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Chapter 1 : Housing associations should fight harder to end the abuse of women | Housing Network | The C

This study critically examines the role of housing associations in responding to the needs of women who have become homeless due to domestic violence. The study will fill a gap in the literature for academic staff and students interested in housing studies, social policy, sociology, women.

Table of Contents Conclusion The study of the relationship between family violence and homelessness is at an early stage. The nature of both issues poses significant challenges to researchers as well as policy makers. Among those challenges are the often nebulous and sometimes overlapping definitions of the various categories of homelessness. As well, the hidden status of many of those who fall into either group – both the homeless and the victims of family violence – restricts our ability to know the full extent of either population or the full nature of their circumstances and histories. Recent research has identified many questions that warrant attention. However, this literature review illustrates that a base of crucial knowledge about the relationship between family violence and homelessness has already been developed. We know that the profile of the homeless population is changing and that increasingly the issue of family violence is identified as a contributing factor – either as an immediate precipitant for homeless people fleeing abusive relationships or as an earlier, childhood experience, the long-term consequences of which include a pattern of chronic or repetitive homelessness in adulthood. The evidence summarized in this review makes a strong case for the conclusion that family violence – in the forms of both spouse abuse and child maltreatment – is a significant contributing factor regarding a great deal of the homelessness that exists in Canada today. Those research findings also point to the need to ensure that services and facilities established to serve homeless people are sensitive to the realities and consequences of family violence and adequately resourced to respond appropriately. Those services must also be culturally sensitive to the particular realities of Aboriginal, immigrant and racial minority populations. The findings also underline the continuing need for adequate, long-term and affordable housing options that can be offered to victims of family violence. There is evidence that this response – provision of safe and stable housing – may be as valuable to the prevention of the recurrence of family violence as are other forms of prevention and intervention activity. The importance of adequate housing is also highlighted by the evidence that poor housing and living conditions may themselves give rise to or exacerbate violence in domestic relationships. It is also appreciated that, especially for street youth, the culture that accompanies their homeless lifestyle can have a harmful psychological effect that can be increasingly difficult to reverse as time goes by. It is hoped that these and other conclusions implied by the literature will form the foundation for the future work of researchers, program managers, policy makers and legislators. An educational package – Violence against women and children in relationships and the use of alcohol and drugs. Ambrosio, Eileen, et al. The Street Health Report: A study of the health status and barriers to health care of homeless women and men in the City of Toronto. Youth homelessness in the European Union. Bassuk, Ellen and Jennifer Perloff. The insidious impact of violence," Housing Policy Debate 12, 2 Bassuk, Ellen, et al. Homeless in beautiful B. New Star Books, Besserer, Sandra, et al. A profile of criminal victimization: Results of the General Social Survey. Boyd, Monica and Doug Norris. Young adults at home," Canadian Social Trends 52 Spring Breton, Margot and Terry Bunston. Brown, Joyce and Diana Capponi. First and Third World Perspectives. Edited by Hemalata Dandekar. George Wahr Publishing, The relevance of trauma histories in the lives of homeless women," American Journal of Ortho- psychiatry 63, 3 a: Bufkin, Jana and Judith Bray. Finding the connection and addressing the problem," Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless 7, 4 Burt, Martha, et al. Programs and the people they serve. Prepared for the Interagency Council on the Homeless. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, Children and youth in homeless families: Shelter spaces and services. Special studies on Census data: Research Highlights Socio- economic series Transition houses and shelters for abused women The street lifestyle study. Charlebois, Carol, et al. A study of rooming house conditions in downtown and South End

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Chapter 2 : Building Futures with Women and Children - free from homelessness and family violence

This study critically examines the role of housing associations in responding to the needs of women who have become homeless due to domestic violence. The study will fill a gap in the literature for academic staff and students interested in housing studies, social policy, sociology, women's.

One of the biggest challenges for Aisha Sharif has been to change attitudes towards domestic abuse. Changing procedure Housing associations and other affiliated agencies have been letting down women who have experienced domestic violence. A lack of real understanding of domestic violence means women are sometimes interrogated in open spaces about traumatic experiences, even in front of their children. Others simply slip through the gaps and only surface when their situation has become high risk. When residents heard shouting they saw it purely as a nuisance and reported it as anti-social behaviour. There was often still a pervading feeling that domestic abuse was a private matter. All those with direct customer contact were trained to spot the signs of domestic abuse. Issues such as rent arrears, noise nuisance and repeat repairs are now all flagged to the anti-social behaviour team to investigate. The dramatic increase has come from getting people to look at the situation in a different way. I remember one young woman who was well known to Viridian. She was 22, with two very young children, and in a long-term relationship with a known gang member. When he visited the house, he caused havoc. Her case had initially been treated as anti-social behaviour, as neighbours complained of loud music and shouting. Many had found her difficult to deal with because she was forthright and argumentative. When I met her I realised she was actually an intelligent woman who was terrified of having her children taken away. The key was to work with her to find a solution. It meant getting the right people around the table, including the police, health visitor and the neighbours. A protection order was put in place to give police the power to arrest her partner if he came to the house. The women who escape domestic abuse but lose their social housing We also worked to secure the property and damage caused by the abuse was quickly repaired. The young woman was given a device that calls the police when shaken. The best solution would have been to move her, but many women who have experienced domestic violence find this difficult. Eventually we were able to move the woman and her children from the home because she believed it was the right thing to do. We have also managed to reduce the time it takes to tackle the problem from 14 months, to an average of seven and a half weeks. We have also made our existing properties safer by installing security devices and we are taking a stronger stance against the perpetrators of domestic violence – we have pursued restraining orders, non-molestation orders and imposed acceptable behaviour contracts. There are some incredibly rewarding moments when you work in domestic violence services, but there are low points, too. We all need to work better together, to educate and empower our colleagues to spot and act when they are faced with domestic abuse, and help people build better and safer lives. Aisha Sharif is the domestic abuse project officer for Viridian Housing. Join the Guardian Housing Network to read more pieces like this and follow us on Twitter GuardianHousing to keep up with the latest social housing insight and analysis.

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Chapter 3 : The women who escape domestic abuse but lose their social housing | Housing Network | The

Housing associations are central to the government's strategy to improve social housing yet have no direct statutory responsibility for rehousing homeless people. This study critically examines the role of housing associations in responding to the needs of women who have become homeless due to domestic violence.

This page looks at common housing problems faced by people with limited leave to remain who are fleeing domestic violence. References to case law and relevant legislation and regulations are included. What are the housing and housing benefit rights of people fleeing domestic violence? The page on people fleeing domestic violence deals specifically with those who have arrived to join a UK national or settled with indefinite leave to remain husband, cohabitee or civil partner, and can no longer stay in the relationship because of violence. Before, those applying for indefinite leave under the domestic violence rule were not eligible for a housing allocation, homelessness services or benefits until they got the leave. The policy allows the applicant to apply to the Home Office for a three-month grant of leave outside the immigration rules to enable them to make an application for ILR under the domestic violence rule. It carries no conditions as to recourse to public funds and so enables the holder to apply for housing benefit and related passported benefits. This is made explicit in the guidance issued by the Home Office. For housing and homelessness services: Other people fleeing domestic violence have different rights and options. Some of these are covered below. Anyone fleeing violence can get housing association accommodation, but may face problems if they cannot pay the rent because they are not eligible for benefits. Their website offers a directory of organisations that can help women fleeing violence and they also help run the Domestic Violence 24 hour Helpline - Their services are open to all. EEA nationals Husbands, wives and civil partners of EEA nationals retain their right to reside as family members while the legal relationship continues and also may retain it when it ends. There are special rules that enable this for those fleeing violence: Cohabitees of EEA nationals may face more difficulties because once the relationship has ended they can no longer rely on it to give them rights. They may, however, have other EEA rights: See other EEA nationals for more on this. Contact the AIRE centre if you have similar cases. Refugees, etc Husbands, wives, civil partners and cohabitees of refugees and people with humanitarian protection or discretionary or exceptional leave to remain usually get the same leave as their partner, and so are eligible for a housing allocation, homelessness services and housing benefit. There are specific procedures to help asylum seekers who need to flee domestic abuse within Home Office asylum support accommodation. See the section on what other organisations can help for refugee agencies who can advise on this. Temporary admission is not sufficient because it does not amount to a right to reside *Yesiloz v LB Camden*. All other people with limited leave to remain Partners of people with limited leave to remain are expected to leave the UK if the relationship ends. If homeless and destitute they may be able to get short-term accommodation and support from social services if children or vulnerable adults are involved, and this may include assistance with returning home. This right is known as a Zambrano right after the case that established it. In some cases it may be possible to apply for leave to remain on the basis of family or private life, and also to ask for such leave to allow recourse to public funds. It is important to get expert legal advice about which of these options is suitable for each case as this is a developing area of law. Parents with a Zambrano right can approach the Home Office and ask for confirmation of the right to live in the UK, which will be granted a right to reside under regulation 15A 4A of the EEA regulations, but this is not issued to parents where another carer may be available for the child e. Domestic violence may, of course, affect the likelihood of this, and parents in this situation should get expert legal advice especially as this is a new area of law and still in development. A person looking after children can apply to the local authority social services department. They have powers to fund accommodation and support under the Children Act. In general, such applications may result at best in an offer to fund the return home, unless the applicant has a strong reason to remain in the UK. If that is the case, it is best to get good immigration advice first, since an application to stay in the UK may then either create some option for

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accommodation and support as an asylum seeker or be the reason why social services should accommodate while the application to stay is pending. Getting help from social services for a vulnerable adult A person who needs active support and involvement because they are traumatised by the violence may be able to get help under community care provisions.

Chapter 4 : Advising People Fleeing Domestic Violence | Housing Rights Information (England & Wales)

Policy makers and housing practitioners should read this book and take note of how housing policy, and the housing management service in associations, needs to change to provide a meaningful service to women who have become homeless because of domestic violence.

Chapter 5 : Conclusion: Family Violence and Homelessness: A Review of the Literature - calendrierdelasci

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This study critically examines the role of housing associations in responding to the needs of women who have become homeless due to domestic violence.