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An Examination of the Relevance and Effectiveness of Contemporary Housing Policy for Women Experiencing, or at Risk of, Homelessness in Ireland

The aim of my research is to evaluate if and how contemporary housing legislation and policies in Ireland (in particular, *Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness*, 2016) reflect and respond to the specific needs and realities of women at risk of, and experiencing, homelessness; to examine how contemporary housing policies impact on the provision of services for women experiencing homelessness; and to analyse if and how the diverse needs of women (e.g. those with and without children) are accommodated within housing policy and practice. Underpinned by feminist principles and by a view of housing as a human right, the research will undertake a qualitative content analysis of current housing policy as well as semi-structured interviews with professionals working in homeless and allied services in the Southeast region. It will also interview homeless women, ensuring that the sample includes women with a variety of backgrounds and experiences, e.g. women with disability, migrant women and so forth. It is envisaged that the research will contribute to the burgeoning literature on gender and homelessness in Ireland and provide recommendations for gender-sensitive housing policy.