



CAEH 2017

e4c's Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre

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e4c Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre



e4c Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC) is a non-profit organization. WEAC provides shelter, food, respite, and support to women in need in Edmonton located in the inner city but the ladies are from the entire city.

WEAC provides services to women and gender minority women and permits same gender couples to room together if requested. This is not a common practice within the Edmonton shelter system.

A Note About Language



Gender Minority

Trans-identified

Sexual Minority

Two-Spirit

Cisgender

Passing

e4c WEAC's History with Sexual and Gender Minority Women



Trans* segregation
Medical Notes
Same sex relationship separation
Passing
Gender Spectrum



Contributing Factors that Cause Increased Incidences of Homelessness Amongst Sexual and Gender Minority Women



Rejection from Family/Workplace (Poverty, lack of safety net)

Housing Discrimination

Safety Concerns

Systemic Issues

Intersectionality

Mental Health

Discrimination by social service agencies

Challenges to accessing shelter system



Admittance to accessing appropriate shelter

Difficulty accessing proper support (peer support, etc.)

Barriers accessing properly trained staff

Not enough services to accommodate sexual/gender minority persons served

Discrimination by persons served and staff

Forms/ID - appropriate disclosure

Rooming together

The Result of Denial of Services



- Universal hardships of living on the street

PLUS...

- Victimization from crime while living on the street or from crime targeting sexual/gender minority people (hate crimes)
 - Justice system involvement
 - Lack of access to appropriate medical and mental health care
 - Further rejection from system and community
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Barriers to providing services



- Navigating discrimination within staff and person served communities
 - Creating policies that protect gender and sexual minority persons served
 - Navigating sexual politics and relationships
 - Advocating for better treatment and services for gender and sexual minorities.
 - Responding to complaints/concerns.
 - Assumptions (don't have trans persons served, small population to serve).
 - Passing is necessary to access services.
 - Violence (focus on behaviour rather than identity).
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What happens at WEAC?



We Believe:

People should be treated according to their self-identified gender.

All people regardless of gender or sexual orientation are deserving of compassionate, dignified and respectful services.

Preferred name and proper pronouns

Confidentiality

Forms/Symbols

Representation

Washrooms

Complaints

Thank You



Questions?



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Thank You