



BMSZKI

Budapesti Módszertani
Szociális Központ és Intézményei

On Women and Homelessness

FEHÉR, Boróka - BMSZKI, Hungary

My points of view

- service provider
- member of FEANTSA
Women - community of
practice

Research
Policy
Practice





Research
Policy
Practice

are often **GENDER-BLIND**

when it comes to homeless women

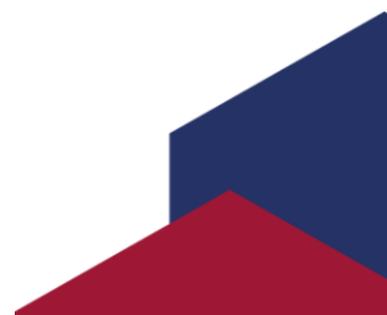




Gender-blind research

No reliable data about women's homelessness

f. ex. about how many women are in this situation



ETHOS – EUROPEAN TYPOLOGY ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING EXCLUSION

Conceptual Category		Operational Category		Generic Definition
ROOFLESS	1	People Living Rough	1.1	Rough Sleeping (no access to 24-hour accommodation) / No abode
	2	People staying in a night shelter	2.1	Overnight shelter
HOUSELESS	3	People in accommodation for the homeless	3.1	Homeless hostel
			3.2	Temporary Accommodation
	4	People in Women's Shelter	4.1	Women's shelter accommodation
	5	People in accommodation for immigrants	5.1	Temporary accommodation / reception centres (asylum)
			5.2	Migrant workers accommodation
	6	People due to be released from institutions	6.1	Penal institutions
			6.2	Medical institutions
7	People receiving support (due to homelessness)	7.1	Residential care for homeless people	
7.2	Supported accommodation			
7.3	Transitional accommodation with support			
7.4	Accommodation with support			
INSECURE	8	People living in insecure accommodation	8.1	Temporarily with family/friends
			8.2	No legal (sub)tenancy
			8.3	Illegal occupation of building
8.4			Illegal occupation of land	
9	People living under threat of eviction	9.1	Legal orders enforced (rented)	
		9.2	Re-possession orders (owned)	
10	People living under threat of violence	10.1	Police recorded incidents of domestic violence	
INADEQUATE	11	People living in temporary / non-standard structures	11.1	Mobile home / caravan
			11.2	Non-standard building
			11.3	Temporary structure
	12	People living in unfit housing	12.1	Unfit for habitation (under national legislation; occupied)
	13	People living in extreme overcrowding	13.1	Highest national norm of overcrowding



Good practice - London Women Census

- starting point: women tend to be more invisible when sleeping rough
- first step: interviewing women
- building research methodology around their experience
- outreach teams walk in pairs, at least one of them a woman

Result: 700 women counted



<https://www.solacewomensaid.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/London-2023-Womens-Rough-Sleeping-Census-Report.pdf>



Gender-blind research

- women-specific health questions (even non-women specific like pregnancy and birth control)
- safety and security (within services and on the street and in general)
- strength and risks of intimate partner relationships
- motherhood (whether living with their small children or living apart)
- even expectation on looks - self-worth



> About the Project

> Partners

> Background documents

> Events

ABOUT THE PROJECT

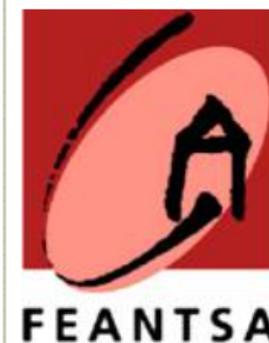
ERASMUS+ WOMEN AND HOMELESSNESS

The Erasmus+ Women and Homelessness strategic partnership unites organizations working with homeless people – among them, homeless women. These organizations (NGOs and public service providers, a European network and the Social Innovation Center of a University) from seven different countries want to exchange good practice and expertise about their work with homeless women, in order to improve their services for this target group. Homelessness services have been traditionally designed for male users, ignoring the specific female needs of homeless women as well as the different ways homeless women take when becoming homeless (especially the link to intimate partner or gender-based violence and the relationship with children). Partners want to develop and/or update their internal policies, structures to better work with homeless women and to learn about innovative ways of training of staff as well as involvement and empowerment of service users. Beside this we strive to raise awareness of the importance of these topics between policy makers, stakeholders and associated organisations.

Based on needs assessment carried out in each of our countries, our work will focus on the following five themes, all signalled by the women we work with:

- **Homeless women and children** – although most often we think of homeless women as independent adults, many of them have small children whom they cannot raise themselves, and whom they might see often, less often or even never. Homeless women face many obstacles when wanting to keep in touch with their kids, and we want to find good practices to help them overcome these!
- **Women's health issues** – there are specific health issues that are relevant to women only (feminine types of cancer, contraception, menopause). We want to explore what works in raising consciousness and helping women access these services when needed.
- **Emotional and physical safety** – most of the women we work with have suffered traumatic experiences as children and/or adults. We want to create environments where women can feel secure both physically and emotionally, so they can be helped on their journeys of recovery.
- **Relationships, working with women who are in intimate relationships** – Women who have a partner might have additional support and resources which can strengthen them in getting out of homelessness – and/or this relationship might be the cause of additional burdens (for ex. intimate partner violence).
- **Participation** – We want to empower homeless women in all aspects of our work with them: starting from giving them choices in their own care plan and referrals to services that they prefer, onto giving them a say in running the services themselves.

We will work through these themes internally, gathering practices and evaluating them, and sharing the best ones transnationally through five thematic workshops, hosted by our partners. We want to dedicate an additional workshop to the empowerment of homeless women – this meeting would revolve around their needs and provide an opportunity for them to share about their lives and problems with each other.



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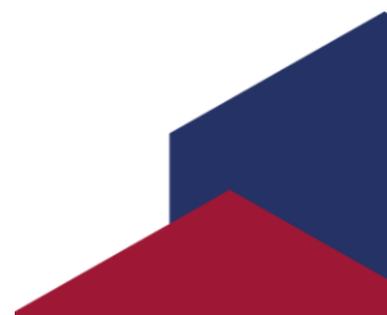


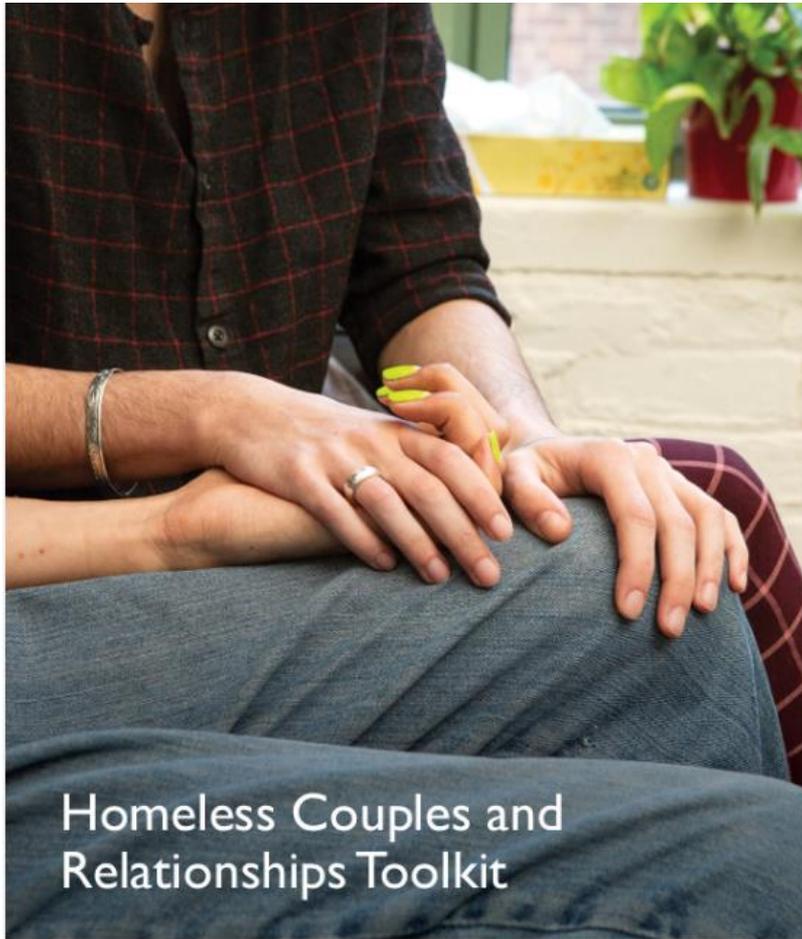
Y-FOUNDATION



Gender-blind policy/service planning

- Intersectionality
- Lack of women-only services
- Lack of women's services
- Couples
- Social Housing





Homeless Couples and Relationships Toolkit

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



St Mungo's
Ending homelessness
Rebuilding lives



FONDATION
DES FEMMES

UN ABRI

Mieux accueillir les femmes

POUR

dans les centres d'hébergement mixtes

TOUTES

Rapport n°1
**Diagnostic réalisé
auprès de centres
d'hébergement
d'urgence mixtes**

Sous la direction
de Louise Miragliese,
avec la participation
de Julie Vella pour les
entretiens et de Chloé
Ponce-Voiron pour la
rédaction du rapport

101 Peu de personnes à l'extérieur, il fait encore frais en ce début de mars mais l'agora et les bancs témoignent d'activités collectives et de rencontres possibles.



espace vert central

102 Au rez-de-chaussée du long bâtiment rouge, vert et bleu, s'alignent des bureaux, salles de réunion, salle de réfectoire et salle de détente. C'est la fin du repas, des personnes balayent le sol du réfectoire d'autres viennent reprendre un dernier café. L'ambiance est calme, colorée.



le réfectoire

103 Le long de la façade, une cage d'ascenseur permet d'accéder aux deux étages du centre. Chaque bloc de couleur est relié à un autre part une cage d'escalier commune qui distribue les chambres à chaque étage.

104 Un bâtiment marque l'entrée du site, sur la courside du premier étage des hommes appuyés sur la balustrade discutent et observent.



bâtiment entrée - hommes isolés



jardin partagé



le réfectoire



les couloirs



105 Dans les étages, de long couloirs séparés par des portes coupe-feu marquent avec une couleur de sol différente, la distinction des sous-divisions du bâti en espace pour les familles, les femmes isolées, les hommes isolés.

106 Les portes des chambres sont anonymes et toutes fermées. Les murs blancs des couloirs sont neutres à part une affiche, trace d'une activité autour du 8 mars journée internationale des droits des femmes.



porte de chambre

107 Des blocs sanitaires ponctuent les couloirs sans être signifiés comme des espaces exclusifs pour les femmes ou pour les hommes.



bloc sanitaire



répartition spatiale étage 1

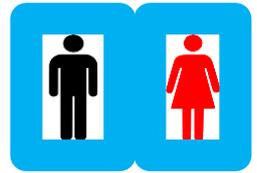


salle de couture



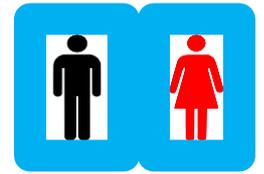
bureau

Des salles d'activités ouvertes ou fermées, des espaces bureaux situés dans le dégagement des escaliers coupent le rythme marqué des portes de chambre et des portes coupe-feu.



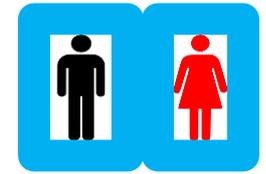
Gender-sensitive practice

- women's space in mixed services
- women-only spaces - day centres for women
- trauma-informed services – gynecological service for homeless women
- peer support and involvement in recovery
- motherhood
- women specific protocols
- training for staff on issues relevant to women



What is needed?

- a gendered-lens in research
- this can be a push for policy change
- services that are attractive to women and support women with their women-specific needs as well
- to offer ways out of homelessness, built around these needs



Mutual learning

<https://www.feantsa.org/en/resources/resources-database?theme=women%E2%80%99s-homelessness>

Providing Psychotherapy Interventions for Women Experiencing Homelessness in Vienna



12-Nov-24

Webinar - Hard Edges: the reality for women affected by severe and multiple disadvantage



14-May-24

Webinar: Motherhood and Homelessness



23-Apr-24

Webinar: The Role of Advocacy in Ending Women's Homelessness



08-Mar-24

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Towards Women and Girls 2022 FEANTSA Campaign



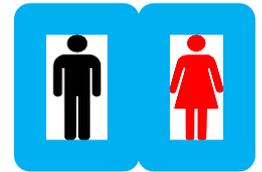
13-Dec-22

Women's safety and protection from gender-based violence in mixed homelessness services



06-Dec-22

Mutual learning



A GUIDE TO IMPROVING TRAUMA AND GENDER INFORMED RESPONSES TO WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Product of the PIE4shelters Project

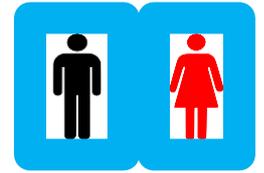


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<https://www.feantsa.org/en/project/2018/02/01/pie4shelters-making-shelters-psychologically-and-trauma-informed>

Mutual learning



PARTICIPATION AND CLIENT INVOLVEMENT - JOIN TRAINING SESSION

The training session on participation and client involvement also was held in a virtual way. The event was hosted by St. Mungo's, but as in the previous training session, we saw presentations about related experiences and programs of other organisations. They can be seen below.

Capturing the Voices of Multiply Disadvantaged Women

Client Involvement - Ramble, Forage, Pickle, Trade

Client Involvement at St. Mungo's

Embedding Client Involvement at St. Mungo's

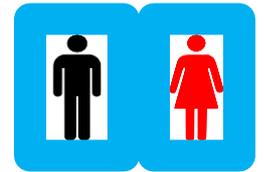
Giving Service Users a Voice- Simon Communities Forum

Groundswell - Women, Homelessness and Co-production

Jako Doma - Together Against Homelessness

Client's newsletter at St. Mungo's

<https://www.bmszki.hu/en/erasmus2/events>

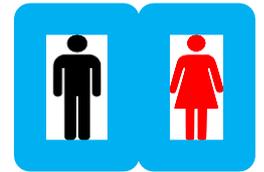


Erasmus+ Women's Voices

Putting Women's Visual Voices at the Heart of Homelessness Support



Subscribe to the FEANTSA Flash



[FEANTSA Flash May 2024](#)



[FEANTSA Flash April 2024](#)



[FEANTSA Flash March 2024](#)



Thank you!

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