10 Countries Where Women Feel the Least Safe

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ActionAid

<http://www.actionaid.org/australia/10-countries-where-women-feel-least-safe>

### 1.    Venezuela

**Over 80 per cent of women surveyed by** [Gallup](http://www.gallup.com/home.aspx) **stated that they did not feel safe walking alone at night**. This extraordinarily high figure may have to do with Venezuela experiencing one of the highest homicide rates in both Latin America and the world, because of gun and drug-related crime.

### 2.    Botswana

**In this landlocked African nation 75% of women claim that they do not feel safe walking alone at night.** A government financed study revealed a high prevalence of gender-based violence in Botswana, with over two thirds of women experiencing violence in their lifetime. Unfortunately, the government has continually failed to proactively address women’s issues, which is likely impacted by the fact that the same ruling party been in power for the last 40 years.

### 3.    Democratic Republic of Congo

Like Botswana, three out of four Congolese women report that they do not feel safe walking alone after dark. **After experiencing years of civil war, this conflict-torn nation has unfortunately come to be known as the “rape capital of the world”** with systematic rape being used as a weapon of war by militia. This rampant gender-based violence has affected tens of thousands of women and adolescent girls over recent years.

### 4.    Brazil

**In** [Gallup’s](http://www.gallup.com/home.aspx) **world poll, Brazil ranks 4th in the world for women asserting that they do not feel safe when walking alone at night.** Still a predominately patriarchal society, less than 10 per cent of parliamentary seats are held by women, with Brazil also behind Mexico in the UN’s Gender Inequality Index.  A lack of public decision making and economic engagement in society negatively affects the manner in which public services address women’s needs.

### 5.    South Africa

Less than one in three women reported feeling safe when walking alone at night. **This is compounded by the fact that South Africa experiences one of the highest rates of sexual violence against women and children in the world.** Amnesty claims that over 48,000 cases of rape were reported to police between 2011 and 2012; however, most rapes go unreported for fear of stigma and rejection by family members.

### 6.    Malaysia

 Just over **one in four women in Malaysia report feeling safe when walking the streets** alone at night.

### 7.    Zambia

**70 per cent of Zambian women stated that they did not feel safe walking alone at night.** According to study figures, one in five women has experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives, and of all the forms of violence, domestic violence was the highest form of abuse reported.

### 8.    Paraguay

**Two thirds** of women stated that they did not feel safe when they were walking alone at night.

### 9.    Gabon

For women in Gabon, 65 per cent reported feeling unsafe when walking alone at night. **Gender-based violence and discrimination are still widely prevalent in this nation**, with Gabon’s record on women’s rights to be examined by the UN Committee in 2015. Issues to be discussed include abortion rights, gender-based violence, high maternal mortality rates, and discriminatory legal provisions related to polygamy and inheritance.

### 10. Bolivia

Falling slightly behind Gabon, **64 per cent of Bolivian women said they did not feel safe** walking alone in darkness.