

# Improving housing outcomes for women sleeping

## rough in England:

April 2024

### Introduction/ Study Rationale

- Author's social work experience of working with women sleeping rough.
- Observations that women sleeping rough often don't stay at their offered accommodation or refuse to engage with professionals.

### Research Aims:

- What are the structural barriers to women accessing and sustaining accommodation?
- What can be done to reduce those barriers and improve housing outcomes?

### Methodology.

- Feminist theory
- Focused literature review (peer-reviewed articles, books and grey literature)
- Thematic analysis

### Findings

- Lack of gendered lens in homelessness and service provisions: women's experience of homelessness is different to men's.
- Unsuitability of existing accommodation: only 10% of homeless accommodation in England is women-only.
- Trauma/ Re-traumatisation: Aces, sexual and physical assault, domestic violence.
- Hidden and transient nature of women's homelessness.

### Recommendations

- Need for more women-only accommodation provisions.
- Comprehensive staff training on trauma-informed practices for everyone involved in homelessness.
- Adoption of gender- and trauma-informed approaches in service design and delivery.
- Long-term wraparound support for women.
- Involve women with lived experience in service design.
- Improve data accuracy for women sleeping rough.
- Further research on women's experiences of homelessness is needed.

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