

Working with Couples in Housing First: Supporting Women Where Gender Based Violence Is Present or Suspected

25th June 2026





Llar Rosario Endrinal

Communal Housing First Programme



Llar
Rosario
Endrinal

Sophia Housing
Sean McDermott Street, Dublin,
Ireland

Leanne Clooney, Area Manager
Emma Murphy, Seeking Safety
Coordinator



About Sophia Housing

- Sophia Housing is an national organization providing homes for individuals, couples and families who have experienced homelessness and present with a wide range of support needs.
- Support services include
 - Tenancy Sustainment Support
 - Supported Housing
 - Outreach
 - Nurturing / Childcare Centres
- Emphasis is on a person-centered and trauma-informed approach.



Sean Mc Dermott Street Project

62 Sean McDermott Street Lower D1 D01 AH97

- Long Term Supported Housing specifically for couples
- 18 x one bedroom self-contained apartments
- 24-Hour on-site staff support, 7 days a week (Sleep over staff from 11pm)
- We use an adapted Housing First approach that prioritises housing stability alongside a holistic person-centred support and trauma informed care.
- Support provided for residents to build skills, sustain tenancy and live independently



Overview of Category and Supports provided



- Sean Mc Dermott Street is a long term housing option for couples who have experienced homelessness and present with a range of complex support needs including Trauma, Mental health difficulties and Addiction/Substance misuse issues
- 100% of households experience addiction
- 100% households have experienced mental health difficulties
- 53% of households have experienced domestic violence
- We are a Low Threshold Service working from a harm reduction approach

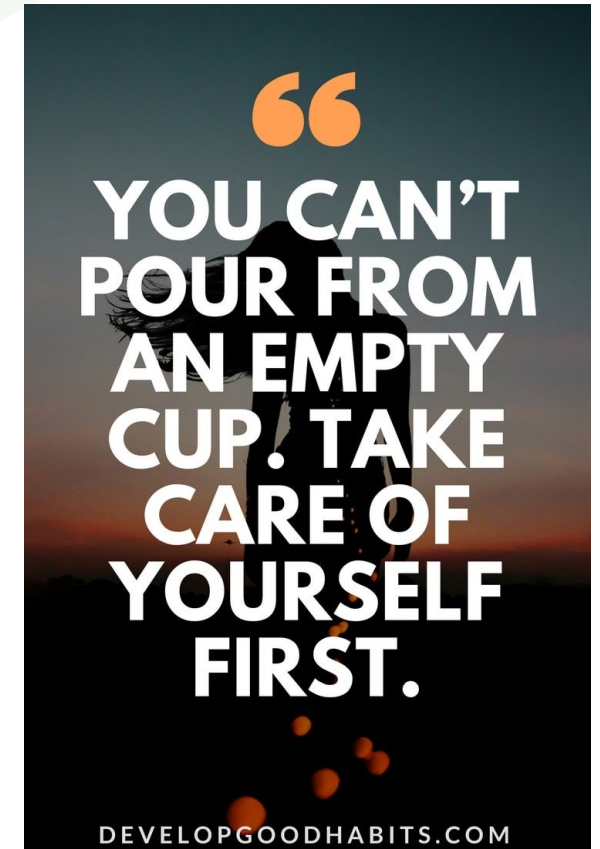


What is Seeking safety
Ireland



Safety
PTSD
Taking Back Your Power,
When Substances Control You
Honesty
Asking for Help
Setting Boundaries in Relationships
Getting Others to Support Your Recovery
Healthy Relationships, Community Resources
Compassion
Healing from Anger
Creating Meaning
Discovery
Integrating the Split Self
Recovery Thinking
Taking Good Care of Yourself
Commitment
Respecting Your Time
Coping with Triggers
Self-Nurturing
Red and Green Flags
Detaching from Emotional Pain (Grounding).
Life Choices, and Termination.

- Check in
- Quote
- Discussion / - Activity
- Checkout



The key principles of Seeking Safety

- 1) **Safety** is the overall goal (helping clients attain safety in their relationships, thinking, behaviour, and emotions).
- 2) **Integrated** treatment (working on both trauma and addiction at the same time if the person has both)
- 3) **A focus on ideals** to counter the loss of ideals in both trauma and addiction
- 4) **Four content areas:** cognitive, behavioural, interpersonal, case management



317

WOMEN ENGAGED
IN SSI SESSIONS



1026

TOTAL ATTENDANCES



254

GROUP SESSIONS

83.7%

RETENTION RATE



145

INDIVIDUAL
SESSIONS



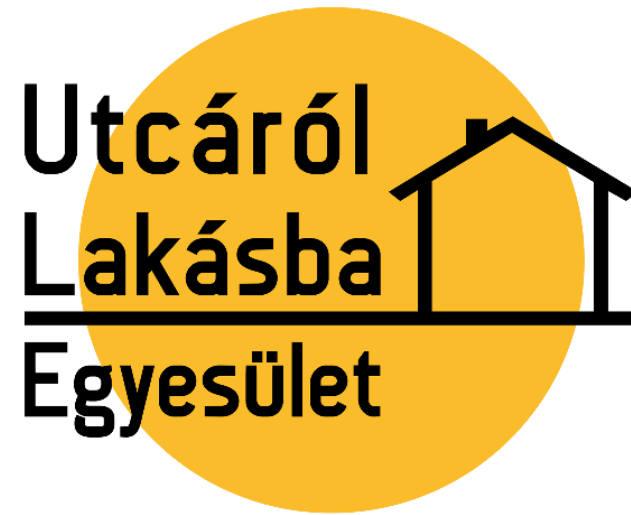
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PEER
RESEARCHERS



14

INTERVIEWS



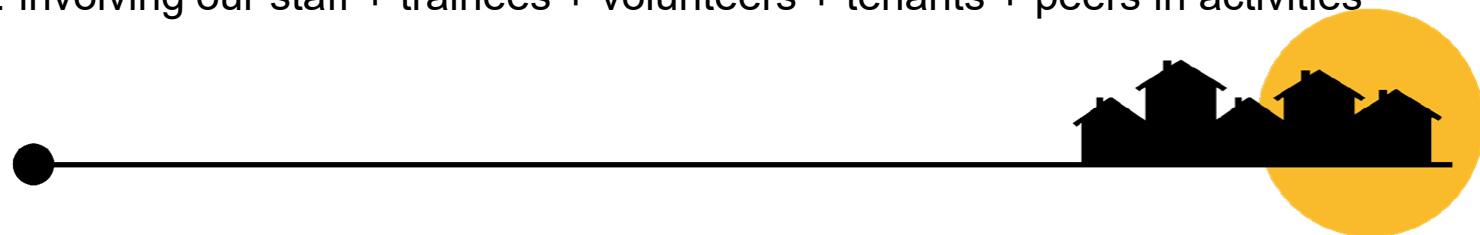
From Streets to Homes Association Budapest

25 June 2026

We believe that housing is a basic human right.

We are an NGO:

- not receiving any government funding as service provider
- running 4 housing programs: From Huts to Homes, social housing agency, refugees, Housing for Youth
- having strong roots in housing activism
- non-discriminatory: serving many intersectionality vulnerable clients such as Roma mothers or LMBTQ+ homeless persons
- strong community program + advocacy
- 12 years old - started by 4 people around a table, serving 270 clients today
- participatory: involving our staff + trainees + volunteers + tenants + peers in activities



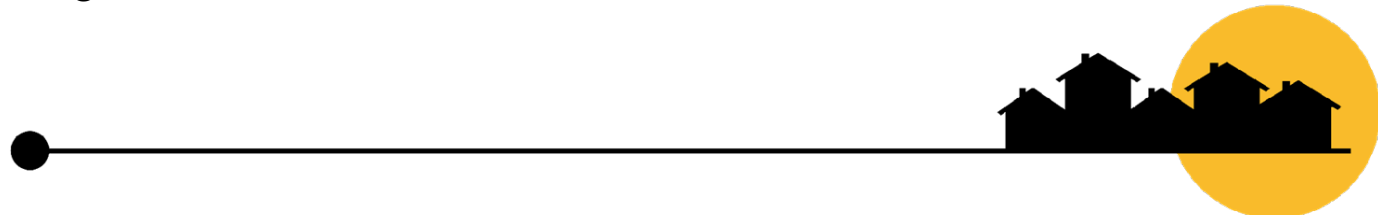


Women's program

- realizing women's needs
- almost 100% of or female clients are victims of GBV either in childhood or as an adult

AIMS:

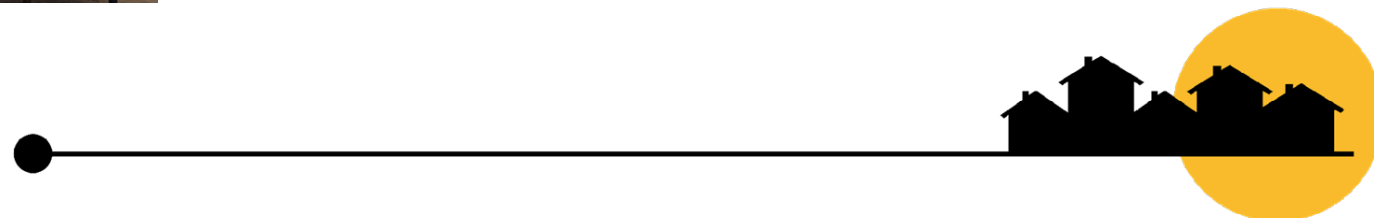
- providing adequate support for victims, empowerment on individual and community level
- creating a safe environment where experiences and feelings can be shared and are acknowledged
- regular training of staff and peers
- protocol for working with victims of GBV



Women's program

ACTIVITIES:

- women's club for elderly women, monthly
- women's group for young women raising children
- internal training on GBV for peer mentors, 10 sessions
- Beauty day



Women's program

From Huts to Homes

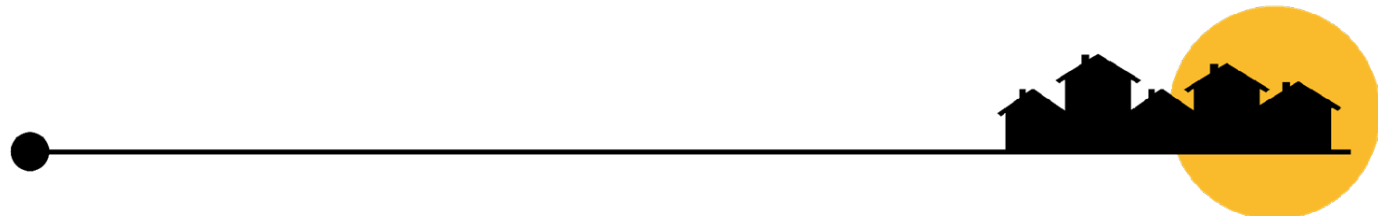
- special attention to signs of GBV from the first interview
- separate interview with the man and the woman
- woman is the main tenant in the rental contract

Refugee program:

- support goes to the women

Housing Now! Agency:

- mothers with children



Women's program

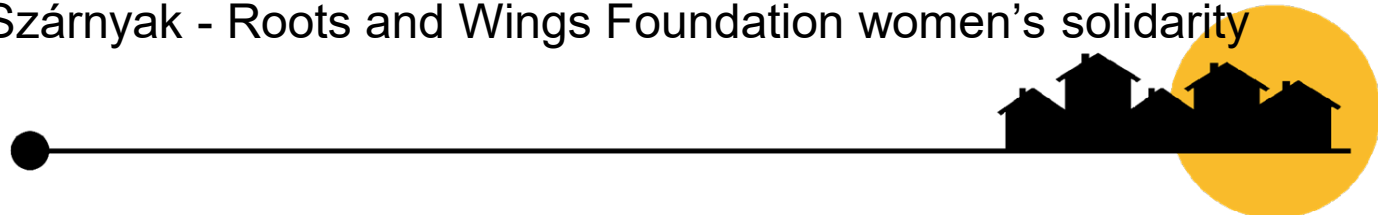
protocol:

- series of workshops for social workers on GBV: cases, methodology, needs
- what to do when your client becomes a victim of GBV? how to work with perpetrators? - manual
- long-term goal: crisis apartment for immediate moving

cooperations:

- NANE consultations and supervision - women's group, economic violence
- FEANTSA Women - community of practice
- Daphne Shelter project
- Gyökerek és Szárnyak - Roots and Wings Foundation women's solidarity

network



**Utcáról
Lakásba
Egyesület**

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