nations, the study highlights their effects on women and marginalized gender groups. The proposed framework emphasizes recognizing and addressing diverse experiences, advocating for inclusive community engagement, targeted policy interventions, and thoughtful design considerations. This research contributes valuable evidence-based recommendations to the academic discourse and policy dialogue on gender-inclusive urban development. The insights gleaned from this study offer practical guidance for urban planners, policymakers, and practitioners in fostering more equitable and sustainable urban environments, particularly in developing countries. By prioritizing the interests of vulnerable groups in inner-city regeneration, policymakers can create inclusive strategies that maximize the societal benefits of urban regeneration.

## 1. Introduction

Cities today serve as dynamic hubs, blending economies, technologies, societies, and cultures, striving for balance (Marin, 2015). This evolution in urban development prompts critical considerations of people's choices in residence and work, especially regarding how these choices influence urban regeneration efforts. The contemporary urban landscape signifies a shift towards recognizing proximity to essential services and interrelations among various community groups as crucial inputs driving innovation and social development (Bevilacqua et al., 2017, 2018; Pais, 2013; Parisi & Biancuzzo, 2021; Parisi & Donyavi, 2023; Parisi & Eger, 2020).

Urbanization, then, a global phenomenon, garners attention for both its opportunities and challenges (McGranahan & Satterthwaite, 2014). Among the latter ones, it needs to be mentioned the fact that it also contributes to the deterioration of inner cities due to overpopulation,

particularly affecting inner-city housing (Lanrewaju, 2012). These areas grapple with deteriorating infrastructure, social inequalities, and inadequate housing, necessitating a comprehensive urban regeneration. Government interventions aim to mitigate these challenges, but the outcomes vary significantly across different contexts, particularly in emerging nations, where the effectiveness of such interventions can be inconsistent (McGranahan & Satterthwaite, 2014).

Despite efforts to address urban challenges, gender disparities persist due to deep-rooted socio-economic and cultural factors. Women and marginalized gender groups face significant challenges concerning safety, accessibility, and social inclusion in urban spaces, including inner-city housing (McGranahan & Satterthwaite, 2014). Evaluating urban regeneration success from the perspective of gender-inclusive strategies is crucial not only for fostering equitable access to housing but also for ensuring that urban policies reflect the specific needs of these groups. Gender-inclusive planning, gender mainstreaming, and

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the integration of a gender perspective into housing policies are essential yet often overlooked strategies in addressing these inequities (Damyanovic, 2016).

Gender mainstreaming emphasizes the systematic consideration of gender impacts in policy design and implementation, promoting equality across all urban sectors, including housing and public spaces (Damyanovic, 2016). Gender-inclusive planning ensures that the unique needs of women and marginalized gender groups are reflected in urban regeneration processes, enhancing safety, accessibility, and social participation (Greed, 2003; Sweet & Ortiz Escalante, 2015). However, significant knowledge gaps persist in understanding how urban environments shape women's experiences, particularly in health, safety, social justice, and their right to the city, as highlighted by a recent systematic review of 40 years of research on women and cities (Moghadam & Rafieian, 2019).

This manuscript addresses a critical gap in the existing literature on urban regeneration by pioneering a gender-inclusive approach to revitalizing inner-city housing. While previous studies have explored gender issues in urban planning, few have systematically examined these concerns using a structured literature review focused on inner-city regeneration strategies. By drawing on a comprehensive review of previous works in the field, this study identifies key barriers and opportunities for integrating gender perspectives into urban housing policies. It goes beyond existing research by proposing a novel, gender-responsive framework for housing regeneration, aiming to break down systemic barriers and foster equitable urban renewal.

This study delves into gender disparities in inner-city housing, unpacking the complex socio-economic, cultural, and legal factors that perpetuate inequality. It builds upon established theoretical frameworks, such as gender mainstreaming, feminist urbanism, and the gender perspective in housing, to craft inclusive strategies that address the unique challenges faced by women and marginalized gender groups. In doing so, it critically evaluates existing regeneration methods, ranging from redevelopment to preservation, to assess their efficacy in advancing gender inclusivity. Furthermore, this manuscript proposes a comprehensive framework that encompasses participatory planning, inclusive design, and policy reforms tailored to the specific needs of women and marginalized gender groups.

By advocating for gender-inclusive policies and institutional reforms, then, this study aims to contribute meaningful evidence-based recommendations to the academic discourse and policy dialogue on gender-inclusive urban development. Ultimately, it seeks to catalyse a paradigm shift towards vibrant, inclusive, and resilient inner-city communities where everyone, regardless of gender, can thrive.

## 2. Methodology

This chapter outlines the research methodology adopted for this study, including a systematic review of the relevant literature. The emphasis is placed on the importance of employing rigorous research methods to ensure the development of evidence-based strategies for gender-inclusive urban regeneration. Through a structured and methodical approach, this research aims to provide a comprehensive foundation for understanding the intersection of gender and regeneration practices. A systematic review of peer-reviewed publications was conducted for this study. Journal articles focused on regeneration strategies, particularly those addressing inner-city areas, were selected and analysed. Specifically, the review process was a five-step process as adopted by Babalola et al. (2019). The review process started with search for articles, followed by selection of relevant articles. The collection and sorting of articles took place between January and March 2023. *ScienceDirect* database was used for this search due to its wide coverage of peer-reviewed journals. The following keywords were used in searching for the articles: "Gender", "Regeneration", and "Housing". The retrieved data were limited to articles written in English language. The coverage of the articles is from 2013 to 2023. The papers were

limited to research articles and conference abstracts covering Psychology, Environmental Science, and Social Science subject areas.

To ensure an organized search process, the first step (Fig. 1) involved developing clear research objectives to guide the literature selection and sorting. The objectives of the study include: 1) This study delves into gender disparities in inner-city housing, unpacking the complex socio-economic, cultural, and legal factors that perpetuate inequality; 2) It builds upon established theoretical frameworks, such as gender mainstreaming, feminist urbanism, and the gender perspective in housing, to craft inclusive strategies that address the unique challenges faced by women and marginalized gender groups; 3) It critically evaluates existing regeneration methods, ranging from redevelopment to preservation, to assess their efficacy in advancing gender inclusivity; 4) Furthermore, this manuscript proposes a comprehensive framework that encompasses participatory planning, inclusive design, and policy reforms tailored to the specific needs of women and marginalized gender groups. In order to address the objectives of the study, a broad conception of the review topic was made, which consequently led to the broad exploration of housing, gender disparities in housing and gender inclusive regeneration strategies. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) technique was used to sort data. PRISMA method is widely used for Systematic Review because it clearly states the methods of data search and extraction. The technique was applied as follows:

- First, *ScienceDirect* database was selected for the data search because it has a wide coverage of peer reviewed publications. It also overlaps other databases like Scopus and Google Scholar.
- Second, a broad range of search terms was necessary due to the focus on inner-city housing. Using "housing" instead of specifically "inner-city housing" allowed for the inclusion of a wider array of relevant articles. Using "Gender", "Regeneration", and "Housing" as keywords, a total of 2,343 articles were retrieved. To further reduce the number of articles, two independent reviewers, who are experienced in data extraction evaluated the articles for inclusion, ensuring a rigorous selection process. The database was instructed to all the articles by the ones specific to inner-city housing, hence, 1578 articles were retrieved.
- Third, the depth of the search was assessed by the reviewers and the search was further reduced to research articles and conference abstracts. This resulted in a total of 1085 articles. Additionally, articles from the fields of psychology, environmental science, and social science were included, as inner-city housing issues are largely influenced by social, sustainability, and psychological factors. 700 articles were retrieved in this process.
- Fourth, efforts were made to read the abstracts of the 700 articles and in some cases their methodology and findings to determine the articles that were relevant to the research topic and objectives. From this exercise, the articles relevant to the research objectives and the study themes were identified. In total, 72 articles met the criterion (Fig. 1). In reviewing the currency of the articles, 52 published within the last 10 years were initially selected for the study. However, an in-depth analysis of these articles revealed several foundational works critical to understanding gender-inclusive regeneration strategies in inner-city housing that could not be overlooked. As a result, a few key articles published prior to 2013 were also included in the final selection. The research methodology is presented in Figs. 1 and 2.

To provide a comprehensive understanding of inner-city housing, the review's findings were systematically analysed through a content analysis approach. This analysis revealed four key themes that shed light on the complexities of inner-city housing issues:

- Theme 1: Gender Disparities and Solutions: The review consistently underscored the pervasive gender inequalities present in the

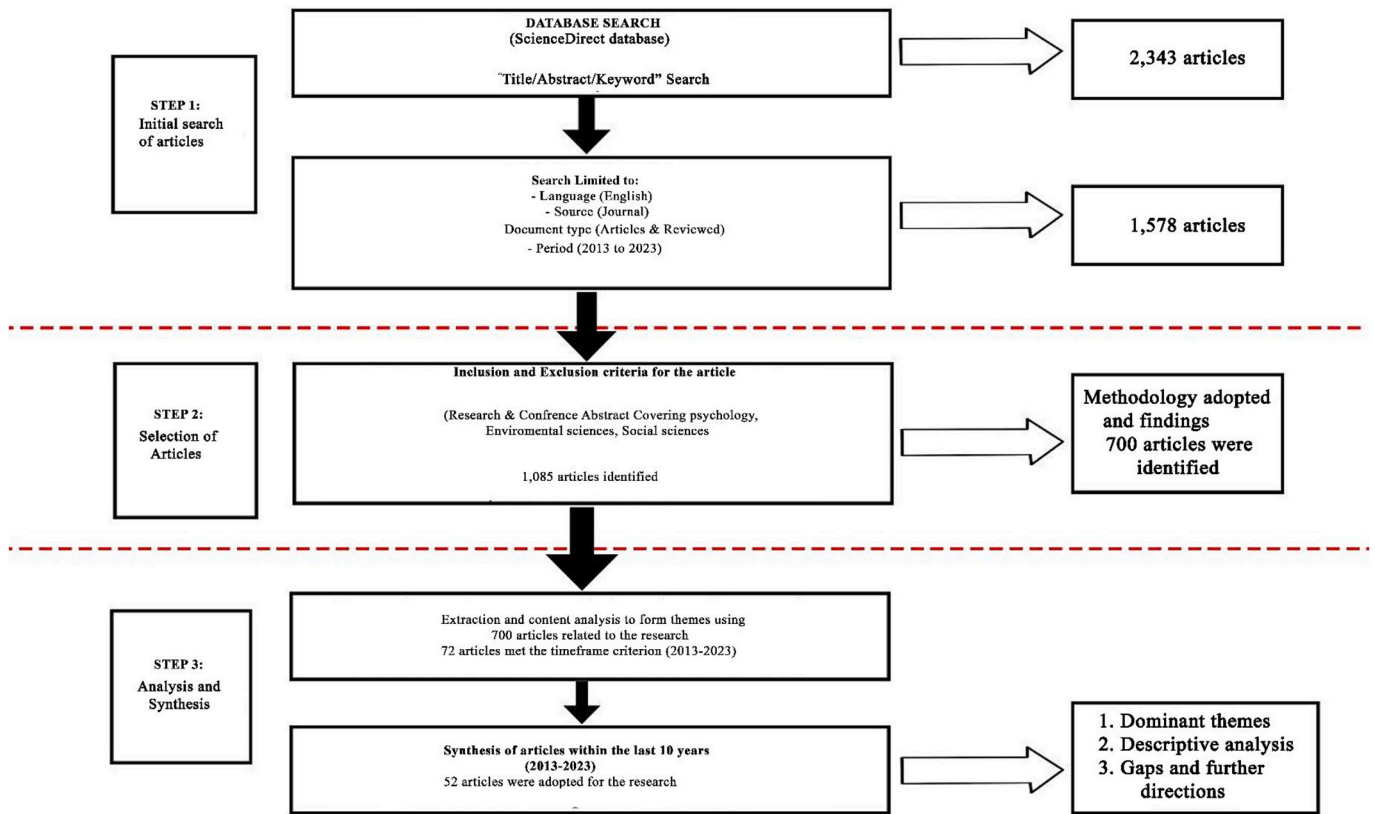


Fig. 1. The research methodology adopted for the systematic review. Source: Authors' elaboration, 2023.

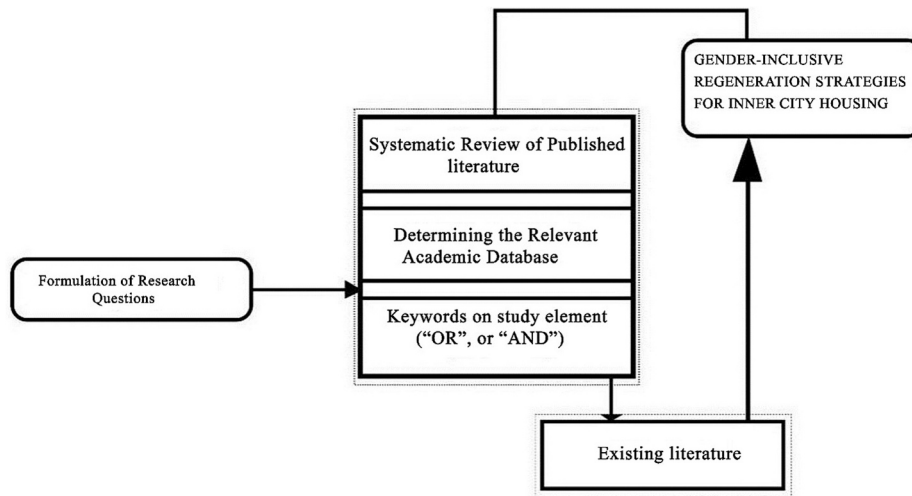


Fig. 2. The systematic extraction process of relevant literature. Source: Authors' elaboration, 2023.

- revitalization of inner-city housing while proposing targeted solutions to address these disparities.
- Theme 2: Gender-Inclusive Framework for Inner-City Regeneration: Emphasis was placed on developing frameworks that effectively tackle gender disparities within inner-city regeneration efforts.
  - Theme 3: Theoretical Insights into Revitalizing Inner-City Housing: The analysis highlighted established theoretical frameworks—including gender mainstreaming, feminist urbanism, and the gender perspective in housing—that inform inclusive strategies tailored to the unique challenges faced by women and marginalized gender groups.

- Theme 4: Gender-Inclusive Strategies for Inner-City Regeneration: The review identified specific strategies aimed at fostering gender inclusivity in the regeneration of inner-city environments.

### 3. Gender disparity in urban regeneration and solutions

This manuscript pioneers gender-inclusive strategies for revitalizing inner-city housing, aiming to break down systemic barriers and foster equitable urban renewal. It delves into the challenges faced by women and marginalized gender groups, striving to develop a framework prioritizing inclusivity, safety, and empowerment. Through a blend of theoretical insights and empirical evidence, it seeks to pave a

transformative path towards gender-responsive regeneration, ensuring that no one is left behind in the quest for vibrant, resilient inner-city communities.

This paragraph discusses the intricate nature of gender disparities within inner-city housing, rooted in social, economic, and cultural factors, which present specific challenges for women and marginalized gender groups. Discrimination, limited resource access, and gendered social norms compound experiences of inequality, perpetuating cycles of poverty, and marginalization. Safety is a paramount concern for women in inner-city areas due to inadequate lighting, poorly designed public spaces, and insufficient policing, contributing to an unwelcoming and unsafe environment (Parisi & Cantafio, 2019). Limited access to essential services, including healthcare and education, further restricts opportunities for women. Additionally, the lack of affordable housing options and economic opportunities exacerbates challenges faced by women in inner-city contexts.

Urban regeneration initiatives often overlook the specific needs and experiences of women, as decision-making processes tend to exclude them, hindering the development of gender-responsive strategies. Gender-sensitive urban spaces are crucial for facilitating mobility, access, and considering the diverse urban behaviours and experiences of both men and women. Inner-city regeneration emerges as a pivotal facet of urban development, addressing challenges tied to deteriorating infrastructure, social inequalities, and limited resources (Parisi & Cantafio, 2019). Strategies such as tax incentives, infrastructure investments, and community development programs aim to rejuvenate inner-city neighbourhoods. Yet, gender disparities persist as a notable challenge.

The study by Donati and Rodríguez-García (2024) provides an essential contribution to this discussion. The research highlights how urban policies funded within the European Cohesion Policy framework offer a crucial arena for analysing Gender Mainstreaming (GM) due to the EU's gender regulations and its influence on urban development. By applying a systematically developed measurement tool to 89 urban intervention projects across Spain, the study identifies a sectorial orientation in GM application, with stronger integration in direction-setting dimensions but weaker adoption in actor-oriented aspects. These findings underscore the persistent challenges in embedding gender considerations at all levels of urban policy implementation, particularly in multi-level governance structures where gender equality remains ambiguously defined.

Inclusive public spaces remain elusive, contributing to unequal city development and making women feel insecure, especially as public parks transform into areas associated with crime. Achieving a safe and inclusive city requires unveiling gendered power relations in planning, with gender-friendly cities representing a utopian ideal characterized by diversity, barrier-free structures, well-developed infrastructure, connectivity, and adaptable spaces. In South Africa, for instance, there is a pressing need for a paradigm shift towards gender equality in spatial planning, involving the visualization, deconstruction, and redefinition of social values and norms in urban planning methods and management (Gough, 2016). Efforts for gender mainstreaming in urban planning are essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goal number 11 ("sustainable cities and communities") (Allen et al., 2018). Despite existing policies and initiatives, there is a lack of sustainable transformation in the roles and status of women and girls in urban spaces.

The feminist planning perspective plays a crucial role in analysing urban spaces, championing social justice, and rectifying the historical marginalization of women within the built environment. Feminist urbanism prioritizes the experiences of individuals in urban decision-making, highlighting the necessity for planners to promote equitable and just outcomes. Violence against women persists globally, both in public and private settings, indicating the urgent need for comprehensive approaches to ensure safety, access to essential services, and housing security for women and girls in urban spaces. Gender planning focuses on the fields of planning and building, striving to create

opportunities for individuals of all genders. It takes into account various factors, including age, mobility, socio-economic backgrounds, and social roles (United Nations, 2017).

Solidarity economy projects can contribute to socially oriented urban regeneration by requalifying public spaces, creating community-based solutions, and fostering gender-inclusive perspectives. Social sustainability in urban planning acknowledges its role in residents' quality of life, social justice, and the inclusive development of sustainable and safe cities. The intersection of gender and space has long been explored, spanning from 1961 to 2018 and revealing how built environments influence gender identities and relations (Bondi & Rose, 2003; Massey, 1994; McDowell, 1983). The evolution of theories such as "Eyes on Street" (Jacobs, 1961), "Situational Crime Prevention" (Clarke, 1997), "CPTED" (Noda et al., 1999), "Defensible Space" (Reynald & Elffers, 2009), "Gendered Space" (McDowell, 1983) underscores the ongoing importance of these frameworks in designing built environments that prioritize safety, social cohesion, and quality of life. The emergence of an Urban Theory of Care (Addie, 2020) marked a significant step towards recognizing the spatial and social intricacies of care provision. The literature highlights also the interconnectedness of inclusive urban development with various dimensions, including social, spatial, environmental, political, and economic aspects (Gupta et al., 2015). Authors like Whitzman et al. (2013), Viswanath (2013), and Schippers and Van Heumen (2014) emphasize the importance of partnerships, social participation, economic engagement, cultural involvement, active citizenship, and empowerment in shaping urban quality of life.

Affordable housing and urban infrastructure are crucial in addressing socio-economic disparities, particularly in slums and informal settlements (Bharne & Khandekar, 2019; Steinberg & Lindfield, 2011). Involving marginalized communities in designing coordination methods, dispute resolution mechanisms, and enhancing government accountability is essential for ensuring access to sustainable urban services (ADB, 2011; Laquian & Hanley, 2007; Pokhrel, 2019). The concept of inclusive cities signifies a shift in urban development, governance, and management (Dahiya & Das, 2020). Inclusive urban development dimensions impact vulnerable populations and ecological standards (Gupta et al., 2015). Governance drives inclusive urban development, influencing geographies and networks to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (Gupta et al., 2015). Innovation using new technologies and digital policies is essential to address socio-economic disparities and environmental challenges (Attia et al., 2018). Inclusive city concepts encompass social, spatial, environmental, political, and economic dimensions.

The intersection of gender and space influences gender identities and relations (Bondi & Rose, 2003; Massey, 1994; McDowell, 1983). Women's use of public spaces is hindered by challenges related to safety, mobility, and access to information and education (United Nations, 2017). Limited data on women's land rights underscore ongoing challenges (United Nations, 2017). Discrimination in housing access and cultural practices further exacerbate gender disparities. Strategies such as legislative reform and awareness-raising are essential for achieving equal access to housing. The location of housing significantly affects women's lives, necessitating mixed land use to balance work and domestic responsibilities. Secure tenure is vital for promoting women's economic empowerment. Community engagement is crucial for fostering gender-inclusive regeneration, while women's involvement in decision-making processes ensures their perspectives are integrated. Community-based organizations play a key role in amplifying women's voices and advocating for gender-inclusive policies. Policy interventions that incorporate gender considerations into regeneration projects are essential. Gender mainstreaming and institutional mechanisms are necessary to promote gender-responsive approaches. Additionally, the physical design of urban spaces significantly influences women's experiences. Safe, accessible public spaces and affordable housing options are vital for enhancing gender inclusivity (Bharne & Khandekar, 2019; Steinberg & Lindfield, 2011). In conclusion, the paragraph emphasizes



the multifaceted nature of inclusive urban development, intertwining aspects of care, sustainability, inclusivity, technology, and human behaviour. The paper underscores the need for holistic approaches, long-term investments, and collaborative efforts to address the complex challenges posed by rapid urbanization, with a particular focus on inclusivity, gender equality, and sustainable development. It sets the stage for the proposed framework aiming to integrate these insights into a comprehensive approach for gender-inclusive regeneration, offering practical guidance for urban planners, policymakers, and practitioners dedicated to fostering more equitable and sustainable urban environments.

### 3.1. Navigating urban housing: Unveiling gender disparities and solutions

Urban areas worldwide grapple with the multifaceted challenge of housing affordability, which extends far beyond mere economic constraints. This issue intricately intertwines with complex socio-economic dynamics, bearing distinct gendered dimensions that significantly affect women (Parker & Leviten-Reid, 2021). Across global urban landscapes, a glaring dichotomy emerges between seemingly secure, well-serviced neighbourhoods characterized by exorbitant rents and comparatively affordable yet precarious informal settlements (Parker & Leviten-Reid, 2021). This stark divide poses a formidable predicament for women, compounded by gender income disparities and discriminatory practices, which often force them into informal settlements due to unattainable costs of secure areas and heightened vulnerabilities (Saugères, 2009). Even within urban cores perceived as secure, women encounter numerous challenges, including sexual harassment, exploitation by landlords, and increased vulnerability to domestic violence (Kern & Wekerle, 2008). Weak legal protections exacerbate these risks, amplifying the dangers women face in urban living environments (Kern & Wekerle, 2008). The roots of these challenges stem from workplace discrimination and caregiving duties, limiting women's economic independence, particularly impacting elderly, disabled, and single mothers, who are more susceptible to poverty and vulnerability (FAO, 2019). Gender disparities in housing access and rights highlight a complex interplay of sociocultural, legal, and economic barriers systematically impeding women from securing adequate, affordable, and safe shelter in urban areas (WEF, 2017). Sociocultural norms often relegate women to dependent roles rather than recognizing their autonomy and distinct housing needs (FAO, 2019). Legal frameworks frequently lack formalized land and housing rights for women, leading to property grabbing and unregistered land transactions (WEF, 2017). Economic barriers, such as wage disparities, push women—especially those from marginalized groups—into low-income situations and inadequate housing (WEF, 2017).

Safety and security concerns further compound women's housing experiences, with domestic violence posing a significant threat (World Health Organization (WHO), 2021). Discriminatory practices by authorities and harassment in rental accommodations add to women's vulnerability (Singh & Dua, 2023). Homelessness resulting from domestic abuse or property grabbing intensifies the risks of violence and sexual assault (United Nations Women, 2022a, 2022b). Women's caregiving responsibilities intersect with housing priorities, emphasizing the need for gender-inclusive urban planning (World Health Organization (WHO), 2020). Inadequate housing provisions exacerbate safety risks and limit women's ability to fulfil caregiving duties (Ajibade, 2019). Forced evictions disproportionately affect women, resulting in the loss of shelter and livelihoods (United Nations Women, 2022a, 2022b). Community-driven strategies and formalization of women's property rights are crucial for addressing these violations (Jelle et al., 2021). Consequently, women often find themselves navigating a landscape of exclusion, where financial constraints compel them into inadequate housing or the perilous fringes of urban areas (Barclay, 2023). Addressing the gendered dimensions of housing affordability necessitates a multifaceted approach. Gender-tailored urban planning and

housing policies are essential to dismantling these barriers (Parker & Leviten-Reid, 2021). This includes providing subsidized housing and working to boost women's earnings while eliminating discriminatory practices (Parker & Leviten-Reid, 2021). Promoting women's participation in the design processes is crucial to ensuring that urban planning becomes more inclusive and equitable (Greed, 2005).

In line with these challenges, the Taller de Transformación Integral de Cayo Hueso (TTICH) initiative in Havana offers valuable insights into the role of women in community-driven regeneration efforts. As Fernandez and Angeles (2009) emphasize, gender roles and social networks significantly shape the focus and outcomes of urban regeneration projects in Cayo Hueso. By examining women's roles in both the local planning body and the broader community, they highlight the need to integrate gender considerations in the design and implementation of urban regeneration initiatives. This is particularly critical as women continue to play a central role in community care and regeneration, underscoring the importance of considering gender in urban planning to foster more inclusive, sustainable development (Fernandez & Angeles, 2009).

Additionally, a study on the use of public space in Barcelona underscores the importance of participatory urban planning and the active role of women in shaping public spaces. The research, conducted in the early 2000s, highlights the Via Julia neighbourhood in Barcelona as a remarkable example of participatory urban planning in a working-class district. The study shows that both men and women of various age groups used this public space in an egalitarian manner, engaging in a diverse range of activities (Garcia-Ramon et al., 2004). This successful public space transformation emerged from a unique social and political context in Spain, where urban planners had to adapt their original plans in response to strong social urban movements. Notably, women played a prominent role in these movements, helping to shape the space and ensure it met the needs of all residents, reinforcing the idea that urban planning, when participatory and inclusive, can lead to more equitable public spaces for men and women alike (Garcia-Ramon et al., 2004).

The challenge of housing acceptability unveils significant gender disparities entrenched in societal norms, security considerations, and family care responsibilities. For women, acceptable housing criteria encompass various aspects such as location, neighbourhood safety, access to services, living space adequacy, and protection from gender-based violence (Amole, 2012). Prevailing standards often overlook these needs, reflecting masculine perspectives and sidelining women's specific requirements (Amole, 2012). In urban settings, housing tends to mirror traditional, male-centric cultural expectations, portraying women as dependent figures rather than recognizing their autonomy (Kern & Wekerle, 2008). Discriminatory practices further compound the issue, particularly in Countries like Nigeria, where cultural stereotypes influence housing standards (Amole, 2012). To tackle these disparities, experts advocate for gender-inclusive approaches to housing design and development (Njoh, 1998). This includes redefining housing standards to consider the diverse needs of both men and women, conducting safety audits with a gender-sensitive lens, providing gender-sensitive training for architects and planners (Birch, 1983), and actively involving women's groups in the decision-making processes related to housing to gain more responsive and inclusive housing solutions (Singh & Dua, 2023). Design considerations then play a pivotal role in shaping women's urban experiences, with gender-inclusive urban planning essential for enhancing safety and accessibility (United Nations Women, 2021). Insufficient infrastructure and inadequate transportation links lead to time poverty and safety concerns for women (Amnesty International, 2017). Improving surrounding infrastructure and providing social facilities can significantly enhance women's experiences as urban residents (Hung, 2013).

In this context, a study conducted in Kanpur, India, sheds light on the intersection of gender safety and urban mobility. Yadav and Kumari (2024) proposed a three-step framework for improving pedestrian mobility from a gender safety perspective, focusing on key elements

such as accessibility, lighting at sidewalks, underpasses, and bus stops. By employing Net Promoter Score (NPS) surveys and visual analysis, their study revealed critical gender safety issues, contributing actionable recommendations for urban planning. This research highlights the importance of integrating gender-specific considerations into urban mobility, emphasizing the need for safer and more inclusive pedestrian infrastructure (Yadav & Kumari, 2024).

To comprehensively address these issues, policy experts advocate for formalizing uniform, merit-based occupancy standards and eliminating discriminatory practices (Howden-Chapman et al., 2017). Advocates argue for enhancing existing housing indicator frameworks with a gender lens to address systemic challenges faced by women in accessing suitable shelter options (Flage, 2018). The exploration of housing indicators reveals significant gender disparities in access, quality, habitability, crowding, space adequacy, and affordability (Adegoke et al., 2016; Chipeta et al., 2022; Kavita & Khokhate, 2020; Owoeye, 2013). Women globally lag behind men in homeownership rates, with single female householders experiencing overcrowding at a higher rate (Adegoke et al., 2016; Chipeta et al., 2022). Access and affordability metrics emphasize the economic barriers faced by women in securing safe housing locations (Burnett et al., 2016). Urbanization exacerbates housing challenges, particularly in low-income nations, where rapid expansion outpaces affordable housing provision (Mahatta et al., 2022; World Bank Group, 2023). This is exemplified by metropolises like Dhaka, Karachi, Lagos, and Kinshasa, where the urban explosion strains infrastructures as rural migrants seek new prospects (UN HABITAT, 2019). Gender-sensitive urban planning is crucial to address these challenges and ensure inclusive development (Cross, 2008). Advocates call for enhancing housing indicator frameworks with a gender lens to address systemic challenges faced by women (Burnett et al., 2016). Sustainable, gender-sensitive urban planning is imperative to provide habitable, secure housing solutions amidst rapid urbanization (Ekpo, 2019).

In this context, the 'GenUrban: Shaping Cities for All Genders' framework, recently proposed by Mostofa et al. (2024), offers a crucial tool for reimagining urban spaces through a gender-sensitive lens. Their framework specifically aims to address the often-overlooked needs of marginalized gender groups in urban design and planning, particularly through enhancing women's social and physical inclusion in public spaces. The insights from this framework resonate with the broader discourse on gender-sensitive urban planning, underscoring the importance of integrating diverse perspectives in order to create more inclusive, accessible, and responsive urban spaces.

### 3.2. Developing a gender-inclusive framework for inner-city housing regeneration

Safety concerns are highlighted by surveys conducted in the slums of Nairobi and Mexico City (Amnesty International, 2020; United Nations Women, 2019). Affordability challenges are illustrated in a report by Shelter (2021), which reveals that women are spending more than 50 % of their income on rent. Discrimination and entrenched social norms, as documented in UN Women's data, hinder access to appropriate housing (Keleher & Franklin, 2008). The broader impacts on sustainability and inclusivity are discussed, noting societal costs incurred. The conclusion proposes comprehensive strategies, advocating for safety, affordability, and women's involvement in decision-making. This section on gender-inclusive regeneration introduces a framework encompassing participatory planning, inclusive design, social infrastructure development, and capacity building (United Nations Women, 2019). This framework aims to address unique needs through diverse voices, safe design, supportive environments, and empowerment initiatives, fostering inclusivity, equity, and sustainability in inner-city housing (Shelter, 2021).

Developing a comprehensive framework for gender-inclusive urban regeneration is then essential to address the unique needs and experiences of women and marginalized gender groups within inner-city

contexts. This framework encompasses multiple dimensions, including participatory planning, inclusive design, social infrastructure development, and capacity building. Participatory planning ensures that diverse voices, including those of women, are heard and actively involved in decision-making processes. It aims to democratize urban planning by engaging community members in discussions about their needs, preferences, and aspirations for their neighbourhoods. By incorporating diverse perspectives, participatory planning can lead to more inclusive and equitable regeneration projects that reflect the priorities of all residents. Inclusive design considers the specific requirements of women and marginalized gender groups, such as safe and accessible housing, transportation, and public spaces. It aims to create environments that are welcoming, comfortable, and accommodating for all individuals, regardless of gender, age, or ability. By prioritizing inclusivity in the design process, urban planners can create spaces that promote social cohesion and enhance quality of life for everyone. Social infrastructure development focuses on creating supportive environments, including healthcare facilities, childcare centres, and community spaces, that cater to the needs of diverse populations. Investing in social infrastructure is essential for building strong, resilient communities and addressing systemic inequalities. By providing essential services and amenities, social infrastructure can improve access to healthcare, education, and recreation, thereby enhancing overall well-being and quality of life. Capacity-building initiatives aim to empower women and marginalized gender groups through skill development, education, and entrepreneurship opportunities. By investing in human capital, governments and organizations can help individuals build the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the labour market and achieve economic independence. Capacity-building programs can also promote social mobility and reduce disparities by providing marginalized groups with the tools and resources they need to thrive. By integrating these dimensions, the framework seeks to foster gender-responsive regeneration, promoting inclusivity, equity, and sustainability in inner-city housing initiatives. By prioritizing the needs of women and marginalized gender groups in urban regeneration projects, policymakers, planners, and stakeholders can create more resilient, vibrant, and inclusive communities that benefit everyone. Urban regeneration projects are common elements of cities worldwide, spearheaded by government initiatives to improve the physical and social conditions of neighbourhoods for the benefit of residents. These initiatives aim to address social problems associated with urban areas and often focus on inner-city neighbourhoods, which are the historic heart of urbanization. Regeneration efforts typically involve upgrading infrastructure to enhance liveability and attract economic investment. In blighted areas, gentrification may be employed to promote regeneration, altering the urban fabric but potentially displacing indigenous communities in the process. Despite these challenges, regeneration projects can revitalize urban centres, introducing new systems that improve economic, social, environmental, cultural, and historical values, ultimately attracting more economic activity and revitalizing the area.

### 3.3. Revitalizing inner-city housing: Harnessing theoretical insights for sustainable urban renewal

In the realm of housing regeneration for inner-city areas, the application of theoretical frameworks such as control theory, labelling theory, and human exchange theory offers valuable insights into addressing complex urban challenges. Control theory, as elucidated by Glad and Ljung (2018), emphasizes the pivotal role of informal social controls in maintaining neighbourhood cohesion and safety. When these controls erode, manifested in housing decay and demographic shifts, communities experience a decline in trust and stability, leading to increased crime and antisocial behaviour. Regeneration efforts rooted in control theory prioritize strategies to reinstate community cohesion, such as designing public spaces to encourage social interaction and implementing community policing to rebuild trust in authorities (Ziervogel

et al., 2016). In contrast, labelling theory, as outlined by Thio (1995), underscores the detrimental impact of negative descriptors on inner-city communities, perpetuating stigma and contributing to further decline. To counteract this, regeneration initiatives focus on redefining narratives by removing stigmatizing labels and highlighting area strengths. By positively relabelling districts and fostering community pride, these efforts aim to shift perceptions and combat negative stereotypes, ultimately fostering a more positive environment for regeneration. Human exchange theory, rooted in social psychology and advanced by Cropanzano et al. (2017), emphasizes the importance of expanding residents' access to opportunity structures for personal advancement. This theory posits that by equipping individuals with the tools for socio-economic mobility, such as access to employment and education opportunities, regeneration efforts can foster collective advancement. Strategies guided by human exchange theory prioritize the development of housing ecosystems that nurture self-development, thereby creating pathways for residents to improve their socio-economic status and contribute to the overall revitalization of inner-city neighbourhoods. By integrating insights from control, labelling, and human exchange theories, policymakers and urban planners can develop more nuanced and effective strategies for housing regeneration in inner-city areas. By addressing issues of community cohesion, stigma, and socio-economic mobility, these approaches offer pathways to sustainable urban renewal that uplifts residents and revitalizes neighbourhoods.

Going beyond these theoretical underpinnings, is the Intersectionality, which acknowledges the intersections of multiple social characteristics of women and how they shape their experiences and needs. It prioritizes focusing on the unique needs of individuals rather than submitting that all women groups have the same needs. Furthermore, intersectionality focuses on the importance of context in shaping individual needs. It recognises the place of inequalities and oppressions that shape females' experiences. It emphasizes addressing the needs of women and promoting gender equality. In the context of urban regeneration, it advocates the inclusion of marginalized women in design for urban planning and remodelling.

While previous studies on regeneration have focused on women empowerment, housing affordability and resettlement, this paper advocates the theory of Intersectionality. It explores the incorporation of intersectional issues specific to women uniqueness in inner city housing regeneration. We advocate that policies and programs addressing gender equality as a unique issue of different women's group, rather than the ones that see all women as the same, can lead to a sustainable inner-city regeneration. The benefits of applying the theory were analysed in relation to other inner city regeneration approaches. We propose that theories that consider certain unique social characteristics of women be encouraged in urban design and planning.

Goal 11 of the United Nations SDG (United Nations, 2017) advocates inclusivity in cities of both developed and developing nations. However, the gap of discrimination keeps widening resulting in a feeling of marginalization and consequently under-development. Gender inequality affects inner city communities worldwide. Researchers have examined the causes and effects of gender inequality in various contexts, and they have used various theories to enhance the understanding, few have explained it from the intersectional perspective. For example, Dery et al. (2025) examined intersectionality with gender that exacerbate inequalities with unpaid care work and the accessibility of public policy initiatives that address unpaid care work burden. The focus of the study was the socio-economic status of the care workers, while failing to consider other unique factors of each of the unpaid care workers. Liu et al. (2022) evaluated urban renewal in Wuban, China based on Inclusive Development Theory. Another study, Ngidi (2018), assessed urban regeneration project in Durban, South Africa, from a purely spatial planning perspective. Kim et al. (2021) examines the intermediary-led participation by exploring the changing intermediary governance in urban regeneration in Seoul. Smyth (2023) presents gender mainstreaming as a useful tool for planners to adapt urban

planning policies, practices, and decision-making processes to close the gap of gender inequalities for more equitable and inclusive cities. Fernandez and Angeles (2009) sought to develop an understanding of urban regeneration through the examination of the work of the Taller de Transformación Integral de Cayo Hueso (TTICH), a local planning body in Havana, Cuba, and of the women's roles, identities and social networks within this organization and the community.

Rampaul and Magidimisha-Chipungu (2022) study developed from the urge to examine if gender mainstreaming is used in the design of urban spaces using Warwick Market, a public urban location in Durban, South Africa as a case study. Tummers and Wankiewicz (2020) contribution looks at strategies for gender mainstreaming (GM) in planning practice applying gender/diversity design criteria. These articles demonstrate the diversity of research on gender-inclusive regeneration in inner cities, covering areas such as urban planning, community participation, housing, safety, gender mainstreaming and economic empowerment. This current study proposes that gender-inclusive regeneration should also be approached from the Intersectionality perspective. The theory of intersectionality was born from a need to gain a deeper understanding of the barriers that Black women confront (Crenshaw, 1989, 1991) due to certain social positions which include sex/gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation. Feminist and antiracist theories, while focusing on oppression, did not consider how the intersection of a Black woman's identities could result in the interaction of barriers (Crenshaw, 1989, 1991). Crenshaw (1989, 1991) argued that the oppression that Black women deal with by not being White and by not being male results in oppression qualitatively unlike that endured by Black men or White women. She examined how intersectionality could specifically explain the oppression of Black women in unjust court trials, as well as in situations of rape (Crenshaw, 1989) and domestic violence (Crenshaw, 1991). "Intersectionality" provided a short-hand term for a more comprehensive and complex perspective on identity—one which would take into account the ways in which individuals are invariably multiply positioned through differences in gender, class, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national belonging and more (Davis, 2014).

Intersectionality measures intersecting forms of oppression and discrimination based on heterogeneous social positions and orientations leading to experiences of exclusion. For example, regeneration in the inner-city does not cater to the needs of women resulting into experiences of marginalization. Intersectionality is mostly measured by authors using a combination of two or three social identities. This resulted in a limited number of intersections, so it is difficult to get feasible outcomes and positions (Bauer et al., 2021). This validates why intersectionality is a measurement of heterogeneous social positions. Bauer et al. (2021) in their systematic review of literature on intersectionality, observed that different methodological approaches were used for intersectionality measurement. However, the dominant method is quantitative with a few authors using mixed-method approach. Data analysis in some cases was simple descriptive while majority employed regression method. Regression was applied in ways that allowed for heterogeneity across intersections. A study conceptualized intersectionality using one social position-school-level (Valiente & Rambla, 2009).

#### 3.4. Towards inclusive urban renewal: Strategies for gender-inclusive regeneration in inner-city housing

Urban regeneration is a multifaceted endeavour that encompasses various approaches such as redevelopment, revitalization, gentrification, renewal, rehabilitation, and preservation. Each method presents unique strengths and challenges in revitalizing inner-city areas. This discussion delves into the critical nuances and outcomes associated with these strategies, emphasizing the theoretical basis for inclusive urban renewal.



- **Redevelopment:** It involves the total clearance and reshaping of urban landscapes through the demolition of existing structures (Fox Gotham, 2001). While promising transformative change, redevelopment often displaces existing communities (Weber, 2002). To mitigate this, strategies such as incorporating affordable housing and promoting community engagement are essential (Mele, 2013). The *Theory of Just Sustainability* suggests that equitable development requires stakeholder involvement and affordable options to balance growth with community needs.
- **Revitalization:** Focused on sustaining heritage, revitalization enhances existing structures and infrastructure to preserve community essence (Grodach & Ehrenfeucht, 2015). However, it faces challenges such as gentrification and displacement (Ramlee et al., 2015). The *Social Capital Theory* underscores the importance of community ties in fostering resilience, suggesting that inclusive policies and community involvement are crucial for sustainable and culturally vibrant neighbourhoods (Grodach & Loukaitou-Sideris, 2007).
- **Gentrification:** While gentrification can bring economic growth and enhance community vibrancy (Zukin, 1987), it often results in social displacement, as higher-income residents drive up property values and rents (Smith, 2013). The *Dual Market Theory* posits that addressing affordability and community engagement in decision-making processes can ensure equitable growth and maintain cultural diversity (Helms, 2003).
- **Renewal and Rehabilitation:** These strategies prioritize incremental improvements to existing structures, promoting sustainable development while minimizing community disruption (Ünlü, 2010). The *Ecological Modernization Theory* advocates for understanding diverse community needs, ensuring that benefits are equitably shared (Hui et al., 2008). Effective strategies hinge on navigating complexities to deliver inclusive improvements that uplift the entire community (Gamazo, 2016).
- **Preservation:** Preservation safeguards cultural and historical assets, vital for the identity and character of inner-city areas (Ryberg-Webster & Kinahan, 2014). While maintaining cultural richness, it must balance modernization with contemporary needs (Hayden, 1988). Community engagement aligns preservation efforts with local priorities, fostering resilient and culturally rich communities.

Each of these regeneration methods holds promise for revitalizing inner-city areas, but their success hinges on inclusive practices and policies. By prioritizing community engagement, incorporating affordable housing options, and preserving cultural heritage, urban renewal efforts can foster resilient and inclusive communities where all residents thrive. Specifically, strategies are needed to ensure that inner-city housing regeneration is gender-inclusive, addressing the unique challenges faced by women in urban environments (Force, 2022; Rampaul & Magidimisha-Chipungu, 2022). A comprehensive approach encompassing physical design, economic empowerment, and community participation is essential for fostering gender inclusivity in housing regeneration. To provide a clearer understanding of the scholarly context surrounding these strategies, Appendix A includes a comprehensive overview of the articles referenced in this discussion, highlighting their titles, publication years, geographical distribution, frequency, and key themes. This overview underscores the theoretical foundations and empirical insights that inform our approach to gender-inclusive regeneration in inner-city housing.

- **Physical Design and Infrastructure:** Understanding the unique needs of women through needs assessments and gender audits is paramount. Well-lit pathways, public spaces, and accessible amenities tailored to women's needs create environments that prioritize inclusivity and security.
- **Secure Tenure Provisions:** Safeguarding women against arbitrary evictions through secure tenure provisions provides stability and a

sense of ownership within communities, contributing to both physical and psychological well-being.

- **Social Infrastructure Integration:** Integrating social infrastructure, such as healthcare centres and childcare facilities, is crucial for creating holistic urban environments that support women's well-being and contribute to vibrant communities.
- **Temporary Relocation Support:** Providing temporary relocation support during regeneration projects minimizes disruptions and demonstrates a commitment to prioritizing the welfare of residents, including women.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Tailoring housing financial support to women's income patterns and offering skills training and leadership opportunities empower women economically, enhancing their access to housing and participation in urban renewal initiatives.
- **Anti-Harassment Policies and Rights Training:** Establishing clear policies and providing training on rights empower women to live without fear of harassment or discriminatory practices, fostering environments characterized by equality and respect.
- **Community Participation and Decision-Making:** Advocating for gender representation in decision-making bodies and supporting grassroots organizations amplifies marginalized voices and fosters community-driven transformation.
- **Policy and Institutional Reform:** Evidence-based policymaking, elimination of discriminatory barriers, and partnerships for equitable housing access are essential for creating gender-inclusive housing regeneration policies and practices.

In essence, these strategies in policy and institutional reform underscore the transformative potential of systemic changes. By embracing evidence-based approaches, dismantling discriminatory barriers, providing explicit protections, and fostering collaborative partnerships, policymakers can pave the way for a more equitable and inclusive urban landscape. These strategies not only address immediate challenges but also lay the foundation for sustained gender-inclusive regeneration in inner-city housing. Table 1 comprehensively relates urban regeneration strategies with gender-inclusive strategies, highlighting their interconnections and enhancing clarity. Each regeneration strategy is paired with a relevant gender-inclusive strategy that supports or complements it. This format emphasizes the holistic approach necessary for effective urban regeneration.

#### 4. Discussion and policy implications of the study

The research findings underscore the urgent need for urban policymakers and planners to integrate gender-inclusive perspectives into urban regeneration initiatives, aligning with the literature on gender mainstreaming in urban planning (Damyanovic, 2016; Greed, 2005). The barriers women face in urban environments, such as safety concerns and exclusion from decision-making processes, have been extensively documented (Bondi & Rose, 2003; Sweet & Ortiz Escalante, 2015). This study reinforces those findings and emphasizes the necessity of integrating gender perspectives into policy frameworks to address these barriers effectively.

The study proposes several policy implications to promote gender equity in urban regeneration, drawing from evidence that targeted gender interventions lead to more inclusive urban environments (Greed, 2003; Rampaul & Magidimisha-Chipungu, 2022). Firstly, it recommends mandating gender impact assessments for all major urban renewal projects. This aligns with prior recommendations in the literature, which highlight the importance of assessing how urban planning impacts different gender groups (Damyanovic, 2016). Gender assessments will ensure that regeneration projects address the specific needs of women and marginalized gender groups, as documented by studies on gender discrimination in urban spaces (Hayden, 1988; Moghadam & Rafieian, 2019).

Secondly, the establishment of quantitative targets for women's



**Table 1**

Integrating urban regeneration strategies with gender-inclusive approaches. Source: Authors' elaboration, 2024.

Urban regeneration strategy	Description	Related gender-inclusive strategy	Description	Theoretical basis	Practical implications	References
<b>Redevelopment</b>	Total clearance and reshaping of urban landscapes through demolition.	<b>Secure Tenure Provisions</b>	Ensures stability through protection against arbitrary evictions.	Housing rights theory and gender equality frameworks (Baker et al., 2010).	Provides a sense of ownership and stability, particularly for women facing displacement.	Baker et al. (2010)
<b>Revitalization</b>	Enhancing existing structures while preserving community essence.	<b>Community Participation and Decision-Making</b>	Advocates for gender representation in urban planning processes.	Participatory governance and gender mainstreaming theories (Damyanovic, 2016).	Amplifies marginalized voices, ensuring revitalization efforts meet the needs of all community members.	Damyanovic, 2016
<b>Gentrification</b>	Economic growth that can enhance vibrancy but often displaces lower-income residents.	<b>Temporary Relocation Support</b>	Offers assistance during regeneration to minimize disruptions.	Transitional justice and social equity theories (Amnesty International, 2020).	Mitigates the impact of gentrification on vulnerable populations, particularly women.	Amnesty International (2020)
<b>Renewal and Rehabilitation</b>	Incremental improvements to existing structures for sustainable development.	<b>Physical Design and Infrastructure</b>	Conducts needs assessments to understand the unique needs of women.	Gendered spatial theory and urban safety research (Greed, 2003).	Enhances safety and accessibility in renewed spaces, promoting inclusivity.	Greed (2003); Sweet and Ortiz Escalante (2015)
<b>Preservation</b>	Safeguards cultural and historical assets crucial for community identity.	<b>Economic Empowerment</b>	Tailors financial support and training to women's needs.	Feminist economics and empowerment theories (Parker & Leviten-Reid, 2021).	Strengthens community ties while enhancing women's economic status within preserved neighbourhoods.	Parker and Leviten-Reid (2021)

participation in leadership roles and project outcomes is suggested. While this recommendation may appear unexpected, it stems from the research findings indicating a lack of women's representation in decision-making processes within urban regeneration projects, which has been similarly noted in previous studies (Birch, 1983; Greed, 2005). Setting measurable goals for women's participation ensures accountability and aligns with global efforts to address gender inequality in urban governance (Ajibade, 2019; Allen et al., 2018). For example, past strategies that incorporated quotas or gender targets, such as in housing programs or leadership in urban planning, have been associated with more equitable outcomes (Adegoke et al., 2016; Njoh, 1998).

Moreover, proactive engagement with community organizations representing diverse groups of women is emphasized. Literature supports the notion that community-rooted organizations play a critical role in developing inclusive urban policies, as they provide insights into the lived experiences of marginalized populations (Burnett et al., 2016; Keleher & Franklin, 2008). This study highlights the need for partnerships that can help policymakers craft interventions that respond to the complex nature of urban marginalization, a point emphasized by Cross (2008) and Barclay (2023) in their work on social exclusion.

Addressing women's safety concerns through infrastructure improvements is another key recommendation. Research has long established that women's safety is compromised in poorly designed urban spaces, necessitating interventions to reduce vulnerability to harassment and violence (Amnesty International, 2017; Sweet & Ortiz Escalante, 2015). This study echoes calls from previous studies for urban design strategies such as improved lighting, public surveillance, and safer public transportation to enhance women's security (Clarke, 1997; Reynald & Elffers, 2009). These interventions not only improve safety but also foster a greater sense of inclusion, as observed in several successful regeneration projects (Gamazo, 2016; Ramlee et al., 2015).

Lastly, the study advocates for the development of a robust monitoring and evaluation system with a gender-sensitive approach. This is consistent with findings from scholars who have stressed the need for disaggregated data collection to track the impact of urban policies on different genders (Bharne & Khandekar, 2019; Grodach & Loukaitou-Sideris, 2007). Intersectional analysis can reveal where policies fall short in benefiting women, particularly in marginalized urban communities (Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), 2008; Amole, 2012). Such systems are critical for ensuring that urban regeneration

projects are truly inclusive and benefit all residents. The following flowchart (Fig. 3) outlines the progression from research findings to policy gaps and actionable recommendations, offering a comprehensive framework for addressing gender disparities in urban regeneration.

In summary, this study contributes to the growing body of literature advocating for gender-inclusive urban regeneration (Gough, 2016; Massey, 1994). It emphasizes that only through deliberate, targeted policies can urban environments be transformed into spaces that are equitable, resilient, and sustainable for all. Future regeneration initiatives should adopt a holistic, gender-sensitive approach, as supported by research on inclusive urban governance (Addie, 2020; Gupta et al., 2015). Table 2 links key findings, research gaps, and policy recommendations.

## 5. Conclusions

The intricate interplay of gender and urban regeneration underscores the pressing need for policies and strategies that promote inclusivity and equity in inner-city housing. This study highlights persistent gender disparities in urban environments, revealing how socio-economic, cultural, and legal factors exacerbate the challenges faced by women and marginalized gender groups. Through a systematic review of existing literature, this research identifies critical gaps in knowledge and practice, paving the way for a comprehensive, gender-inclusive framework for urban regeneration.

The findings affirm that urban regeneration initiatives must transcend traditional redevelopment models, recognizing the significance of participatory planning, inclusive design, and policy reforms tailored to the unique needs of diverse populations. Integrating gender perspectives into urban policies is paramount, as it not only addresses immediate challenges but also lays the groundwork for sustainable and equitable urban environments.

Effective urban regeneration demands a systematic approach to integrating gender considerations into policy design and implementation. Mandating gender impact assessments for all major projects ensures that the specific needs of women and marginalized gender groups are adequately addressed. Furthermore, establishing measurable goals for women's participation in decision-making processes and project outcomes is crucial. This can be achieved through gender quotas and targeted interventions, fostering accountability and promoting

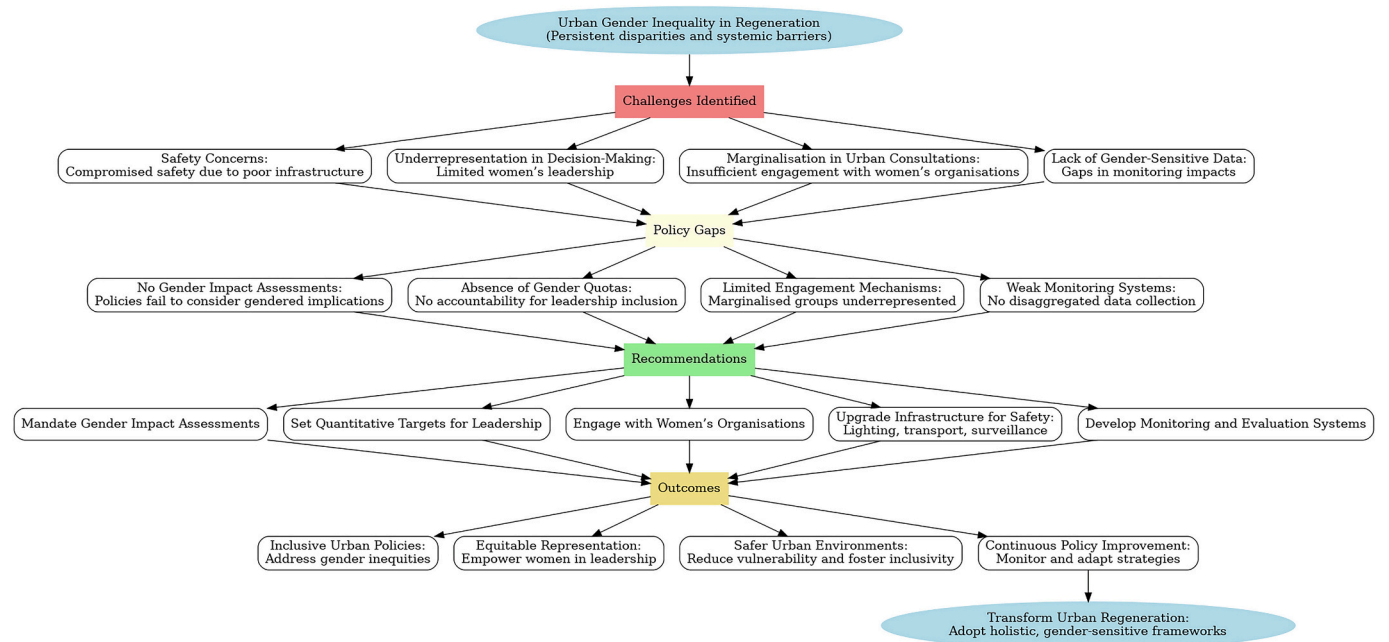


Fig. 3. Addressing Gender Disparities in Urban Regeneration: A Flowchart of Findings and Actions. Source: Authors' elaboration, 2024.

**Table 2**  
Link between research findings, research gap identified, and policy recommendations. Source: Authors' elaboration, 2024.

Research findings	Policy Gap Identified	Recommendation
Women's underrepresentation in decision-making ( Moghadam & Rafieian, 2019)	Lack of gender quotas in regeneration planning	Establish quantitative targets for women's participation and leadership
Women's safety concerns in public spaces (Amnesty International, 2017)	Insufficient infrastructure addressing women's security	Upgrade urban infrastructure to enhance safety for women
Marginalization of women in urban consultations (Sweet & Ortiz Escalante, 2015)	Limited engagement with women's organizations	Proactively engage with women's groups in regeneration projects
Lack of gender-disaggregated data (Allen et al., 2018)	Inadequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Develop gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation systems

equitable outcomes.

Proactive engagement with community organizations representing diverse women is vital, as such partnerships yield valuable insights into the lived experiences of marginalized groups, guiding the development of more inclusive urban policies. Additionally, addressing safety concerns is paramount in urban design. Enhancing lighting, public surveillance, and transportation safety are essential interventions that can significantly improve women's sense of security in public spaces.

The implementation of gender-sensitive monitoring mechanisms is critical for tracking the impacts of urban policies. Disaggregated data collection will reveal where interventions fall short, particularly in marginalized communities, allowing for timely adjustments to improve outcomes.

This study contributes to the evolving discourse on gender-inclusive urban regeneration by offering evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and urban planners. As urbanization continues to shape cities worldwide, it is imperative that regeneration initiatives adopt a holistic approach prioritizing gender equity, ensuring that all residents can thrive in vibrant and inclusive communities.

The integration of gender perspectives into urban regeneration is not merely a matter of social justice but a catalyst for sustainable urban development. By addressing the systemic barriers faced by women and marginalized gender groups, we can cultivate resilient urban environments that foster innovation, social cohesion, and overall well-being for all. Consequently, the future of urban regeneration lies in its ability to create spaces that reflect the diverse needs of their inhabitants, fostering a true sense of belonging and opportunity for every individual, irrespective of gender.

5.1. Recommendation for future studies

Future studies must adopt a multifaceted approach to tackle contemporary urban challenges, exploring evolving interactions, technological advancements, social structures, and cultural dynamics' impacts on urban connectivity. Socio-cultural influences on gender-inclusive strategies should be examined, including cultural diversity's role in shaping inclusive environments. Comparative analyses of global gender-inclusive policies, longitudinal studies on regeneration's long-term effects, and evaluations of community-led initiatives are crucial. Assessing financing mechanisms' efficacy, digital platforms' role, and fostering cross-sector collaborations are necessary. Addressing these areas will enhance understanding of urban dynamics, gender inclusivity, and regeneration, shaping more transformative and inclusive urban development paradigms.

5.2. Limitations of the study

This study's limitations include its reliance on peer-reviewed articles, potentially overlooking insights from non-peer-reviewed sources. While it acknowledges intersecting factors like race and socioeconomic status, it doesn't deeply explore their dynamics. Contextual influences on strategy effectiveness, such as local culture and politics, are not thoroughly examined. The study predominantly focuses on positive outcomes, lacking a balanced exploration of challenges. Its proposed framework for gender-inclusive strategies requires adaptation to diverse urban contexts. While foundational, the study is not exhaustive, emphasizing the need for ongoing research and adaptation to ensure genuine inclusivity in urban spaces. While it offers a broad range of

relevant literature, we must acknowledge that relying solely on one database (ScienceDirect) is a limitation to the findings of the study.

### CRediT authorship contribution statement

**Bukola Adewale:** Writing – review & editing, Resources, Conceptualization. **Luana Parisi:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Resources, Formal analysis, Conceptualization.

### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest in relation to this manuscript.

### Appendix A

No.	Author(s)	Key themes	Publication year	Geographical distribution	Frequency
1	Parisi & Cantafio	Gendered Dimensions of Urban Regeneration	2019	Europe	2
2	Gough	Gender Planning for Sustainable Cities	2016	Global	2
3	Allen et al.	Gender and Urban Sustainability	2018	North America	2
4	United Nations	Gender Mainstreaming in Urban Planning	2017	Global	3
5	McDowell	Gendered Space and Urban Safety	1983	Global	3
6	Massey	The Spatial Politics of Gender	1994	Global	3
7	Bondi & Rose	Gender and the Politics of Urban Space	2003	Global	3
8	Jacobs	Diversity in mixed-use neighbourhoods	1961	North America	1
9	Clarke	Reducing crime opportunities by altering environments	1997	United Kingdom	2
10	Noda et al.	Crime prevention through urban design and architecture	1999	Japan	1
11	Reynald and Elffers	Territoriality enhancing resident control over spaces	2009	Europe	2
12	McDowell	Gendered urban spaces reflecting social and spatial inequalities	1983	United Kingdom	2
13	Addie	An Urban Theory of Care	2020	Global	2
14	Gupta et al.	Inclusive Urban Development	2015	Asia	4
15	Whitzman et al.	Partnerships for Urban Quality of Life	2013	North America	1
16	Viswanath	Economic Engagement in Urban Areas	2013	Global	1
17	Schippers & Van Heumen	Active Citizenship in Urban Development	2014	Europe	1
18	Steinberg & Lindfield	Affordable Housing and Urban Infrastructure	2011	Global	2
19	Bharne & Khandekar	Social Inclusion in Urban Planning	2019	Asia	3
20	ADB	Ensuring Sustainable Urban Services	2011	Asia	1
21	Laquian & Hanley	Participatory Urban Governance	2007	Asia	1
22	Pokhrel	Access to Sustainable Urban Services	2019	Asia	1
23	Dahiya & Das	Inclusive Cities and Gender Equity	2020	Asia	1
24	Attia et al.	Innovation in Addressing Urban Challenges	2018	Middle East	1
25	Massey	Gendered experiences of space shaped by social norms	1994	Global	1
26	Parker & Leviten-Reid	Housing Affordability and Gender Disparities	2021	North America	4
27	Saugères	Informal Settlements and Gender	2009	Europe	1
28	Kern & Wekerle	Gender-Based Violence in Urban Areas	2008	North America	3
29	FAO	Gender and Housing: A Global Perspective	2019	Nigeria	2
30	WEF	Women's Land Rights and Urban Housing	2017	Global	3
31	World Health Organization	Gender and Domestic Violence in Urban Areas	2021	Global	1
32	Singh & Dua	Housing Discrimination and Gender	2023	India	2
33	United Nations Women	Women's Housing Rights and Urban Spaces	2022	Global	2
34	World Health Organization	Gender differences in time use, particularly regarding domestic labour	2020	Africa	1
35	Ajibade	Environmental justice issues related to displacement and vulnerability	2019	Megacities in the Global South	2
36	Jelle et al.	Social impacts of displacement on community cohesion and identity	2021	Southern Somalia	1
37	Barclay	Inclusive Urban Policies and Gender	2023	Canada	2
38	Greed	Gender and Urban Planning	2005	United Kingdom	5
39	Amole	Gender Needs in Urban Environments	2012	Developing country contexts	2
40	Njoh	Gender-Inclusive Approaches in Housing	1998	Developing country contexts	2
41	Birch	Gendered perspectives in urban planning and policy-making	1983	United States	2
42	United Nations Women	Empowerment and participation of women in urban decision-making	2021	Global	1
34	Amnesty International	Safety Concerns for Women in Urban Areas	2017	Global	2
35	Hung	Gendered perspectives in transport planning and policy	2013	Global	1
36	Howden-Chapman et al.	Uniform Occupancy Standards in Housing	2017	Global	1
37	Flage	Gender-sensitive Housing Indicators	2018	Global	1
38	Owoeye	Gender Disparities in Housing Access	2013	Global	1
39	Adegoke et al.	Homeownership and Gender	2016	Global	3
40	Chipeta et al.	Overcrowding and Gender in Housing	2022	Global	2
41	Kavita & Khokhate	Urbanization and Housing Challenges	2020	Global	1

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No.	Author(s)	Key themes	Publication year	Geographical distribution	Frequency
42	Burnett et al.	Recommendations for improving service delivery and support systems	2016	Canada	3
43	World Bank Group	Rapid Urbanization and Affordable Housing	2023	Global	1
44	Mahtta et al.	Urban Housing Solutions in Low-Income Countries	2022	Asia	1
45	UN HABITAT	Urban Explosion and Infrastructure Challenges	2019	Global	1
46	Cross	Social Exclusion in Urban Development	2008	Global	2
47	Ekpo	Recommendations for sustainable housing solutions in Nigeria	2019	Nigeria	1
48	Amnesty International	Safety and Security in Urban Slums	2020	Global	1
49	United Nations Women	Gender-Sensitive Urban Planning	2019	Global	2
50	Shelter	Barriers to housing access for marginalized groups	2021	United Kingdom	2
51	Keleher & Franklin	Link between gender norms and public health outcomes	2008	Global	2
52	Glad & Ljung	Applications of control theory in engineering and technology	2018	Global but with a focus on Sweden	1
53	Ziervogel et al.	Importance of inclusivity in urban development processes	2016	South Africa, particularly on urban settlements in Cape Town	1
54	Thio	Labelling Theory and Urban Regeneration	1995	Global	1
55	Cropanzano et al.	Overview of social exchange theory (SET) and its foundational concepts	2017	It is not specific to a particular region or country	1
56	Fox Gotham	Social, economic, and cultural implications of redevelopment	2001	United States	1
57	Weber	Impacts of redevelopment on local communities and economies	2002	United States	1
58	Mele	Gentrification dynamics and the displacement of long-standing residents	2013	United States	1
59	Grodach & Ehrenfeucht	Revitalizing Urban Heritage	2015	North America	1
60	Ramlee et al.	Gentrification and Social Displacement	2015	Global	2
61	Grodach and Loukaitou-Sideris	Calls for inclusive redevelopment that addresses racial inequalities	2007	United States	2
62	Zukin	Gentrification as a cultural phenomenon, intertwined with economic processes	1987	United States	1
63	Smith	Historical context of gentrification and its evolution over time	2013	United States	1
64	Helms	Consequences for existing residents, including displacement and community change	2003	United States	1
65	Ünlü	Social and economic impacts of urban interventions on local populations	2010	Turkey	1
66	Hui et al.	Recommendations for enhancing future urban renewal initiatives to ensure sustainability and community benefit	2008	Hong Kong	1
67	Gamazo	Navigating Complexities for Inclusive Improvements	2016	Global	2
68	Ryberg-Webster and Kinahan	Community engagement in the preservation process to ensure inclusivity	2014	United States	1
69	Hayden	Advocacy for inclusive preservation practices that reflect diverse community narratives	1988	United States	2
70	Rampaul & Magidimisha-Chipungu	Importance of gender mainstreaming in urban planning and design	2022	Southern Africa	2
71	Force	Strategic planning processes that address urban challenges and opportunities	2022	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	1
72	Damyanovic	Connection between gender equity and sustainability in urban environments	2016	Global North and South	4
73	Sweet & Ortiz Escalante	Relationship between urban design and safety, particularly for vulnerable populations	2015	Global North	3
74	Moghadam & Rafieian	Calls for integrating feminist perspectives into urban planning and policy-making	2019	North America, Europe, Global South	2
75	Birch	Gender-sensitive Training for Architects and Planners	1983	USA	1
76	Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)	Housing Rights and Gender	2008	Global	1

## Data availability

No data was used for the research described in the article.

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