Gender and Poverty

The human stories behind the policies

Live EAPN Talks

24 November 2026
LaVallée, Brussels
6:00 - 8.00 p.m. (CET)

European Anti-Poverty Network

Gender and Poverty Launch
Agenda

In 2025, the President of the European Commission Ursula Von der Leyen pledged to contribute to the **eradication of poverty in the EU by 2050**. This ambition was given a new policy framework with the adoption, in May 2026, of the EU's first **Anti-Poverty Strategy (EU APS)**. Together with the renewed European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) and the **Gender Equality Strategy 2026–2030**, this creates an important opportunity to address the links between gender and poverty.

For EAPN, poverty is a **multidimensional violation of fundamental rights**, shaped not only by income but also by access to employment, social protection, housing, essential services and decision-making power. **Gender is central to these dynamics**: gendered norms, unpaid domestic work, labour-market exclusions and unequal access to resources all shape pathways into and through poverty.

Yet gender does not operate in isolation. Gender intersects with other forms of discrimination and exclusion, including racism, migration status, disability, age, sexuality and place of residence. A gender-neutral approach to poverty risks overlooking these dynamics, while a gender equality approach that does not sufficiently address poverty risks leaving behind those experiencing the deepest forms of exclusion. The EAPN **Gender and Poverty Factsheet** therefore takes an intersectional approach to examine how gendered power structures produce and reproduce poverty, while highlighting the significant gaps in data and policy that continue to make some groups of people experiencing poverty invisible.

The launch will use the factsheet as a starting point for a facilitated conversation around a central question: **what does it take to effectively tackle gendered poverty if our ambition is not simply to reduce poverty, but to eradicate it?**

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18:00 – 18:05 Welcome and introduction

18:05 – 18:20

Setting the scene

Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic -Director for Social Rights and Inclusion, DG EMPL, European Commission
Moderated by Marie-Amah Kouadio, Senior Communications Officer, EAPN

A rapid-fire exchange exploring how the European Commission intends to address the gendered dimensions of poverty, particularly through the implementation of the EU APS. Through four questions, we will explore concrete EU-level policy solutions to the everyday challenges faced by people experiencing gendered poverty.

18:25 – 19:25 Facilitated discussion

Challenging preconceived ideas about gender and poverty

Aïda Yancy, Expert on Equality and Human Rights
Moderated by Marie-Amah Kouadio, Senior Communications Officer, EAPN

What do we think we know about gender and poverty and what might we be overlooking? This facilitated discussion will unpack common assumptions about who experiences poverty, why it happens, and how it intersects with gender and other forms of discrimination.

A series of preconceived ideas will be projected behind the panellists, inviting the audience to react, challenge these statements and share their own perspectives through an open microphone. The panellists will respond to these contributions and explore key themes, including why a gendered perspective on poverty matters, the backlash against gender equality and civil society, intersectionality, and the people and experiences too often missing from policy debates.

19:25–19:30 Closing: what do we take forward?

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