

# Conversations Around Homelessness



Heart The Homeless

# Today's Topics:



- How are marginalized populations impacted on a greater scale?
- What are the unique causes of homelessness?
- How can we work to overthrow this harmful homeless ordinance?
- How can we best support those who are homeless?
- What type of additional solutions or resources are needed in our community?
- What more can we do as a collective to see this through?



# Discrimination at the Margins



## Homogenization of Diverse Populations

- Homogenizing the people who are homeless facilitates their dehumanization, erasing not only their diverse identities, but also obscuring the diverse causes of their homelessness.
- Homogenization also encourages erroneous negative stereotypes, assumptions, and prejudices.
- Marginalized groups are disproportionately represented in the homeless population, and are therefore, disproportionately targeted by the ordinances that criminalize homelessness.

# Discrimination at the Margins



Racial minorities, particularly African Americans and Hispanics, are discriminatorily impacted by homelessness:

- Nationally: An estimated 3.5 million people experience homelessness in the United States annually.
  - 42% are African American (despite being only 12% of the population overall)
  - 20% are Hispanic (despite being only 12% of the population overall)
  - 4% are Native American (despite being only 1% of the population overall)
  - 2% are Asian (despite being only 1% of the population overall)

WELCOME TO THE USA

# Discrimination at the Margins



**Female single parents and female domestic violence victims are discriminatorily impacted by homelessness:**

- Nationally: Domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness for women and children.
- Women and families represent the fastest growing groups of the homeless population in the US.
- The population of homeless single parents with children:
  - 80% are female
  - 20% are male

# LGBTQ Population & Homelessness



LGBTQ individuals, particularly LGBTQ youth and young adults, are discriminatorily impacted by homelessness:

- Nationally: 20–40% of the homeless youth population identify as LGBTQ, compared to only 5–10% of the overall youth population.
- LGBTQ young adults had a 120 percent higher risk of reporting homelessness compared to youth who identified as heterosexual and cisgender.
- LGBTQ adults are also vulnerable to homelessness because of a widespread lack of nondiscrimination protections.
- 1-in-5 transgender people in the US has been discriminated when seeking a home, and more than 1-in-10 have been evicted from their homes, because of their gender identity.

# Causes of Homelessness



- The forces which affect homelessness are complex and often interactive in nature. Social forces such as addictions, family breakdown, chronic illness, job loss, excessive debts, and mental illness are compounded by structural forces such as lack of available low-cost housing, poor economic conditions, and insufficient mental health services. Together these factors impact levels of homelessness through their dynamic relations.
- LGBTQ individuals often have comparable forces contributing to their homeless statuses, but can also include things such as: family rejection, employment and/or housing discrimination, social stigma, child neglect, physical/emotional/sexual abuse, discriminatory policies in their local state or city, or lack of existing anti-discriminatory policies.



# What Can Be Changed?



- Policymakers should repeal the criminal ordinances that ban life-sustaining activities for people experiencing homelessness.
- Policymakers should take steps to improve data collection concerning the demographics of homeless populations in their jurisdictions.
- Policymakers should be mindful of the discriminatory impact of homelessness on marginalized groups and modify laws that currently contribute to this marginalization.
- Policymakers should implement a Housing First program that affords permanent housing to all homeless individuals as an alternative to all criminalization efforts.



# What Can Be Changed? (con't)



- Shelter staff need to be trained on how to be an ally to LGBTQ individuals
- We must ensure written policies in local city facilities are put in place to keep discrimination from occurring & individuals being turned away due to minority status to include race, gender identity, LGBTQ status, veteran status, and sexual orientation Strengthen outreach and engagement activities in the local community

**FIGHT!**

# What Can We Do?



- LGBTQ Allyship Education can be done through existing TEP program *Trans 101*
  - [Volunteer here to get involved](#)
- Lobbying, Rallying, Letter Writing Events Inviting Local Community to appeal to NV representatives, governor, & senators
  - [Contact Elected Officials NV](#)
- Contact National authorities on discrimination such as the ACLU, CCR, etc.
- Petition community in order to overturn this ordinance (in person, online)
- Write editorial letters to the local newspapers about the issue of homelessness in our community and what people can do to help/how to get involved & where to find petition & local events news

# Additional Solutions & Resources



What type of additional solutions or resources are needed in our community?

- Organizing Donation Drives For Specific Resources:
  - Non-perishable items are always in short supply
  - Shoes, coats, books
  - Small kitchen items, such as cups and utensils
  - Blankets, Pillows, Tarps
  - Office supplies, electronics, phone cards or similar items
- Suggestions?
  - What have you seen work in other locations?
  - Do you have an idea for an outreach? (For ex: hair cutting mobile stations upcoming)



# Group Conversation Topics



- Have you ever experienced homelessness?
  - Did you experience discrimination or profiling?
  - What was helpful for you to overcome homelessness?
  - How were you treated by the public/police while homeless?
- Do you volunteer with projects that do homeless outreach?
  - Tell us about their services
  - What are some of the common themes you see within the homeless population you serve?
  - How can folks get involved
- Do you have additional suggestions around how to improve the situation in LV?

*Thank You!*



**Thank You**

*We Appreciate Your Participation!*

# Resource Links



<https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=hrap>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3766254/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK218240/>

<https://www.hhs.gov/programs/social-services/homelessness/research/strategic-action-plan-on-homelessness/index.html>

<https://www.thetaskforce.org/task-force-homelessness-is-a-critical-issue-for-the-lgbt-community/>

<https://nationalhomeless.org/issues/lgbt/>

<https://nationalhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/LGBTQ-Homelessness.pdf>

<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/lgbtq-youth/homelessness>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/The-State-of-Homelessness-in-America.pdf>

# Resource Links



<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-report/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeless\\_women\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeless_women_in_the_United_States)

[https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/map/#fn\[\]=1400&fn\[\]=2900&fn\[\]=6000&fn\[\]=9900&fn\[\]=13500](https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/map/#fn[]=1400&fn[]=2900&fn[]=6000&fn[]=9900&fn[]=13500)

<http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Durso-Gates-LGBT-Homeless-Youth-Survey-July-2012.pdf>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/cities/articles/2019-09-23/10-facts-about-homelessness-in-america>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/09/18/surprising-holes-our-knowledge-americas-homeless-population/>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/photos-homelessness-states-worst-crises-2018-11>