

From Global to Local – Homelessness Seminar



Photo: Maarit Hohteri

Oodi – Helsinki Central Library, Töölönlahdenkatu 4, Helsinki
The 30th of May 2024
Seminar 9–16, Networking event 16–18

Y-Säätiö

Program

8.30–9.00 Breakfast

9.00–9.10 Teija Ojankoski, CEO, Y-Säätiö

Welcome & Opening Remarks

9.10–9.40 Lydia Statzen, Executive Director, The Institute of Global Homelessness

What is (and isn't) working to end homelessness across global contexts

9.40–10.00 Juha Kahila, Head of International Affairs, Y-Säätiö

Beyond talk

10.00–10.30 Daniel Sazonov, Deputy Mayor, Helsinki

Housing First, Helsinki and the goal of eradicating homelessness

10.30–11.00 Jan Vapaavuori, Finland's Former Housing Minister

Housing First as an innovation – How it all started?

11.00–12.00 Lunch

12.00–13.00 Cameron Parsell, Professor, the University of Queensland

The inadequacy of system enhancements and opportunities for transformation

13.00–14.00 Andrew Boozary, MD, Toronto

Pathologies of Poverty: homelessness and health

14.00–14.30 Fernanda Auersperg, Director of Social Protection for the Ministry of

Development and Social Protection, Uruguay

14.30–15.00 Coffee break

15.00–16.00 Panel discussion

Chair person: Baroness Casey, Panelists: Andrew Boozary, Rosanne Haggerty, Cameron

Parsell, Lydia Statzen & Jan Vapaavuori

Closing remarks

16.00–18.00 Networking

Teija Ojankoski is the CEO of Y-Säätiö, which is a pioneer in eliminating homelessness and Finland's biggest national non-profit landlord. She has over 20 years of experience in management and leadership in the field of social housing and homelessness. Teija holds a PhD in Urban Geography and leads Y-Säätiö in its mission to eradicate homelessness in Finland. Teija believes in collaboration and partnerships with various actors, and under her leadership, Y-Säätiö strives to create a society where everyone has the right to a home.

Lydia Stazen, Executive Director of Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH), leads global policy initiatives to combat homelessness, drawing from her 20-year background in housing, employment, and higher education advocacy. Previously at City Colleges of Chicago, she addressed food and housing insecurity among students, initiating systemic responses. A key figure in international homelessness discourse, she chairs the UN NGO Working Group to End Homelessness and is a founding editorial member of the International Journal on Homelessness.

Daniel Sazonov, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki, is Finland's foremost current political figure in the fight against homelessness. As Deputy Mayor for Social Services, Health, and Rescue Services, he is leading the city's ambitious efforts in ending homelessness by 2025. Moreover, as the Chair of the government's program dedicated to eradicating long-term homelessness in Finland, Sazonov is at the forefront of strategic planning and implementation.

Jan Vapaavuori, former Minister of Housing and pivotal figure in Finland's 'Housing First' approach, played a crucial role in the development and mainstream adoption of the revolutionary model, which has significantly reduced long-term homelessness in the country. With a longstanding career in politics, including roles as Helsinki's Mayor, Minister of Economic Affairs and Member of Parliament. Post-political career, he continues to contribute as an advisor, notably in urban and real estate development.

Juha Kahila is the Head of International Affairs at Y-Säätiö, playing a pivotal role in collaborating with homelessness organizations worldwide, sharing knowledge, and promoting Finland's Housing First model globally. He coordinates the Nordic Homelessness Alliance and leads a workgroup at the Housing First Europe Hub. Previously spearheading Finland's National Housing First development network, he has worked various roles in housing services, gaining a holistic understanding of housing and homelessness.

Dr. Andrew Boozary, a primary care physician, researcher and policy practitioner, is a leading voice in health equity and homelessness. As the founding executive director of the Gattuso Centre for Social Medicine, he focuses on improving health outcomes for marginalized populations, notably during the pandemic. He holds the Dalla Lana Professorship in Policy Innovation at the University of Toronto, with extensive work advising on primary care reform and pharmacare, widely recognized and published nationally and internationally.

Cameron Parsell is Professor of the Social Sciences at The University of Queensland and an Australian Research Council Industry Fellow. His works seek to understand the social and policy changes required to end homelessness. In partnership with the not-for-profit sector, he is examining how people using human services, along with professionals delivering human services, can collectively contribute to systematic societal transformation.

María Fernanda Auersperg, an accomplished public accountant, currently serves as the Director of Social Protection at Uruguay's Ministry of Social Development (MIDES). She leads initiatives to enhance social welfare and protection, emphasizing custom-made, tailored solutions and more diversified responses to the multifaceted challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness.

Louise Casey, Baroness Casey of Blackstock, is a leading British government official in social welfare, focusing notably on homelessness. With roles such as head of the Rough Sleepers' Unit and UK's first Victims' Commissioner, she advised Boris Johnson on homelessness, later chairing the Rough Sleeping Taskforce during the pandemic. As Chair of the Institute of Global Homelessness, she leads international efforts. Honored as a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) and a life peer, Baroness Casey remains an advocate for the vulnerable.

Rosanne Haggerty serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Community Solutions, spearheading innovative strategies to combat homelessness and strengthen communities. Recognized globally for her work, she leads initiatives like the 100,000 Homes and Built for Zero Campaigns, aimed at ending chronic and veteran homelessness. Ms. Haggerty, a recipient of the Jane Jacobs Medal and Social Entrepreneur of the Year award, founded Common Ground Community, known for its pioneering supportive housing designs.

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