

15 Ways to Count Women and Girls In to the National Housing Strategy



An effective National Housing Strategy must increase access to safe, affordable housing and reduce homelessness for women and girls. YWCA Canada's **Homes for Women Campaign** recommends **15 ways** for the National Housing Strategy to take women and girls into account.

Use Gender-based Analysis to Create an Inclusive Strategy

- 1. Increase access to affordable housing for low-income women**, through increasing the stock of affordable housing and measures to make housing more affordable.
- 2. Increase access to affordable housing for low-income mothers** with sufficient room to house their children safely.
- 3. Include innovative affordable housing programs dedicated to senior women.**

Connect the National Housing Strategy to Violence Against Women and Girls

- 4. Expand access to emergency shelters for women escaping violence** to create equality of access across the country and address gaps in access for DEAF women and women with disabilities, First Nation, Métis and Inuit women, trans women and gender non-conforming, racialized women and immigrant women.
- 5. Invest in new long-term affordable housing for women with trauma-informed support services.**
- 6. Connect to the Federal Strategy on Gender-based Violence.**

Address and Prevent Homelessness for Women and Girls

- 7. Expand gender-specific programs, services, and shelters for women and girls** with trauma-informed services.
- 8. Invest in affordable and supportive housing specific for young women, girls, trans and gender non-conforming young people** and provide a home free from sexual abuse, violence, transphobia and homophobia.
- 9. Expand research and data collection** on women and girls.

Implement National Policies for Affordable Housing with a Gender Lens

- 10. Develop a Northern Strategy for women and girls** with sufficient investment to bring access to affordable housing and emergency shelter to a shared national standard
- 11. Include a self-determined Aboriginal Housing Strategy with a gender lens** and leadership from the Native Women's Association of Canada and Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association among others.
- 12. Support effective models of Housing First for Women** by including successful community-based adaptations of Housing First.
- 13. Connect the National Housing Strategy to women's experiences of criminalization** and incarceration to develop homes, not prisons.
- 14. Design safe housing and communities** by incorporating gender-based safety audits in the development and renovation of all affordable housing funded through the NHS
- 15. Invest in successful supportive housing program models** and innovation of new supportive housing programs for women and girls, including young mothers, Indigenous families, women with disabilities, survivors of violence coping with trauma, wellness, and substance abuse, and women at a higher risk of criminalization.

Produced by YWCA Canada's **Homes for Women Campaign**. For our full brief, visit ywccanada.ca or homesforwomen.ca. For more information contact Ann Decter, adecter@ywccanada.ca.