

16h00 – 17h30

**Plenary Session II (Room: AUDITORIUM) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE**

16h00 – 16h30



**John Sylvestre, CA: Expert Perspectives on the Evolution of Housing First**

*John Sylvestre, Canada, is a Full Professor in the School of Psychology and a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Research on Educational and Community Services, at the University of Ottawa. His interests lie in the study and evaluation of community mental health programs, with a particular interest in homelessness and poverty. His recent work focuses on community development and social change strategies in social housing.*

This presentation reports on findings from interviews with 27 individuals with diverse expertise in Housing First from the United States, Canada, and across Europe. Findings showed that the participants were near unanimous in their assessment that the evidence in support of Housing First is a core strength. Experts pointed to changes in practice, mental health systems, and policy, as a result of the implementation of Housing First, as other achievements. Experts were also clear on a number of challenges associated with Housing First. For example, they noted that when Housing First functions as a standalone program, rather than being integrated within a more comprehensive homelessness strategy its impact can be limited. Whereas all experts agreed on the importance of fidelity in the implementation of Housing First, they differed in their views of the flexibility required to successfully implement Housing First. Finally, notable differences were identified between North American and European participants in their views of the future prospects of Housing First.

17h00 – 17h30



**Ruth Owen, BE: 15 years' work on ending homelessness in Europe: An Honest Assessment**

*Ruth Owen, Belgium, is Deputy Director at FEANTSA (European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless), where she had worked since 2010. She is an expert on homelessness and public policies to address it, notably in European contexts. She has a special interest in housing policy. Prior to working on homelessness, Ruth studied geography and worked as a teacher in London.*

Ruth Owen will draw on FEANTSA's experience of advocating for evidence-based homelessness policy and practice in Europe, and the role of research therein. She will share some frank reflections on achievements, frustrations, and lessons for the future.

**Questions & Closing of the conference**

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Thursday, 17h30 – 19h00 Friday, all

breaks

Room: Aula

### **Nienke Boesveldt, Thalia Iola Suranyi Correll, Marie-Louise Janssen, NL: A Minority Stress Analysis of LGBTQ+ Homelessness in the Netherlands**

This study focuses on trajectories into homelessness among LGBTQ+ individuals in the Netherlands. Based on the secondary analysis of 1,046 semi-structured interviews with 454 homeless adults conducted between 2018 and 2023, we identified 30 interviews with 14 participants who spontaneously mentioned their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Analysis of their narratives shows that sexual/gender minorities experience a unique combination of social stressors—social stigma, bullying, violence, decay of social networks, isolation—that over time increases their chances of mental health problems, substance abuse, the avoidance of available services, and becoming and remaining homeless. To address homelessness among the LGBTQ+ population, we recommend improving outreach in youth care, ensuring continuity of care into adulthood, and raising awareness on homo- and transphobia among staff in homeless shelters.



*Thalia Iola Suranyi Correll MSc is a recent Master's degree graduate at University of Amsterdam, in Sociology. Her undergraduate degree in Sociology was completed at University of Massachusetts, Boston. She is currently stepping into her career in academia with her first publication. She hopes to find funding to continue this project as a PhD applicant. She is currently working as a Junior Lecturer in the Sociology department at the University of Amsterdam.*



*Dr. Nienke Boesveldt has been a valorisation-driven teacher and researcher for 25 years. Her experience comes from her PhD on the Governance of Homelessness at Vu University Amsterdam, previous work experience at Utrecht University, municipalities and research institutes and her current projects at the University of Amsterdam. From 2018 on she has been coordinating (partly peer led) longitudinal data collection on homelessness and protected housing from both service user and professional perspective.*



*Dr. Marie-Louise Janssen got her master degree in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam in 1991. In 2007 she received her PhD with the title: Sex Workers on the Move. Latin American Women in the European Sex Industry. Marie-Louise Janssen lectures in the areas of gender and sexuality studies, social sciences and research methods and techniques at the department of Sociology of the University of Amsterdam, and has published extensively on the intersection of sex work, migration and human trafficking.*

### **Laura Phillips-Farmer, UK: Homelessness Experiences by Voicemail: How Cisgender-Heterosexual and LGBTQ+ People Narrate Their Homelessness in the Absence of Stakeholders**

#### Introduction

Approaches to UK homelessness in research and support services has typically positioned people experiencing homelessness as a homogenous group, often siphoning their experiences into topics of vulnerabilities and marginalisation (Trimingham, 2015). The LGBTQ+ community face the same challenges in maintaining agency and individuality.

#### Methods

An anonymous voicemail study was developed to gather personal stories of pathways into homelessness. Participants were asked to describe what led to their homelessness for as long or little as they liked, including any information they felt like was relevant. Six cisgender-heterosexual people and four LGBTQ+ people recorded voice messages ranging