

## 58<sup>th</sup> Session of CSocD – Side Event (February 17<sup>th</sup> 11.30 am to 12.45pm)

### Housing: An Important Determinant of Health - A Concept Note

Homelessness is a national and international crisis. Even in developed countries like USA, Canada and EU countries, about 1% of population is homeless and 10% are children below the age of 15. Women and families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, with 34% of the total homeless population composed of families. Successful delivery of the cost-effective interventions requires the integrated efforts of several health and social programs – particularly those targeted at women and children – and strengthening health systems and food security, increased community awareness and financial investments.

Healthcare for homeless-population is a challenging but an important issue that needs to be addressed. It is essential to undertake efforts to prevent homelessness, to expand community-based services, and to provide adequate healthcare for this underserved population. The Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) recommendations and initiatives on how to promote poverty-reduction strategies, homelessness, improve social protection programs and affordable healthcare for vulnerable population are:

1. Preventing Homelessness;
2. For healthcare providers: Identify patients within the practice who may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and provide healthcare for this population without bias.
3. Improved coordination between community programs and specific healthcare services such as prenatal care, cervical cancer screening, immunizations, mental health, substance abuse, and management for sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis.
4. Modified residency and medical student curricula to increase awareness of healthcare issues of homeless individuals and promote involvement in direct care.
5. Indexing the minimum wage locally to the cost of housing.
6. Adequate disability benefits for those who are unable to work.
7. Increase access to long-acting reversible contraceptives.
8. Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Concept Note– WHEC's Written Statement, published by CSocD for 58<sup>th</sup> Session, UN Document: E/CN.5/2020/NGO/60

[http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/CSocD\\_2020\\_Written\\_Statement.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/CSocD_2020_Written_Statement.pdf)

Realizing the right to health and wellbeing of all people by acting on existing gender inequalities and their complex determinants is challenging. We all at WHEC believe, adopting this agenda will accelerate progress for all people, in all their diversities, to realize to their fullest potential, their right to health and wellbeing across their life course.

Join the initiatives!  
We welcome everyone.

