



The Campaign

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is a global campaign launched by the United Nations, calling for urgent action to end violence against women and girls. In 2024, the campaign centred around the theme No Excuse, highlighting the need to challenge justifications and systemic failures that enable gender-based violence.

This year, FEANTSA joined the initiative, focusing on the intersection between gender-based violence and women's homelessness. As gender-based violence is a leading cause of homelessness among women, our campaign aimed to raise awareness, share key data, and highlight good practices. Through our messaging, we reinforced that there is no excuse for policies that neglect the safety and housing needs of women suffering violence. The messages were shared on FEANTSA's social media, mainly Instagram, LinkedIn and X.

The #16Days campaign runs for #16Days, starting on the 25th of November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and ending on the 10th of December, International Human Rights Day.

Day 1 - 25 November

25 November
International Day for the
Elimination of Violence
Against Women

#NoExcuse #16Days



Today, the 25th of November, is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

It marks the beginning of the UN's #16Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

During these 16 days we will be raising awareness about the relationship between #GBV and #WomensHomelessness, sharing resources and good practices

There is #NoExcuse for violence against women

Days 2 & 3

#NoExcuse #16Days

Trauma-informed Gynaecological Care

For women experiencing
homelessness in Budapest

Budapesti Módszertani
Szociális Központ
és Intézményei



In October 2022, BMSZKI launched
Hungary's first trauma-informed
gynaecological care facility for
women experiencing
homelessness.

The service is designed around the
needs of women who have suffered
trauma and abuse, integrating
health and social care in a
supportive, holistic environment.

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The foundational principle is
that anyone entering may
carry scars that complicate
their visit.

The care is designed to heal
trauma rather than to bring
it to the surface or deepen it.

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How can a gynaecological service be trauma-informed?

- Sufficient time for every consultation
- Easy to understand communication
- Detailed information about the examination
- Lockable changing rooms, showers, examination gowns
- Free access to medicines, contraceptives and vitamins
- Only women allowed in the service

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What can we learn from the BMSKI Trauma-informed Gynaecological Service?

Women experiencing homelessness
were consulted in advance during
the planning process.

Their experiences, gathered through
needs assessments, interviews, focus
group discussions, and women's groups,
were integrated into the design and
operation of the care.

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Days 6 & 7

● [#16Days](#) of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, today sharing an initiative from Germany: [@housing_first_fuer_frauen](#)

Housing First for Women Berlin provides homes for women experiencing [#homelessness](#) and their children if they are mothers, offering them their own tenancy agreements while making available support o request from a multi-professional team.

!!They emphasise choice and autonomy: every woman decides how to live and is considered an expert in her own life.

Core Principles:

- ◆ Housing as a Basic Right: Ensuring every woman has access to safe, decent housing.
- ◆ Empowerment through Choice: Women choose their own living situations and the extent of support they receive.
- ◆ Long-term Commitment: Support is available indefinitely, adapting to each woman's evolving needs.
- ◆ Holistic Approach: Combining housing assistance with emotional and psychological support to foster healing and stability.

✔ Achievements:

Successfully housed 114 women and their children since the start of the programme 6 years ago. Maintained a housing stability rate of 98%, a testament to the programme's effectiveness.



Days 8 & 9



● As part of our [#16Days](#) of Activism campaign, today we feature a peer work initiative from Austria: Peer training "because I experienced it myself" for women with [#homelessness](#) experience, by [@lilawohnt](#)

This training is designed for women who have faced homelessness, often linked to experiences of gender-based violence. Upon completion, participants can apply their lived experiences by working as peers in the homelessness sector, offering support that is rooted in empathy and shared experiences.

➔ Women with experience of homelessness gain more employment opportunities and the chance to have a positive impact through peer work

➔ Organisations benefit from the inclusion of peer team members, learning how to improve their services through real-life perspectives

Days 10 & 11

● As part of our hashtag [#16Days](#) campaign, today we spotlight an initiative from Vienna aimed at promoting health for women experiencing [#homelessness](#), families & young adults.



◆ The Frauengesundheitszentrum FEM at the Institut für Frauen- und Männergesundheit (Women's health centre at the Institute for Women's and Men's Health) delivers outreach (psychological) counselling and health promotion in group settings for women and children who live in homelessness services.

F.E.M operates with these core principles:

- By women for women
- Participation
- Empowerment
- Anonymous
- Body, mind, social net
- Interdisciplinary
- Customised service
- Respect for different professions
- Professional discretion
- Qualified employees

This initiative not only enhances the overall health of participants but also equips local service staff with skills in health care and promotion, fostering a network of support across sectors.

💡 Key Takeaway: Integrating health services with direct outreach effectively addresses the complex needs of women and families experiencing homelessness, ensuring they receive holistic, respectful, and empowering support.

A few weeks ago, Veronika Götz, clinical and health psychologist at F.E.M., and Heike Lindstedt, shiatsu practitioner and psychotherapist at F.E.M., discussed their work in a FEANTSA Women's webinar. The recording is now available  



Days 13 & 14

● As we continue our #16Days of Activism campaign, we turn our focus to a homelessness prevention initiative from Scotland: Fund to Leave, developed by Policy Scotland.

Women leaving abusive relationships often face financial dependence and social isolation, making it difficult to escape violence. Many are at risk of homelessness due to a lack of resources, forcing them to return to their abuser out of necessity. Fund to Leave provides direct financial support, enabling women to plan a secure departure and build independent lives.

- ◆ Immediate Financial Assistance – Women can apply for up to £1,000 to cover essential costs.
- ◆ Preventing Homelessness – Financial support enables emergency relocation, transport, and replacing damaged belongings.
- ◆ Gender-Informed Approach – Recognising that financial stability is crucial in ensuring a permanent exit from abusive situations.
- ◆ Cross-Sector Collaboration – Working with local authorities and support services to ensure comprehensive protection.

Impact:

- ◆ Piloted across 5 Local Authorities with the highest rates of women fleeing domestic abuse.
- ◆ 511 applications approved in 12-13 weeks, supporting 1,109 people (including 589 children).
- ◆ Helped women leave or secure safe housing, reducing the risk of homelessness.

This initiative proves that material support is as vital as legal and psychological support—because escaping abuse should never be a financial impossibility.

Day 15 & 16

● As part of our #16Days of Activism campaign, today we highlight The Connect Hub, a women-led community and support centre in Glasgow, developed by Simon Community Scotland.

Women experiencing homelessness often face complex challenges linked to trauma, gender-based violence, and social exclusion. The Connect Hub provides a safe, gender-informed space where women can access tailored support, build skills, and foster meaningful connections.

- ◆ Holistic & Trauma-Informed Support – Addressing practical and psychological needs through person-centred care.
- ◆ Co-Designed with Women – Developed alongside women with lived experience, ensuring their voices shape services.
- ◆ Collaborative & Cross-Sector Approach – Partnering with 25+ organisations to provide physical, emotional, sexual, and mental health support.
- ◆ Empowerment through Learning & Creativity – Offering peer support, psychoeducational programmes, and opportunities in the creative arts.

Impact:

- ✦ In 2023, provided safe spaces for 75 women to engage in group work and peer-led support.
- ✦ Steering group of six women with lived experience helped design The Connect Hub.
- ✦ Supports 39 women daily through residential services, outreach, and drop-in support.

By centering women's needs and experiences, The Connect Hub is more than a service—it's a movement towards systemic change in how homelessness support is designed and delivered for women.