



Homeless Link



Gendered Lens Framework

How is homelessness gendered?



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Prolonged experiences of poverty (esp. as heads of single parent families)

Recent and historic **experiences of trauma**

Domestic abuse 'almost unanimous'

Experiences of **child removal** extremely common

More extreme support needs at point of contact– spanning physical and mental health

More likely to incur **short prison sentences** for low-level offences

Patterns of homelessness



Rough sleeping

- Short stints
- Often disguised, out of the way, or with others
- High risk of violence

Hidden homelessness

- 'Staying with friends' – high-risk, precarious accommodation
- Sex working and staying with clients
- Resting on public transport

Repeat homelessness

- Short stays in hostels
- Exclusions or evictions
- Limited, guarded engagement with services

Women's homelessness project 2021 – 2024



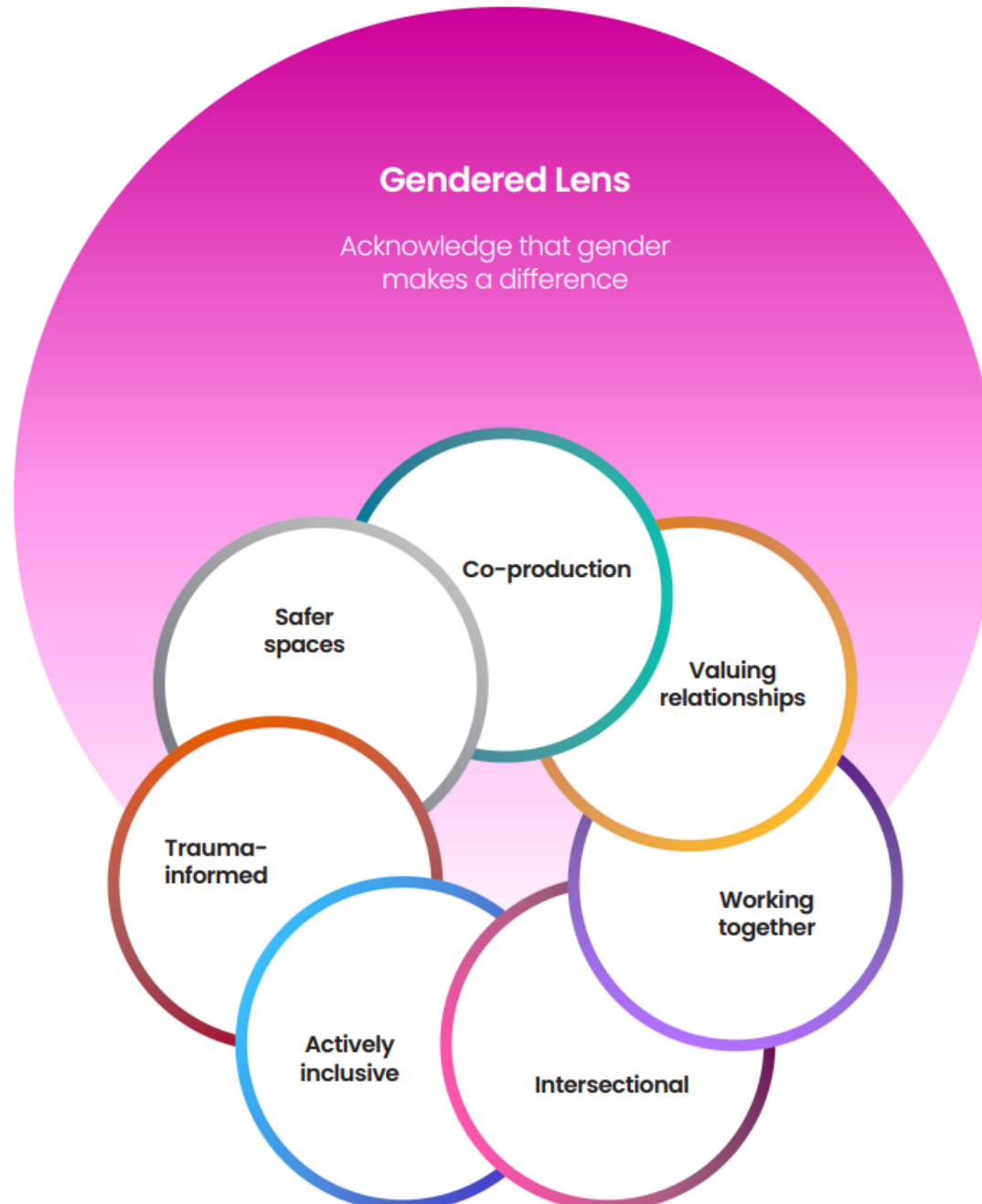
A screenshot of the Homeless Link website. The top navigation bar includes the Homeless Link logo, "About us", "Jobs", "In-Form", a search icon, "Find a service", and "Donate". Below this is a secondary navigation bar with "Areas of expertise", "What we do", "Knowledge Hub", "Events and training", and "News". The main heading is "Ending women's homelessness". A teal navigation bar below the heading contains "What's the difference?", "Supporting women", "All women are different", "Responding to Domestic Abuse", and "Guidance". The content area features the sub-heading "Women's Homelessness - What's the difference?" followed by two columns of text. The first column discusses how women experience homelessness differently from men, noting unique triggers and experiences. The second column states that women are less likely to be visibly homeless due to various reasons, with a significant one being the need to manage their own safety, and that they are more likely to experience...

1. The Women's Housing Movement

2. The Gendered Lens Framework

3. The Women's Census

The Gendered Lens



The Framework

The Artwork

The Workbook

The artwork



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It's not what you look at, it's what you see

what I feel ↓

what you see ↓



Homelessness has no label, Many women can change their faces to circumstances

their environments. Just because we may sleep rough or hide our

circumstances from you doesn't mean we don't need the criteria of homelessness duty!

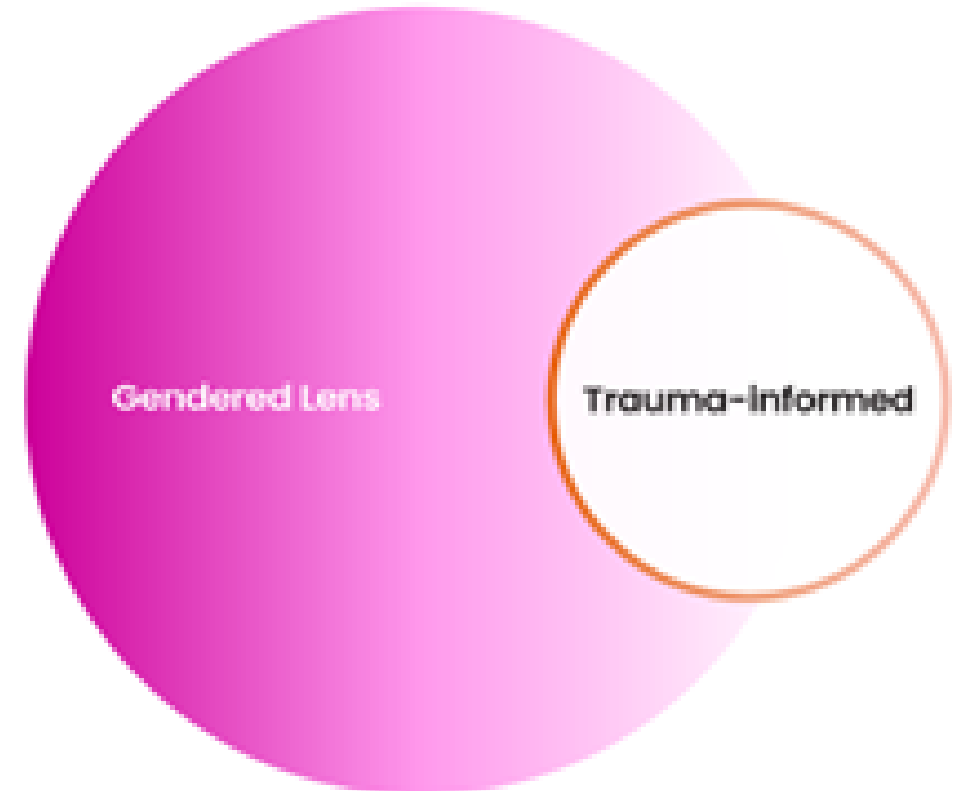
Every woman who is without a home, will create one wherever they go, we live in a home without a roof or walls.

The workbook



The 7 tools in each section:

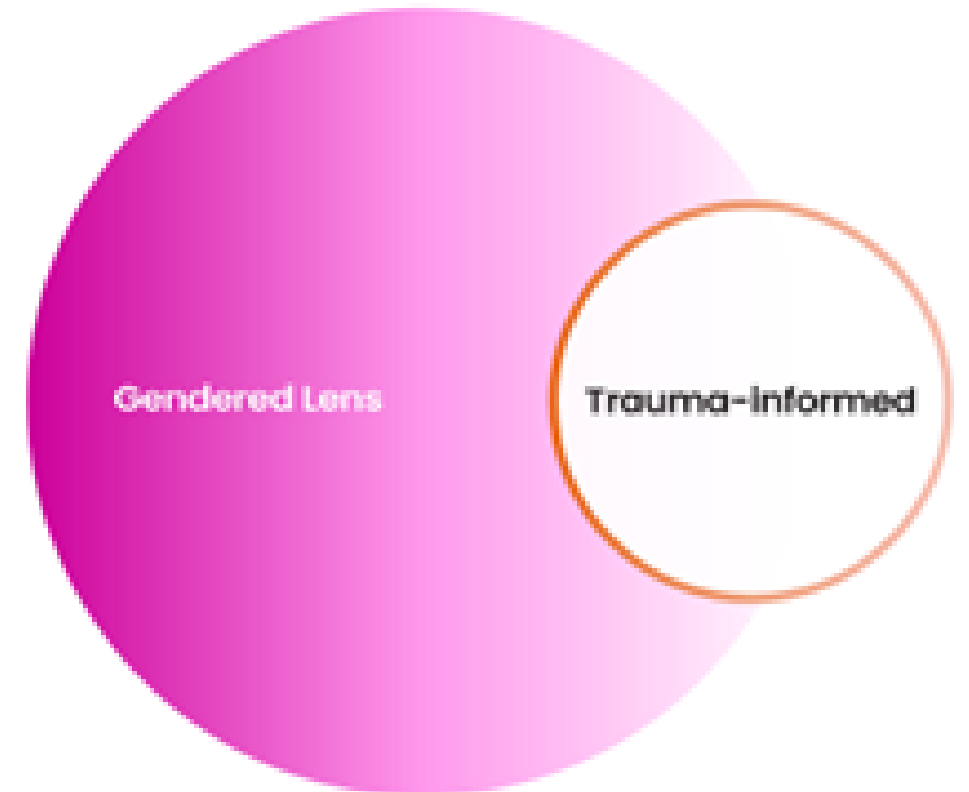
- What does this mean?
- Questions to consider
- Reflections from the frontline
- Case study excerpts
- Top tips for delivery
- Homeless Link Highlight



What does it mean to be trauma informed?



- Design & delivery recognises the impact of trauma in the lives of women
- Interpersonal trauma, e.g. experiences of violence & child removal
- Additional impact of stereotyping and stigma
- Reduced risk of re-traumatisation
- Transparency, communication and consistency
- No quick fixes
- Vicarious trauma & impact on staff



Questions to consider

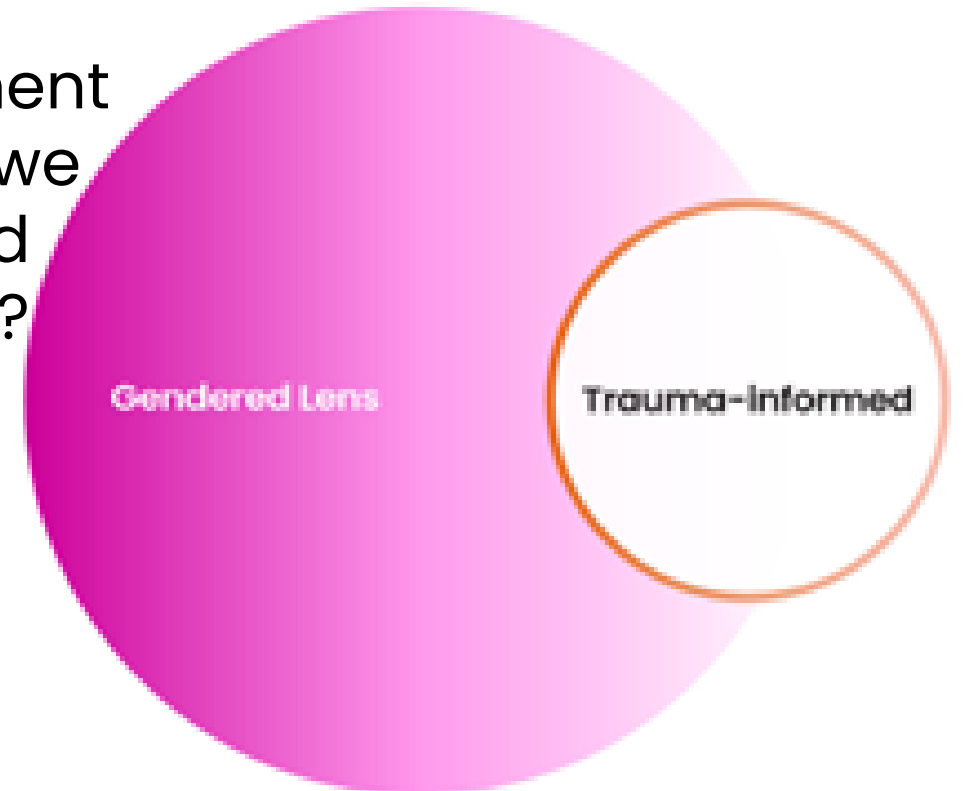


All staff: do I understand the relationship between gender and trauma?

Frontline practitioners: Do I offer support in a way that is non-judgemental?

Managers: Could I review the initial assessment process to consider how much information we are asking of the women at first contact, and how necessary it is to have that information?

Commissioners: Does the services have the flexibility to provide long-term support to women where needed?



Discussion

Attendees to share experiences



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- Do you feel the design and delivery of the service you work in is gender-informed?
- Any examples of a positive impact



Useful Links



Homeless Link Knowledge Hub:

<https://homeless.org.uk/knowledge-hub/>

Gendered Lens Framework: <https://homeless.org.uk/knowledge-hub/the-gendered-lens-framework-for-homelessness-services/>

Bite-size e-learning: <https://homeless.org.uk/knowledge-hub/gendered-lens-framework-bitesize-learning/>

Women's Housing Movement: vtomlinson@arkconsultancy.co.uk

Women's census: <https://www.solacewomensaid.org/womens-rough-sleeping-census/>