



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE DERECHOS SOCIALES, CONSUMO
Y AGENDA 2030

WOMEN'S HOMELESSNESS IN FOCUS

A call for gendered policies in the EU

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05.11.24

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Women's homelessness: Context

- The **proportion of homeless women in Spain has increased** to 23.3% (2022) compared to 19.7% in 2012 (Spanish Institute of Statistics-INE, EPSH-2022)
- In Spain, since 2012 there has been an increase of 68.61% in the number of homeless **people who have lost their home less than a month ago**. This growth has been more evident in the female population (**121.90%**) than in the male population (45.10%) (INE-EPSH, 2022)
- Despite this, homeless women remain **largely hidden** from our view.

Women's homelessness: Context (2)

- Specialised homelessness services are **failing to respond to women with complex needs.**
- Homeless women have a **diagnosed illness in 43.6%** of cases, compared to 35.5% of men. (INE-EPSH, 2022)
- **67.8%** of homeless women **report suffering from depressive symptoms**, compared to 58.8% of men. (INE-EPSH, 2022)
- Homeless women have been victims, to a greater extent, of **insults and threats** (36.1% vs. 34.2%) and **sexual assaults** (11.1% vs. 2.2%) (INE-EPSH, 2022)

Women and housing in Spain

- Serious **housing crisis in Spain**, particularly affecting renting: +10,2% in rent price between september 2023 and september 2024 (Idealista)
- **Six out of 10 tenants are women**
- **84%** of tenants **between 18 and 24** years old are **women** (Fotocasa)
- Female-headed households are more likely to be close to the poverty line: **60% after paying rent** (Provivienda)
- Women have lower salaries and less capacity to generate income, so they have objectively **fewer resources to access housing**.

Precio del alquiler en España

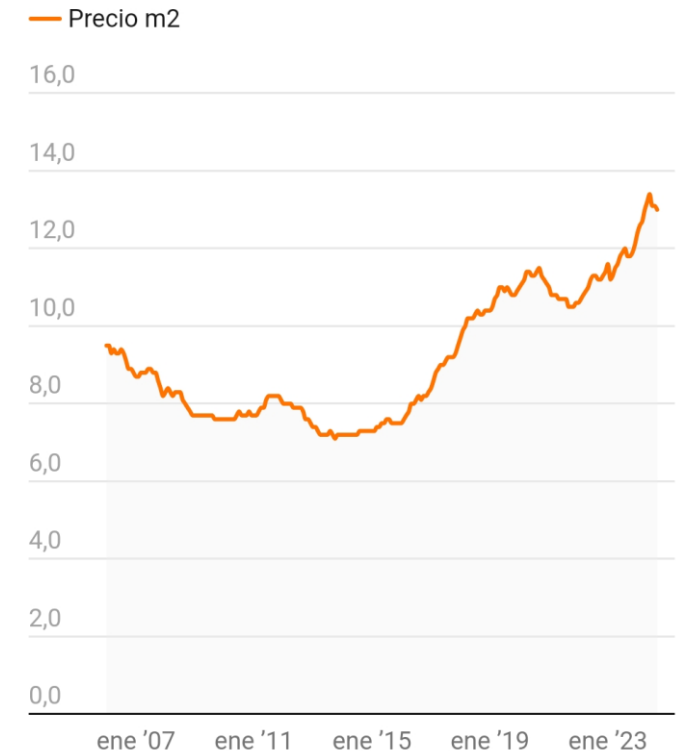


Gráfico: Bankinter • Fuente: [Idealista](#) • Creado con [Datawrapper](#)

Women homelessness and violence

- **60%** of homeless women have **experienced gender-based violence**. Violence is at the heart of homeless women's lives (Asociación Aires, 2019)
- **22%** of homeless women highlight that having suffered gender-based violence has been the **main cause of their situation**. (Spanish Institute of Statistics-INE)
- Serious **difficulties** for women who suffer from gender-based violence **to access alternative housing** (In Spain, 11,5% of women suffered from economic violence-Ministry of Equality, 2024)



The Spanish Strategy to combat homelessness 2023-2030

- It aims to contribute to the **objectives of the Lisbon Declaration**.
- Strong focus on **prevention**.
- Committed to the deinstitutionalisation and transformation of the homeless care sector.
- It proposes an integral vision that articulates the care system to the full exercise of **citizenship** and the full **enjoyment of human rights**.
- Committed to the generation of **knowledge, innovation** and **evidence-based** decisions.

Principles

- Prevention and early care
- Personalisation: person-centred care and self-determination
- De-institutionalisation: transition to community living
- Housing-centred
- **Gender and intersectional approach**
- Innovation
- Public accountability

Objectives and lines for action

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	LINES
<p>1- Preventing the chronification of street homelessness</p>	<p>1.3- Development of protocols, resources, teams and itineraries to address and provide specialised care for homeless women living on the street.</p> <p>1.4- Promotion of training and awareness-raising programmes for professional teams working in women's protection networks.</p>
<p>2- Preventing and providing a rapid response to street situations in the most at-risk profiles and in newcomers to the homeless care system.</p>	<p>2.1- Elaboration of protocols for coordination with services for women victims of gender-based violence.</p> <p>2.2- Design and implementation of mechanisms to identify street violence, especially violence suffered by women.</p> <p>2.3- Define stable and sufficiently supported alternatives for homeless women victims of violence and homeless women with children.</p> <p>2-4- Developing early detection and risk assessment mechanisms for homeless women victims of gender-based violence.</p>

Objectives and lines for action

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	LINES
3- Protecting the right to housing	3.5- Development of specific lines of support and aid to favour homeless women's access to adequate housing.
5- Ensuring the right to health and well-being, especially for those most in need of support in mental health, addictions, disability and protection from gender-based violence, trafficking and prostitution.	5.8- Development of specialised programmes for homeless women, aimed at health promotion, psychological care, and sexual and reproductive health.
6- Preventing discrimination, criminalisation, hate crimes and gender-based violence against homeless people.	6.2- Implementation of information services, legal support and rapid legal reporting mechanisms in cases of sexual assault or hate crimes against homeless people.

Objectives and lines for action

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	LINES
<p>8- Providing housing solutions and personalised support to homeless people</p>	<p>8.3- Mainstream gender and intersectional perspectives in methodologies, resources and infrastructures, providing safe spaces for homeless women.</p> <p>8.4- Strengthen coordination to promote access for homeless women to care systems for victims of gender-based violence, trafficking and prostitution.</p> <p>8.13- Development of awareness-raising and training programmes to address the gender perspective and sexual diversity in the homeless sector.</p>
<p>11- Improving information systems on homelessness</p>	<p>11.2- Promote the improvement of research and information systems associated with homelessness, including hidden homelessness, gender-based violence experienced by women, people with sexual and gender diversity or people with dual pathology problems.</p>

Objectives and lines for action

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	LINES
12- Promoting innovation and transfer of learning in policies to combat homelessness	12.4- Visibility, scaling up and incorporation of learning from ongoing innovative projects in the development of personalised care methodologies with a gender perspective.



Conclusions

- Need for early identification and intervention to prevent overnight stays on the streets or to get out of the situation as quickly as possible, especially for the most vulnerable women
- Develop coordination protocols with other care systems for vulnerable women (at risk of homelessness).
- Implement awareness-raising and training programmes for different professionals in the detection and care responses for women's homelessness, as well as gender and intersectional approach in the homelessness sector.
- Prevent, diagnose, care for and legal report any type of violence against homeless women.

Conclusions (2)

- Develop specialised programmes and tailored housing-based responses to address women's homelessness. Incorporate gender approach into homelessness services.
- Improve knowledge of hidden homelessness, including female homelessness.
- Promote innovation in responses to women's homelessness.
- Incorporate a transversal gender perspective across the objectives, lines and actions linked to the Strategy itself (participation, governance, active inclusion, ...)



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Thanks for your attention!

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