



Preventing and addressing youth homelessness through access to social rights

Report of the study session held by the Youth Homelessness Network of
FEANTSA in co-operation with the European Youth Centre of the Council of
Europe

European Youth Centre Budapest, 2 – 8 March 2014

This report gives an account of the various aspects of the study session. It has been produced by and is the responsibility of the educational team of the study session. It does not represent the official point of view of the Council of Europe.

Produced by:

Carl Wirehag – Policy Assistant, FEANTSA; member Youth Homelessness Network

Samara Jones – Policy Officer – FEANTSA, coordinator FEANTSA Youth Homelessness Network.

Contact:

FEANTSA

194 Chaussée de Louvain, 1210 Brussels, Belgium

www.feantsa.org

samara.jones@feantsa.org

+32 2 538 66 69

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Who we are

FEANTSA's¹ Youth Homelessness Network is comprised of approximately 30 organizations from 20 European countries that work to prevent young people from becoming homeless and that support young people who are homeless. The members of this network are organisations that work directly with young people, either as single-focus organisations, through specific programmes for young people, or through their general services.

The YHN came together within FEANTSA because member organisations working with young people wanted a forum to work together on policy initiatives, to share their experiences and to work towards common objectives including:

- developing innovative approaches to supporting young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- share best practice on prevention of homelessness of young people
- share best practice on communicating with young people about their rights
- build capacity in the network for advocacy skills – to advocate for and with young homeless people for better policies and practices
- develop policy recommendations for FEANTSA on youth issues, and in particular contribute to recommendations on how to prevent homelessness

The FEANTSA members involved in the YHN have alerted FEANTSA to an increase in the number of young people who have to turn to either prevention services or homeless services across Europe. FEANTSA values the work of the YHN as it contributes to a better understanding of youth homelessness, both in terms of the nature and scope of the problem, and effective ways to address the problems young people face.

This network allows organisations to bridge issues, in particular access to rights and prevention of homelessness amongst young people in Europe. The network also provides an avenue for young professionals within FEANTSA's membership to develop their knowledge and skills and share their specific expertise with others, as well as to contribute to FEANTSA's positions at European level.

¹ FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless, was established in 1989 as a European non-governmental organisation to prevent and alleviate the poverty and social exclusion of people threatened by or living in homelessness.

FEANTSA currently has more than 120 member organisations, working in close to 30 European countries, including 25 EU Member States. Most of FEANTSA's members are national or regional umbrella organisations of service providers that support homeless people with a wide range of services, including housing, health, employment and social support. They often work in close co-operation with public authorities, social housing providers and other relevant actors.

FEANTSA works closely with the EU institutions, and has consultative status at the Council of Europe and the United Nations. It receives financial support from the European Commission.

The network feeds information to and from the FEANTSA office in Brussels, and was an important resource for planning the 2013 annual conference and report on youth homelessness in Europe.

The participants in the study session are committed to working within FEANTSA's Youth Homelessness Network on common projects and initiatives, including promoting tools for preventing youth homelessness and building capacity on how to advocate for and with young homeless people.

This network communicates regularly by email, through FEANTSA's website and on social media and at FEANTSA events (annual conferences, member events, etc.).

The study session “Prevention of youth homelessness through access to social rights”

In March 2014, FEANTSA held its first study session at the European Youth Centre in Budapest. In cooperation with the Council of Europe’s Youth Department, FEANTSA’s Youth Homelessness Network organised a week-long session for young people working with youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The study session gave participants the opportunity to:

- develop a deeper understanding of human rights education and social rights in particular;
- exchange ideas on raising awareness about social rights amongst young people and in their organisations and communities;
- share their experiences of practice and policy in their work with homeless or at risk young people and learn from others;
- share practices to help combat discrimination against young people, particularly when they try to access their social rights;
- develop skills for working with partners and building coalitions in different countries, across different sectors (health, justice, social care, education).

The 40 participants came from 21 countries and brought with them experience and knowledge about youth homelessness, working with migrants, legal and human rights issues and homelessness prevention strategies. They discussed their experiences throughout the week. Several expert lecturers joined the participants during the week. FEANTSA Director, Freek Spinnewijn, provided an insight into FEANTSA’s work with the Council of Europe and the European Union, with a particular focus on human rights and housing rights. Dr Stephen Gaetz from York University in Canada joined the group to provide a keynote presentation on the prevention of youth homelessness and lead the participants in workshops to create prevention plans for use in their own communities. Sonia Olea Ferreras from Caritas Spain engaged the participants in workshops on advocacy and human rights, encouraging the participants to consider the human rights aspects of their own work. The FEANTSA office coordinated the programme in cooperation with valuable and professional support from the Council of Europe’s Youth Department and a small team of volunteers.

The study session was held in the European Youth Centre of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and this was definitely an added value for the activity for several reasons:

- first of all, the Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisations which sets human rights standards all over Europe, through its European Convention on Human Rights and through its European Social Charter. The right to housing is included in the provisions of the European Social Charter and FEANTSA has made several complaints on the basis of this human rights instrument.

- through its youth sector, the Council of Europe has developed several actions and projects dealing with the access of young people to social rights, among which also the right to adequate housing. In its most recent project on this topic, the Enter! project on access to social rights for young people, the Council of Europe has supported and promoted youth work and youth policy actions in the direction of improving the access of young people to their rights. Through training, educational materials and seminars on policy topics, the Council of Europe has promoted an understanding of youth policy and youth work as means to support particularly the young people who experience exclusion, discrimination and violence to access their social rights. For example, specifically the role of youth work is to be reinforced, because youth workers can have an important role in preventing youth homelessness and supporting young people in their transition to an autonomous life.
- the youth sector of the Council of Europe is also a keen promoter of human rights education with young people, through training, educational manuals such as COMPASS and support to education policy development in the member states etc. Human rights education is also key in preventing homelessness, as young people can learn together how to access their social rights and how to claim their rights.
- finally, the European Youth Centres of the Council of Europe were set up to support youth participation in Europe and to provide support - through education and training – to associative networks and projects interested in sharing the Council of Europe’s principles and priorities in the youth field.

This report will form the basis for participants, other practitioners and policy-makers on prevention of youth homelessness. This report will include as much as possible reflections from participants during the study session. More information from the study session can be found on the FEANTSA website.

Introduction to the problem of youth homelessness

In the years that have followed the global economic crisis youth homelessness has become a growing issue across most European countries. Both researchers and practitioners have highlighted the need to develop targeted policies for this particularly vulnerable group. Both preventive work as well as targeted emergency services and housing solutions are needed to prevent young people who are living in risk situations from becoming homeless.

The study session covered a wide range of topics and aimed to create a forum for discussion and exchange on how youth workers and others working with young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness can develop, promote and implement practices that prevent homelessness.

Inputs from experts on homelessness, youth homelessness and advocacy helped to stimulate discussion and exchange of practice and ideas amongst the participants.

For example, Stephen Gaetz's intervention provided a framework for discussion by outlining both wider structural and more individual causes of homelessness among young people and some of the most common triggers in to homelessness. Prior to this intervention, participants worked in small groups to identify barriers to social rights and general barriers faced by young people who are homeless.

Defining youth homelessness?

During the study session, discussions with participants illustrated both the similarities and differences in definitions of homelessness across Europe. Participants exchanged stories and experience with working with different age groups – for example, how 'old' can a 'young' person be? Are there services or emergency accommodation or permanent housing solutions for young people under age 18? In Scotland, for example, young people can claim housing benefit from age 17 and are legally able to sign a lease/rental contract for rented accommodation. This is not the case in most European countries, which makes it difficult to find appropriate housing solutions for many young people. In some countries, there are specific services for young people up to age 30, whereas in other countries, as soon as someone turns 18, they must use the 'adult' system.

There was consensus among participants that homeless services for young people are necessary, and that young people who are forced to use adult shelters, often find themselves in more dangerous or risky situations. Participants commented that young people might even avoid all services, because they are afraid of being sent to services designed for older homeless people, which are not able to meet their needs.

Participants also discussed family homelessness. For example, in Romania, there are very few services for young homeless people, but there is at least one organisation that works to support a whole family – including teen-age children. The issue of unaccompanied minors

also arose from a number of participants from Belgium, Greece, etc. These young people are not usually in the 'homelessness system', but are very vulnerable.

These questions led to discussions on how to define youth homelessness and distinguish it from adult homelessness. We include here some definitions that can help:

- A useful place to begin is with the Canadian Homelessness Research Network (CHRN), which defines homelessness as: "the situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges and/or racism and discrimination. Most people do not choose to be homeless and the experience is generally negative, unpleasant, stressful and distressing." (Canadian Homelessness Research Network, 2012:1)

[ETHOS](#) – FEANTSA's definition of homelessness - proposes a typology that describes different degrees of homelessness and housing insecurity, including:

1) Rooflessness, or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation;

2) Houselessness, including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence;

3) Living in insecure housing, referring to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure and finally,

4) Living in inadequate housing, referring to people who are not homeless, but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.

Youth homelessness is a sub-population of homelessness and refers to young people between the ages of 13 and 24 who are living independently of parents and/or caregivers and importantly, lack many of the social supports deemed necessary for the transition from childhood to adulthood. In such circumstances, they do not have a stable or consistent residence or source of income, nor do they necessarily have adequate access to the support networks necessary to foster a safe and nurturing transition into the responsibilities of adulthood.

Age also matters when considering youth homelessness. Developmentally, there is a huge difference between the needs, circumstances and physical and emotional development of a 14 year old compared to an 18 year old or a 23 year old (though it must also be acknowledged that the factors that produce and sustain youth homelessness—including violence, trauma and abuse, may also contribute to developmental impairment for older youth). In addition to significant developmental differences, one must also consider the

different statutory responsibilities associated with certain ages. Depending on the jurisdiction, the state will define the ages for which child protection services are responsible for care, what kinds of mental health supports are accessible and the age when one can live independently, obtain welfare and other government benefits, or leave school, etc.

Additionally, one needs to consider the diversity of the youth homeless population, in terms of gender, sexual orientation and race. Much of the research on youth homelessness in Canada shows that males typically outnumber females 2:1. In addition, some ethno-racial populations tend to be over represented. While there is a growing body of research on homelessness among immigrants and refugees, there is very little that focuses specifically on youth. We do know from research on adults, that new immigrant populations experience discrimination, difficulty accessing employment and linguistic barriers. For people without status, the challenges of accessing services are particularly great. Also research from Canada suggests that a significant percentage of homeless youth report being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual or queer (Gaetz 2014).

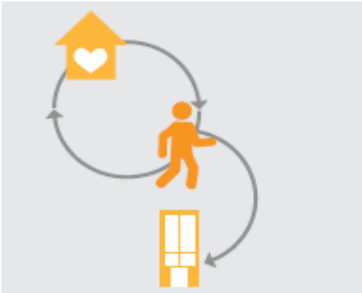
These differences do matter and need to be considered when developing responses and interventions. The needs of young women on the streets are not the same as the needs of young men. Sexual minorities and racial minorities face discrimination that mainstream youth do not. Young mothers and young people from new immigrant communities face special challenges. A successful strategy needs to ensure that diverse needs are met (Gaetz 2014).

A typology of youth homelessness (Gaetz 2014)

One of the challenges of responding to youth homelessness is the differing needs and the acuity of challenges they face. For instance, what is the appropriate level of support for a young person who left home after a terrible argument with their parents—but for whom the relationship is redeemable—versus a young person who has been in foster care for years, has no connections to family and may be dealing with mental health issues or addictions? The evolution in our responses to adult homelessness has been built on recognizing the necessity of taking account of the frequency and duration of homelessness. That is, there is a need to differentiate between those who experience short-term homelessness and never return to the streets from those who are more episodically homeless (moving back and forth) or those who become chronically homeless, because the circumstances and needs of young people in these situations may differ greatly.

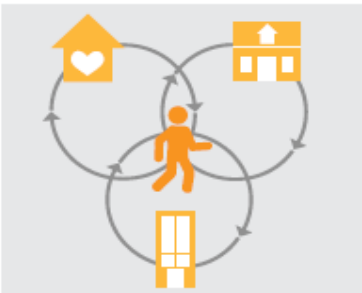
There have recently been efforts to define a typology of youth homelessness that captures key differences in terms of the factors that contribute to leaving home, as well as the level of supports that young people should be able to access to leave the streets. Research have identified a number of factors that have been used to define different typologies of youth homelessness, including differences based on quality and extent of family relations, the reasons for becoming homeless, the history of abuse and neglect and mental health status,

etc. These differences are important and need to be taken into account when creating a definition. Those who experience of deprivation, conflict and abuse as a child will likely have a profoundly different experience of homelessness than others and face additional challenges in transitioning to adulthood and well-being. The degree of family and community connectedness and support, on one hand, versus alienation and estrangement, on the other, also shapes the experience of homelessness and the strategies that need to be put in place to support young people.



Temporarily Disconnected

As Kuhn and Culhane (1998) point out, the vast majority of people who become homeless do so for a very short time, typically find their way out of homelessness with little assistance and rarely return to homelessness. This is as true for adults as it is for youth. The NAEH suggests that between 81 and 86 percent of homeless youth fit into this category (NAEH, 2012). This group is characterized as generally being younger, as having more stable or redeemable relations with family members, a less extensive history of homelessness and are more likely to remain in school. There is a strong need for prevention and early intervention to divert this population from the homelessness system.



Unstably Connected

This population of homeless youth has a more complicated housing history and is likely to have longer and repeated episodes of homelessness (Toro et al., 2011). They are more likely to be disengaged from school and will have challenges in obtaining and maintaining employment. Most will have retained some level of connection with family members and are less likely to experience serious mental health or addictions issues than chronically homeless youth. This is a group for which family reconnection interventions, as well as transitional housing programs are recommended, particularly for youth under 18.



Chronically Disconnected

In terms of numbers, this will be the smallest group of homeless youth, but at the same time the group with the most complex needs with the heaviest reliance on the resources in the youth homelessness sector. This group is defined by longer-term homelessness and a greater likelihood of repeated episodes. They will also be more likely to have mental health problems, addictions issues and/or a diagnosed disability. They will have the most unstable relations with families and in some cases there will be no connections at all. Young adults in this category may require more comprehensive interventions, as well as more supportive and longer-term housing programs.

Communities can use this typology to understand, define and enumerate the shape and scope of youth homelessness in their area. It provides insight into the kinds of interventions needed to address youth homelessness, as one size definitely does not fit all.

(From [Coming of Age](#) Reimagining the Response to Youth Homelessness in Canada, Gaetz 2014)

Preventing youth homelessness

If leaving the mind set of providing emergency services for a moment, and look towards a more prevention oriented approach we find that the idea of prevention is one that most people can agree on. It makes more sense to take steps to prevent cancer than to deal with it once it is an acute problem. The same is true of preventing homelessness. But when you say, “We should prevent youth homelessness”, it begs a question – what exactly do we mean by it?

There are basically **three strategies** necessary to address homelessness. First, you can **prevent it**, or stop people from falling into homelessness in the first place. Second you need an **emergency response** – temporary supports – to help people when crises emerge that lead them to lose their homes and supports. Finally, one needs appropriate **models of accommodation and supports** to help people find the stable housing (and supports) they need to move forward with their lives. Many communities – especially those for which homelessness has recently emerged as a ‘problem’ – focus their efforts on emergency services. The problem with this approach is that while it is well-meaning, and necessary in that it meets immediate needs, it can lead to simply managing the problem, and young people can become mired in homelessness, suffering worsening health, sexual and economic exploitation, addictions and a loss of hope.

The argument put forward here is that there is a need to shift from simply managing the problem to moving towards a model where there is a greater emphasis put on prevention on the one hand, and on moving people into safe and appropriate housing as soon as possible. The research presented suggests that preventing youth homelessness involves three components: **Primary Prevention, Systems Prevention, and Early Intervention**. **Primary Prevention** refers to working upstream, to address structural factors that will produce youth homelessness down the road. This includes anti-poverty measures, addressing the supply of affordable housing, working to prevent violence against children, etc. It also means special measures to support families and address family conflict, and working in schools to educate and support children, their families and teachers to understand the factors that put young people at risk, and to identify and mobilize supports for young people who are struggling or are at risk of homelessness.



Systems prevention means addressing the failure of other mainstream systems that produce youth homelessness, such as child protection, corrections and health care (mental health, for instance). The problem of ‘systems failure’ arises when transitions from institutional care fail because of inadequate discharge planning and supports. In North America, it is established that between 40-50% of all young people who are homeless were once in foster care or group homes, suggesting that the models of care in place are inadequate to meet the needs of young people who wind up leaving care. Model reforms such as those enacted in Scotland represent an opportunity to do things differently, and thus reduce youth homelessness.

Looking at some good practices across Europe working with prevention, the leaving home project in Scotland is one good example of how to actively work with these issues within the educational system:

Good Practice
<p>The leaving home initiative in Scotland focuses on education on homelessness and moving away from home that is being used in schools all over Scotland.</p> <p>Check it out on: http://www.leavinghome.info/</p> <p>Another good practice focusing more on emergencies but still working with preventing youth of becoming part of the social welfare system is the Bristol Night Stop.</p> <p>Bristol Nightstop is a project which supports young people aged 16-25 who are at risk of sleeping rough in Bristol. Offer support and emergency overnight accommodation for young homeless people between the ages 16 – 25. The grant from the Homelessness Transition Fund employs a Project Lead, a Host Coordinator and a Key Worker who work alongside other volunteers and experts to deliver Bristol Nightstop, offering accommodation 7 days a week. The development and delivery of the project will enable the charity and its partners to gather further evidence and insights into the needs of young homeless people, enabling it to respond to commissioning and funding opportunities in the future. The aim of the project</p>

is to provide young homeless people with clear, expert advice that facilitates their transition into safe emergency accommodation and supports them accessing longer term options. The project will provide:

- Key Worker support
- A safe place to stay through a Volunteer Host Network when no other accommodation or options are available. Volunteer Hosts will offer a warm room to stay in their own home, an evening meal, breakfast, support and compassion and will be recruited, trained, supported and supervised by project workers.

<http://bristolnightstop.org/>

Early intervention refers to prevention strategies when young people are either 'at risk' of, or have recently experienced, homelessness. The ideal early intervention model would involve a 'system of care' approach (integrated service delivery model) whereby young people, families and other adult supports would be aware of who to contact in the case of imminent homelessness. A standardized and coordinated assessment would be in place to identify the causes of homelessness, risk factors, and key strengths and assets of young people. Young people should be provided with supportive and age appropriate case management based on a positive youth development approach that gives young people a strong say in their paths forward. Young people and their families should be assessed for family reconnection that may involve family mediation and ongoing support, to see if young people can move back home, or if that is not possible, move into the community in a safe and planned way with the support of some family members. Finally, early intervention should look at strategies of shelter diversion. That is, young people should be provided with models of temporary accommodation and supports – like host homes – as an alternative to emergency shelters, as there is a potential for young people to get mired in the street youth lifestyle in the latter case. A final take on prevention is that we should also work to identify appropriate models of accommodation and support for young people who have already experienced homelessness, with the goal being assisting in their successful transition to adulthood, ensuring housing stability and working to reduce the likelihood of falling back into homelessness

The participants brought many good examples of how education can help young people. In countries like the UK (England and Scotland were represented), youth homeless service organisations like Scottish Through Care and Shelter, work directly with schools to develop and implement education around leaving home to better prepare ALL students for living independently. In one example from Scotland, a participant described an exercise in a school where students are given the task of trying to plan what furniture (using catalogues and advertisement flyers, e.g. from Ikea, trips to local second hand shops, etc.) they would buy to furnish an apartment or room. They were given a set budget, based on the amount

of benefits they would receive if they were to present as homeless to the local authorities (which in Scotland have a duty to provide access to housing for all young people who are homeless). They were guided through this exercise by someone who had been homeless, and was now working with Scottish Through Care, and who could respond to their questions and explain how difficult it is to manage paying bills, shopping for food, continuing to study, working part-time, etc.

Another example about education came from Shelter UK (who were not represented at the study session), which includes 'modules' for teachers who wish to integrate information about homelessness into different classes: mathematics, social studies, etc. The participants were very interested in these tools and discussed how they might introduce similar projects or curriculum in their own education systems.

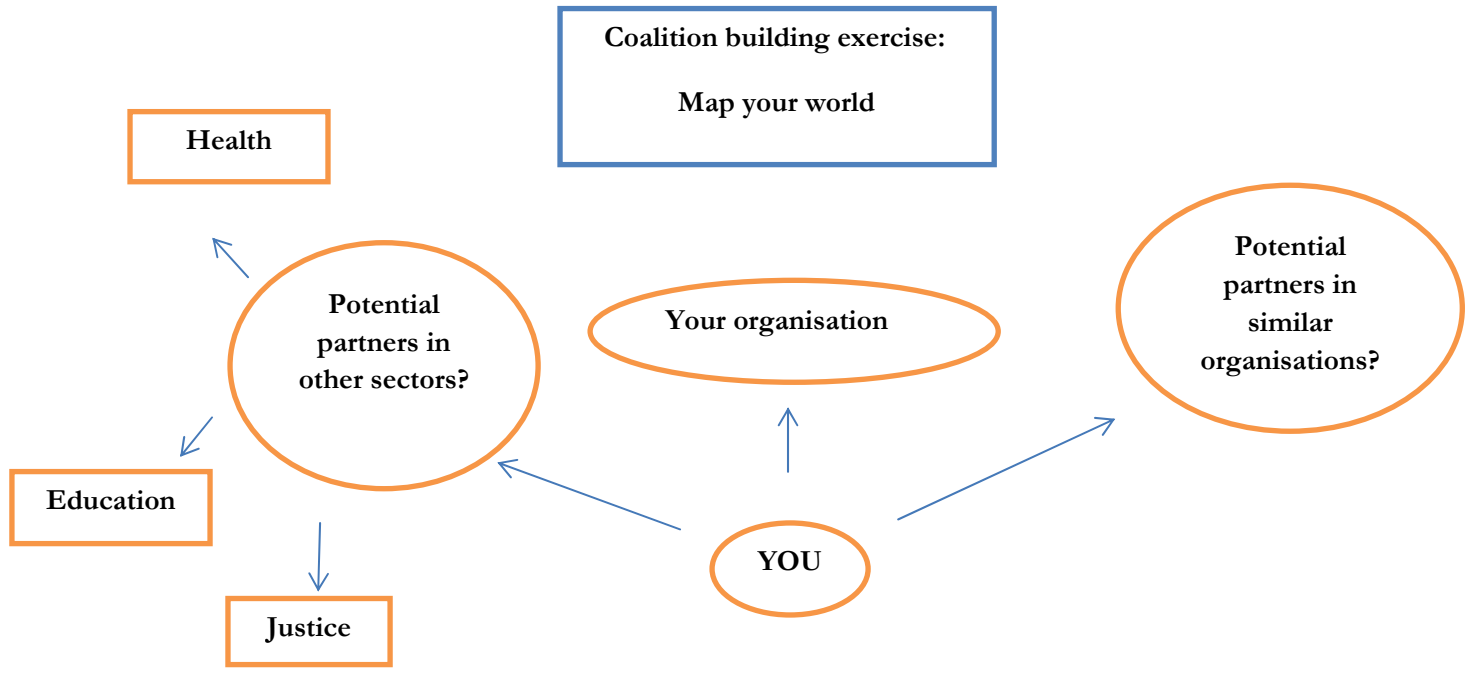
How to make a change at your workplace?

Working as a social worker, at the Red Cross, at a local NGO or at the youth services of the municipality there is a lot that can be done to try to move towards prevention and how to change how we work with youth homelessness? As discussed above it is important and desirable to create an integrated systems approach, meaning that we need closer ties between different services aimed at young people as well as those who are at particular risk to overcome systemic gaps/failures such as youth leaving care systems into homelessness. In practice this means a more team-based network approach, a more flexible system where practitioners systematically work towards identifying barriers to aid – and access to social rights - for young people and use their networks to dismantle the barriers. It might seem daunting to establish these coalitions/networks between different social service providers, especially when regulations make it difficult to cooperate, however, where it is possible, cooperation can be more effective than anticipated.

During the study session, participants worked through several exercises that made them think about how they would create these kinds of coalitions in their communities, or seek out coalitions that already exist. These are the steps that the participants identified as necessary for initiating coalitions:

To create these types of coalitions, the first thing that needs to be done is to **identify** which **direct coalitions** would be most valuable for your work, how you would like to cooperate and what the problems of cooperation might be. This is a good first step towards opening up a dialogue and a bridge to cooperation. When this is done, discuss the issue with the necessary people, for example **your supervisors, colleagues and your union** etc. whom might have more ideas, connections etc., then make the contacts and suggest working together. Explain why you think it is important to create this coalition, discuss the different problems, systemic gaps you have identified and discuss how you think this could be changed. This opens up a discussion on the common problems and gaps which exist between your different organizations.

One exercise saw participants mapping out the possible partners in their own communities. They were enthusiastic about trying to follow up on this when they returned to their jobs and homes. Participants were also enthusiastic about how helpful it was to make connections during the study session; many felt that this was the first step to building coalitions in their own community, because they had a new sense of confidence about reaching out beyond their own organisations.



How to think about human rights when providing services to young people?

Another key aspect to take in to account when discussing how to improve your work as a service provider or a policy-maker working with young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless is the human rights aspect. The right to have basic human needs met are among the most fundamental of human rights and are the core of our moral argument that homelessness should be ended. In your work with young people it is crucial to remember that they are seeking support because their human rights have been breached at some point. It is also important to remember that it is you to as an adult and service provider that is responsible to inform them about these rights and make sure these rights are not violated. For service providers and stakeholders there are a number of benefits of addressing homelessness from a human rights perspective:

Housing is a human right, and remembering that keeps stakeholders focused on helping people who experience homelessness achieve permanent housing, rather than on services that—may be well-intentioned but—do not ultimately help people exit homelessness into housing stability. Permanent housing is the primary solution to preventing and ending homelessness.

Human rights put people first. Good strategies start from understanding the unique needs of individuals, families and young people. A human rights approach keeps people and their needs at the forefront of our work.

Homelessness has a human cost. Yes, ending homelessness is cost-effective (doing nothing can actually costs more money). But dollars are not the only cost of homelessness; humans experience homelessness at a horrific expense to the health and well-being of themselves and their communities. When we make the case that safe and stable housing is a human right, our cause is strengthened.

Human rights are important tools when developing practices and policies at your workplace, helps to understand and problematize difficult decisions, when developing policies concerning living areas – concerning rules in sheltered housing use the basic human rights as a starting point.

The participants were very enthusiastic about the information on human rights education as presented by Sonia Olea Ferrares (Caritas Spain) and Mara Georgescu from the Council of Europe. For many participants, this was a first opportunity to reflect on how they approach human rights in their work – and if it's a core part of how their organisations operate. There was consensus that human rights should be the starting point for any service for young people. Those participants who were social workers talked about putting the young person at the centre of the solution, for many people, this was what human rights meant. For

others, for example, a participant from Sweden, described the tension between providing services that they felt were in the best interests of young people who were homeless or at risk of homelessness, but that might in fact violate their rights or deny them access to rights.

Participants felt that more education on human rights was necessary for everyone: people working with vulnerable young people, teachers, and of course the young people themselves. There was a specific request that more information on this be included in any future study sessions.

What can you do?

1. Learn more, here are some resources:

- FEANTSA - <http://www.feantsa.org/> - pages for the Youth Homelessness Network, links to academic articles, presentations from the study session, etc.
- Housing Rights Watch - <http://www.housingrightswatch.org/>
- Council of Europe – human rights education - <http://eycb.coe.int/compass/>

2. Discuss with your colleagues

3. Inform young people you meet in our work of their rights, you probably do this already but may not have thought about it in this way....

4. Build coalitions and work in partnership

5. Advocacy for social rights

Useful materials and links

- http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/practice_solutions/sharing_practice/practitioner_articles/running_out_of_time/3
- http://england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/policy_and_research/good_practice_downloads

Materials to support thinking about preventing youth homelessness include:

- **Coming of Age: Reimagining our Response to Youth Homelessness**

<http://www.homelesshub.ca/comingofage>

This document provides a conceptual framework for youth homelessness prevention, plus numerous examples with links to existing programs and practices.

- **Youth Homelessness in Canada – Implications for Policy and Practice**

<http://www.homelesshub.ca/youthhomelessness>

This free eBook brings together top research that addresses the “so what?” question. The final chapter focuses on prevention.

- **Live, Learn and Grow: Supporting for Transitions to Adulthood for Homeless Youth – A Framework for the Foyer**

<http://www.homelesshub.ca/youthhomelessness>

Drawing from evaluation research on Foyers, this report proposes a new framework that builds on the strengths of the existing model.

- [Homeless Hub](#) – world’s largest repository of homelessness research.. Lots of stuff on youth, and a big Solutions section.
- [Coming of Age](#) report – this report covers what I spoke about in greater detail, with lots of case studies, examples and links to great program models.
- [Youth homelessness in Canada](#) – Free e-book (the paper vers costs about \$25 Cdn). Full of research on youth homelessness, with all the researchers asked to address the “so whatness” question of their research.
- [Live Learn and Grow](#) – a research report that focuses on transitional housing for homeless youth. Great resource with a [toolkit](#) as well
- [Can I see your ID](#) - Report on the criminalization of youth homelessness in Canada
- <http://www.focusireland.ie/our-services/information/guidebook-for-young-people>
- Resource about the situation of LGBT homeless young people

<http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/safe-schools-and-youth/identifying-and-serving-lgbtq-youth-case-studies-of-runaway-and-homeless-youth-grantees/>

Appendix I. List of participating organisations and countries

Organisation	Country
Heilsarmee Österreich (Salvation Army Austria)	Austria
Ligue des droits de l'Homme Belgique	Belgium
Platform Minors in Exile	Belgium
FEANTSA – Youth Homelessness Network	Belgium
Alpha House	Canada
Association MoSt	Croatia
project OUTSIDE	Denmark
Blue Ribbon Foundation	Finland
Espoon Asunnot oy	Finland
Finnish Red Cross, Emergency youth shelter	Finland
fly	France
AGEHB	France
ADEFO/ SDAT	France
VSE Team Sputnik	Germany
ARSIS - Association for the Social Support of Youth	Greece
PRAKSIS	Greece
BMSZKI	Hungary
ELTE TÁTK; Menedékház Alapítvány	Hungary
Focus Ireland	Ireland
Avvocato di strada	Italy
Fio.psd	Italy
Mykolas Romeris University	Lithuania
Caritas	Lithuania
Zienn Opvang & Ondersteuning	The Netherlands
Casa Ioana Association	Romania
Casa Ioana Association	Romania
Red Cross	Serbia
Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum (Scotland)	United Kingdom
Action for Children (Scotland)	United Kingdom
Streetwork (Scotland)	United Kingdom
University of Bristol	United Kingdom

Appendix II. Programme of the study session

	3 March	4 March	5 March	6 March	7 March
Morning	<p>Introductions</p> <p>FEANTSA and young people</p> <p>Introduction to the Council of Europe</p>	<p>Barriers to social rights and addressing the needs of specific groups of young people</p> <p>Prevention of youth homelessness, with Dr. Stephen Gaetz, York University (Toronto, Canada)</p>	<p>Study visit to BMSZKI, Budapest, with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -BMSZKI -TASZ, the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union -AVM, the City is for All 	<p>Introduction to advocacy for human rights, with Social Olea Ferreas, Caritas Spain</p> <p>The role of human rights education</p>	<p>Work on follow-up plans</p> <p>Discussion with Mike Allan, president of FEANTSA, about the future of the network</p>
Afternoon	<p>Being part of a network</p> <p>Learning about each other's' practices</p> <p>Introduction to social rights</p>	<p>Inventory of preventions practices, policies and plans</p>	<p>Free afternoon</p>	<p>Challenging human rights violations: what can be done?</p>	<p>Follow-up, evaluation and closing</p>
Evening	<p>Intercultural evening</p>	<p>Discussion evening with the students from the Groningen University</p>	<p>Dinner in town</p>		