

Consensus conference – What works?

What works with Housing First and what is required from different societal actors to collaboratively create long-term and sustainable solutions to counteract homelessness? This is the theme for the Housing First Hub's consensus conference in Gothenburg on October 1st.

Join inspiring discussions and conversations with representatives from academia, civil society, the public sector, and politics, including a discussion on the future of Housing First after 2026.

Peer support, peer supporters with personal experience of social issues, will be available to answer questions and talk during the breaks.

The presentations will mainly be in Swedish, but an interpreter will be available for English-speaking participants.

The program

What Works?

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM. Current research and new focus areas regarding methods that counteract homelessness will be presented.

- Professor Marcus Knutagård provides us with a retrospective on the 2023 Consensus Conference and an overview of the latest changes in the national efforts to combat homelessness.
- Coordinator Samara Jones talks about the European Housing First Hub's shift in focus from scaling up Housing First to systemic change. Professor Eoin O'Sullivan reviews what works in Housing First and effective methods to combat homelessness.

Break 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

How Do We Drive Change?

From 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM, we will hear perspectives from Swedish and Finnish non-profit organizations on what creates change for people in social vulnerability.

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- Juha Kahila, Head of International Affairs, describes Finland's Y-Foundation and the newly formed Nordic Homelessness Alliance.
- Stockholms Stadsmission presents its property agency Bobyrån and how civil society can contribute to making a difference.
- Göteborgs Stadsmission's protective services present Nyckeln, a collaboration model with property owners that enables stable housing for victims of violence.

Consensus Panel

A non-profit and a municipal actor will present their work with Housing First for review by a jury panel. This begins from 11:00 AM – 11:45 AM and will resume from 1:00 PM – 1:45 PM after lunch.

- Unit Manager Borko Grujic from Göteborgs Stadsmission and Ninja Larsson from Stockholm City, together with their colleagues, present what works well in their Housing First programs.
- Their respective programs are critically reviewed by a jury panel consisting of Marcus Knutagård, Eoin O'Sullivan, Åsa Schelin, and Gustaf Henriksson.

The Future of Housing First

What does the future hold for Housing First? Join a discussion with representatives from European organizations, academia, and politics. 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM with a break from 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM.

- Saija Turunen, Head of Research at Finland's Y-Foundation, shares her latest research on Housing First work in various European countries.
- Director Freek Spinnewijn from FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless) talks about the organization's strategic development and goals.
- The day concludes with a discussion on the future of Housing First after 2026, where the audience can ask questions. The discussion is led by Marcus Knutagård, and among the panelists are Minister of Social Services Camilla Waltersson Grönvall and Freek Spinnewijn.

Speakers

- **Borko Grujic**, Unit manager, [Göteborgs Stadsmission Bostad Först](#)
- **Camilla Waltersson Grönvall** – Minister for Social Services, [Socialdepartementet](#)
- **Eoin O’Sullivan** – Professor, [Trinity College Dublin](#)
- **Freek Spinnewijn** – Director, [FEANTSA](#)
- **Gustaf Henriksson** – Coordinator, [Bostad Först Göteborgs Stad](#)
- **Juha Kahila**, Head of International Affairs, [Y-foundation](#)
- **Marcus Knutagård** – Professor, [Malmö University](#)
- **Ninja Larsson**, Unit Manager, [Stockholm Stad Bostad Först](#)
- **Saija Turunen**, Head of Research, [Y-Foundation](#)
- **Samara Jones** – Programme Coordinator, [Housing First Europe](#)
- **Åsa Schelin**, Housing Expert, [Sveriges Allmännytt](#)

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