WELCOME

WOMEN'S HOMELESSNESS Workshop

FEANTSA FORUM

18th June 2024

Vienna

Agenda

- Presentations:

❖ **Claire O'Sullivan**, Tinteàn, Ireland
❖ **Julia Schratz**, Lilawohnt, Austria

- Q+A
- PhotoVoice - **Méabh Savage**, SETU, Ireland
- Group Work
- Call to Action
- Closing session

What Does It Take for Women to Strive in Services

(Supporting Women Exiting Homelessness)

BY CLAIRE O'SULLIVAN

What is unique about us?

EMERGENCY HOUSING

BESPOKE SUPPORTS

TRANSITIONAL 24/7 SERVICE

TRAUMA INFORMED LENS

GENDER SPECIFIC SINCE 1999

LONG TERM SUPPORTED HOUSING

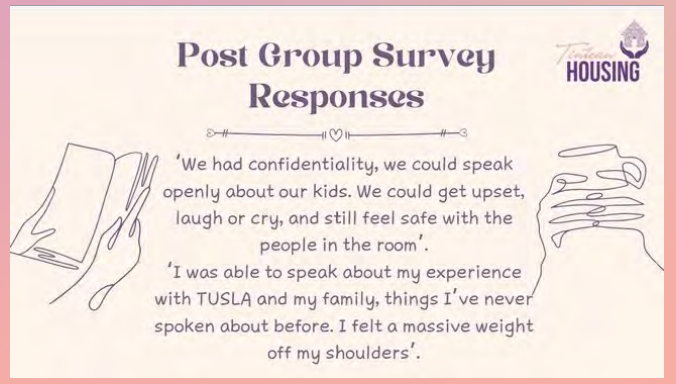
SAOL NUA

HOUSING

Motherhood

- Support Group weekly for mothers separated from their children: A Mothers Hope

- Parents Under Pressure (PUP) delivered in-house 1-1 and group



SAOL NUA

Safety

- Environmental Safety
- Physical Safety
- Psychological Safety

Tintean HOUSING

I see somewhere warm and comfortable to put my head down. It makes me feel safe and secure. I know I have somewhere safe to go when I go home at night.

This is important to me because I am not on the streets, where I was constantly worrying and looking over my shoulder all the time– not feeling safe.

This affected my mental health and my addiction got worse, when I was on the street. It brought me to the lowest point of my life, and there was no help. I lost my kids and everything because of the homelessness and addiction, because I had nowhere to live. Then there's the shame-people talking about it...

Because of a lack of housing for people with different needs, especially with mental health difficulties.

Mná le Chéile: A Coalition for Change

Key design principles:

1. Accessibility
2. Visibility
3. Adaptability
4. Cultural Competency
5. Responsiveness
6. Collaborative
7. Inclusivity
8. Lived experience & Learned experience

Video :from the Mna le Cheile Change Event

Next Steps for Mná le Cheile

- Website as a one stop shop for all women and girls in Ireland
- Directory of services available in each County across the Country
- Ensuring a gendered lens in Service provision
- Shared Manifesto highlighting the need for policy change and service provision
- Opportunity for action with the upcoming General Election

Thank You!

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18TH JUNE 2024

Women striving
in homelessness services

Julia Schratz | lilawohnt | FEANTSA Forum June 2024

www.lilawohnt.at

lilawohnt
sein können

- supporting homeless women with and without children since 1984
- based in Tyrol (Austria)
- working with around 1000 women per year
- preventing homelessness through counseling
- assisted living, co-housing and Housing First
- specific mother-children-services
- Women‘s shelter
- Peer Programme
- around 40 employees

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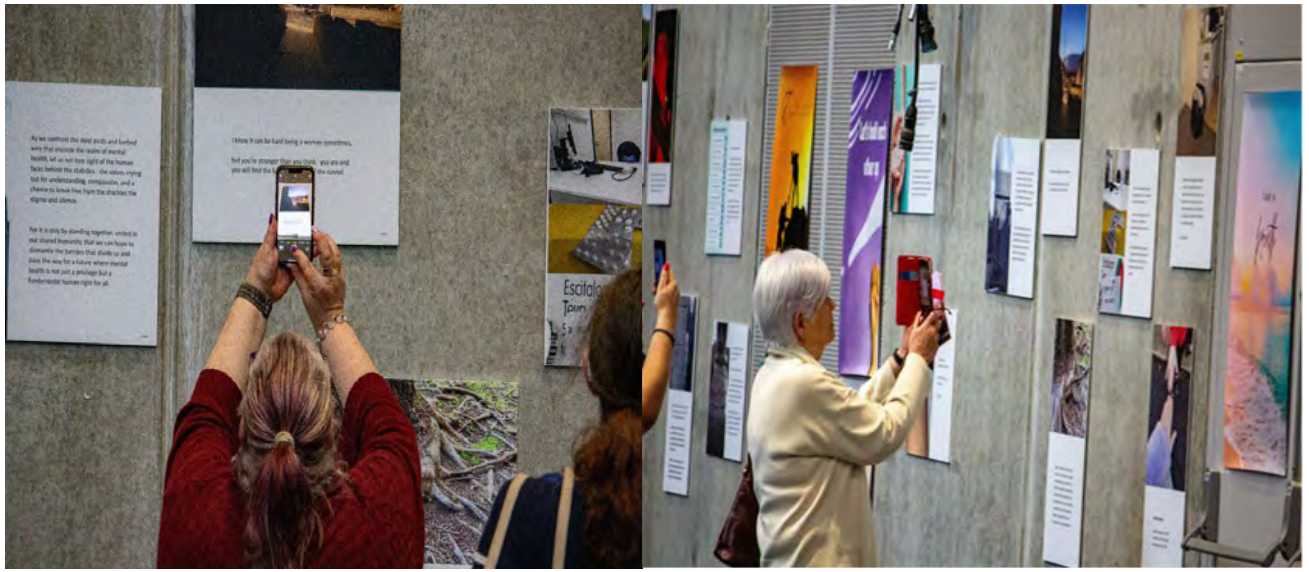


Co-production Of Knowledge – Using Visual Voices To Improve The Lives Of Homeless Women

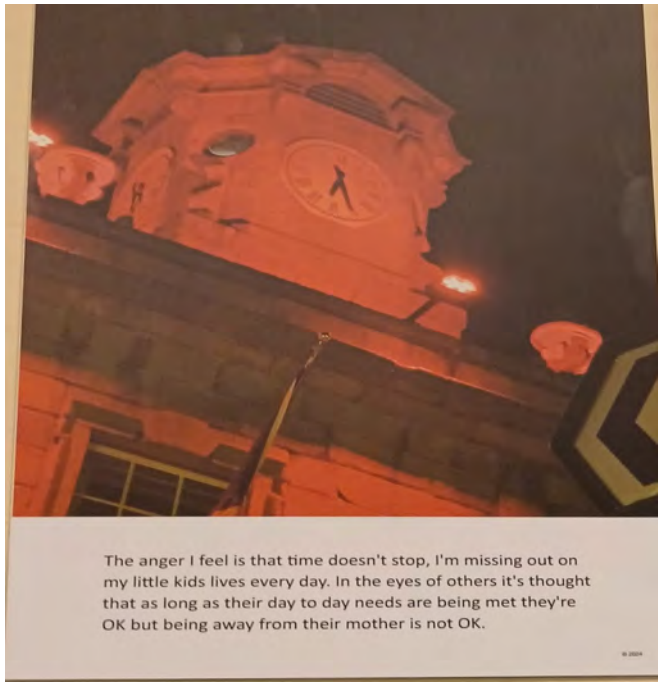
Dr Méabh Savage SETU Waterford

msavage@wit.ie.

Visual Voices Methodology

‘the use of people’s photographic documentation of their everyday lives as an educational tool to record and reflect their needs, promote dialogue, encourage action and inform policy’ (Wang and Burris 1994, p.171-172).

‘aims…to bring new or seldom-heard ideas, images, conversations, and voices into the public forum’ (Wang and Redmond-Jones 2001, p.561).



Visual Voices is a

- Form of empowerment education, based on feminist principles, which seek to raise women's voices, centre their participation and promote collective knowledge construction to bring about social change.

- When using this method, the documentary photographs act as a mirror to the women's worlds and as a way for them to name and reflect on the inequalities shaping their lives.

- The words and images expressed by the women form the curriculum for further learning, as the photographs portray the women's lives as they see it (Wang and Burris 1994).

The Process
Problem-posing Group Work & Some Variations

Involved working with two groups of women- one group with living experience of homelessness and the other with lived and living experience of substance use and mental health recovery.

- In-person (7 sessions) and online (2 sessions) and exhibition

Themes for photos:

- To relate aspects of their lives- a day in the life; lived experience of homelessness
- The meaning of anger as experienced by the women
- Experiences of accessing services as a woman/mother.
- These were themes that had been previously identified in the symposium

Critical Reflection

What do you see here?	
What is really happening?	
How does this relate to your/our lives?	
Why does this problem or strength exist?	
What can we do about it?	

Exhibition phase – awareness-raising- creating a curriculum for social change

Group Work

- Safety – Emotional; psychological, physical safety, valuing relationships, building trust, providing an empowering environment
- Motherhood – recognizing and supporting women as mothers, an important part of their identity
- Feelings of shame –discrimination and multiple stigmas women hold, gender roles, societal expectations, their impact on how women experience homelessness (hiding, in fear of being judged, avoiding services)

Safety

- How do homeless women experience safety?
- How can policy address women's safety?
- How can practice address women's safety? (service design and delivery)

Motherhood

- How do homeless women experience motherhood?
- How can policy address motherhood?
- How can practice address motherhood? (service design and delivery)

Feelings of shame

- How do homeless women experience feelings of shame?
- How can policy address the feelings of shame?
- How can practice address the feelings of shame? (service design and delivery)

18th June 2024, Vienna

MY CALL TO ACTION

FEANTSA FORUM workshop on women's homelessness

FEANTSA WOMEN

As a participant in the 2024 FEANTSA FORUM women's homelessness workshop, my one call to action to create an environment where women in homelessness are enabled to thrive is ...

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Thank you!

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