

About the Women In Safe Homes Fund

Catalytic capital to acquire housing for 6,000+ women and children experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the UK

The Women In Safe Homes fund is the first residential property investment fund in the United Kingdom (UK) with an explicit gender focus. Created and managed by joint managers, [Resonance](#) and [Patron Capital](#), the Women in Safe Homes fund aims to raise £100 million to acquire homes in communities across the UK that can provide safe and affordable housing for women and children who are survivors of domestic abuse, have been involved in the criminal justice system, are experiencing homelessness, or have other complex needs.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's \$5 million program-related equity investment in the Women in Safe Homes fund will help pioneer an alternative acquisition and leasing model that will help address the high unmet need for housing designated for families to "move-on" from emergency housing before becoming fully independent. MacArthur is joining with fellow catalytic capital investors, including [Big Society Capital](#), a leading UK-based social investor.

Why It Matters

Even before COVID-19, the limited supply of safe and secure homes for women in need fell far short of demand in the UK. And as the economic consequences of the pandemic causes rates of domestic abuse and homelessness to skyrocket, women and children are at risk more than ever.

Between 2012 and 2016, the UK saw a loss of 120,000 government subsidized homes. Many homes in the private rental market are too expensive for low-income women and children, and private landlords often view

them as unfavorable tenants, particularly if they have a history of homelessness or use of government subsidies. UK women's sector organizations, charities, and housing associations often lack the resources to own and manage suitable housing at a scale to match growing demand.



Photo credit: Women in Safe Homes

How It Works

To bridge this funding gap, the Women in Safe Homes fund partners with charities and WSOs such as the [Preston Road Womens Centre](#) and [Nacro](#) that provide support and housing to women and children experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The Women in Safe Homes fund will acquire up to 650 units of housing, which will be leased to charity partners for 10 years. The charity partners will lease the homes to qualified tenants and have the option to acquire the homes at the end of the 10-year life of the fund.

Using this pioneering lease and ownership model, Women in Safe Homes is laying the groundwork to help thousands of women in challenging situations find safe and affordable housing in the UK and elsewhere. With increased supply and access to affordable housing, women and children in the UK will gain the safety and security they need to achieve economic stability, thrive, and ultimately improve their livelihoods for generations to come.

The Women In Safe Homes fund is a field partnership of the Catalytic Capital Consortium, which is an investment, learning, and market development initiative launched by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, in partnership with The Rockefeller Foundation and Omidyar Network. The Consortium informs and inspires the use of catalytic capital globally to help enterprises and funds access the financing they need to innovate, scale, and sustain high-impact strategies that further the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

To advance the Catalytic Capital Consortium, MacArthur is investing in a series of funds or intermediaries that demonstrate a powerful use of catalytic capital across sectors and geographies.