

# PIE4SHELTERS

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**Gender-based violence and  
Women's Homelessness**





# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



- Against Gender-Based Violence
- an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls.
- runs every year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day.

# SET THE SCENE

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- Gender-based Violence
- Violence against Women
- Domestic Violence
- Women's Homelessness
- Trauma



## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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- “Violence against women, including domestic violence, is one of the most serious forms of gender-based violations of human rights in Europe.”  
Explanatory note to the Istanbul Convention, 2011

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- “violence against women” is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life; (Article 3, Chapter I, Istanbul Convention)
- “domestic violence” shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim, (Article 3, Chapter I, Istanbul Convention)



# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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- Violence based on gender
- Explicit gendered cause and the impacts of violence
- It's social/structural rather than individual
- Manifestation of historical unequal power relations between women and men
- Key obstacle to equality between men and women

## Gender-based violence more common than you think

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In the European Union, since the age of 15:

**1 in 3**

women has experienced  
**physical** and/or  
**sexual violence**

**1 in 2**

women has experienced  
**sexual harassment**

**1 in 20**

women has been **raped**

**1 in 5**

women has experienced  
**stalking**



**95%**

of victims **trafficked**  
for **sexual exploitation** in the EU are women

Sources: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Violence against women: an EU-wide survey - Results at a glance*, 2014  
Eurostat, *Trafficking in human beings*, 2015

Image: Margaret Jone Wollman/Shutterstock.com

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# WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- Violence is prevalent prior and during homelessness
- Over 90 per cent some kind of violence
- Often starting in childhood – 40 per cent of girls run away from home do so because of sexual abuse
- One in 3 women in homelessness services escape DV
- (Women, homelessness and service provision)





# WOMEN AND HOMELESSNESS



**1 IN 3**

WOMEN CITE DOMESTIC ABUSE AS THE **MAIN CAUSE** OF THEIR HOMELESSNESS



**60%**

OF WOMEN CITE DOMESTIC ABUSE AS **ONE OF THE CAUSES** OF THEIR HOMELESSNESS



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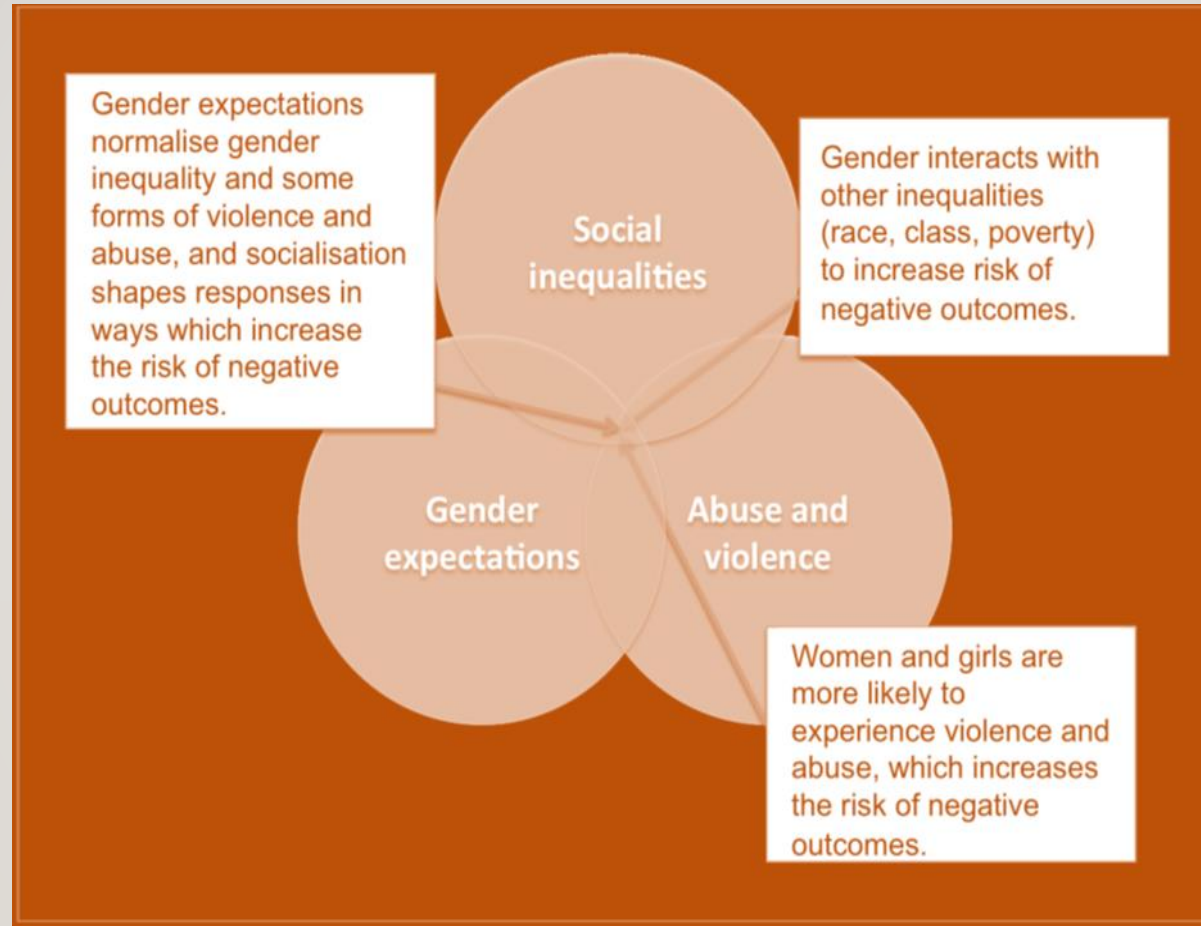
## WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

### **Invisibility - Recognition and inclusive definition**

- Women who are living in homeless shelters
- Women sleeping rough
- Women who experience violence in their own homes are homeless
- Women who flee violence are homeless
- Women who stay in women's shelters are homeless
- Women who couch surf with family, friends, and strangers are homeless;

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***Social context which increases risk to women and girls (McNeish and Scott 2014)***

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## **WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS SHARE THEIR VOICE:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=131  
&v=IX26I38T6ak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=131&v=IX26I38T6ak)