

• European Conference on Drug-Related Violence

- This presentation was delivered at the European Conference on Drug-Related Violence on 26-27 November 2024 in Brussels. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.



WOMXN
TAKE
DRUGS
DEAL WITH IT!

NI RACISME
NI
COLONIALISME

NI UNX
MENYS

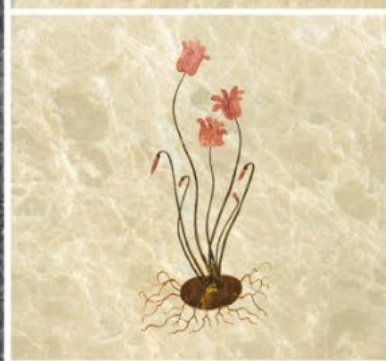
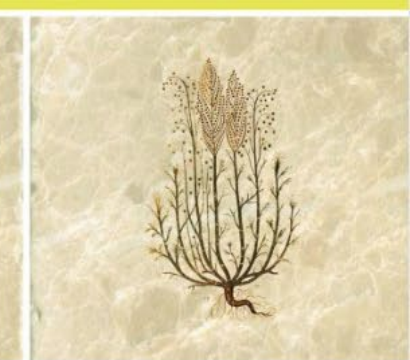
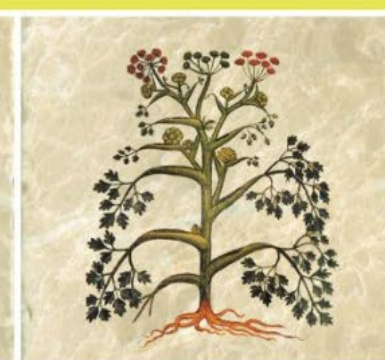
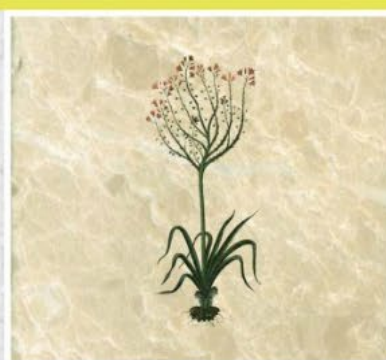
NADA SOBRE
NOSOTRXS
SIN NOSOTRXS

ORGULLO
FEMINISTA



Aura Roig Forteza
Metzineres Coop





Drug Policy and Harm Reduction strategies in Catalonia

Late 80s Spain had the highest prevalence of HIV in Europe, and Barcelona had the second highest mortality rate of any city in Europe. Main cause of death of the population between 15–35 years old: AIDS and Accidental Heroin Overdose

- 1984 **Grup IGIA**. Interdisciplinary team of doctors, researchers, people who use drugs proposing a public health approach that incorporates harm reduction.
- 1986 First **Methadone Maintenance Program** in a Public outpatient treatment centers providing direct access to care.
- 1991. First **Cannabis Social Club** and First **Needle Exchange Program**
- 1997 Resolution supported by **consensus across all political parties**, recognizing harm reduction strategies as effective and they should be implemented with a **Community Focus**.
- 1997: Energy Control, first **Drug Checking Service** in Spain
- 2003: First **Supervised Drug Consumption Room** and First **prison-based NEP**
- 2017: **Metzineres**, **Sheltered Environments for women and non-binary gender people who use drugs surviving violence** that includes **Consumption Spaces** to use all kind of drugs
- 2020: First **Shelter** that includes **Supervised Consumption Rooms** and **Acohol Maintenance Programs**



Women and non-binary gender people who use drugs, survive multiple situations of violence and vulnerability, finding difficult to gain access to and be supported by social services and healthcare networks. They are often excluded from services, including ones focused either on drugs or on gender-based violence.

This lack of alternatives, the barriers to access, and these institutional gaps exacerbate social control, inequality, social injustice, and exclusion.



Prejudice, stigma, and discrimination result in a systematic violation of their rights.



XARXA DE DONES QUE USEN DROGUES



Metzineres is an innovative, and daring non-profit cooperative providing sheltered environments exclusively for womxn*, that focus on human rights, gender mainstreaming, and which cover a full spectrum of harm reduction approaches.

With both a holistic and individualized framework, Metzineres emphasizes the uniqueness of each womxn and each situation. Access into Metzineres is immediate, with widely flexible responses that take into consideration individual expectations, concerns, interests and needs.

Supported by local community strategies, and the social and solidarity-based economy, the Metzineres model aims to be one that provides consistency, is reliable, pragmatic, cost effective, and one in which each womxn plays a central role.



Genuine
Creativity



Radical
Tendernes



Collective
Resilience



Rogue
Courage



Activism of
Care



Complicity
and Mutual
Support



Anti-prohibitionist
Commitment



Evidence-based
Transdisciplinarity



Transformative
Passion

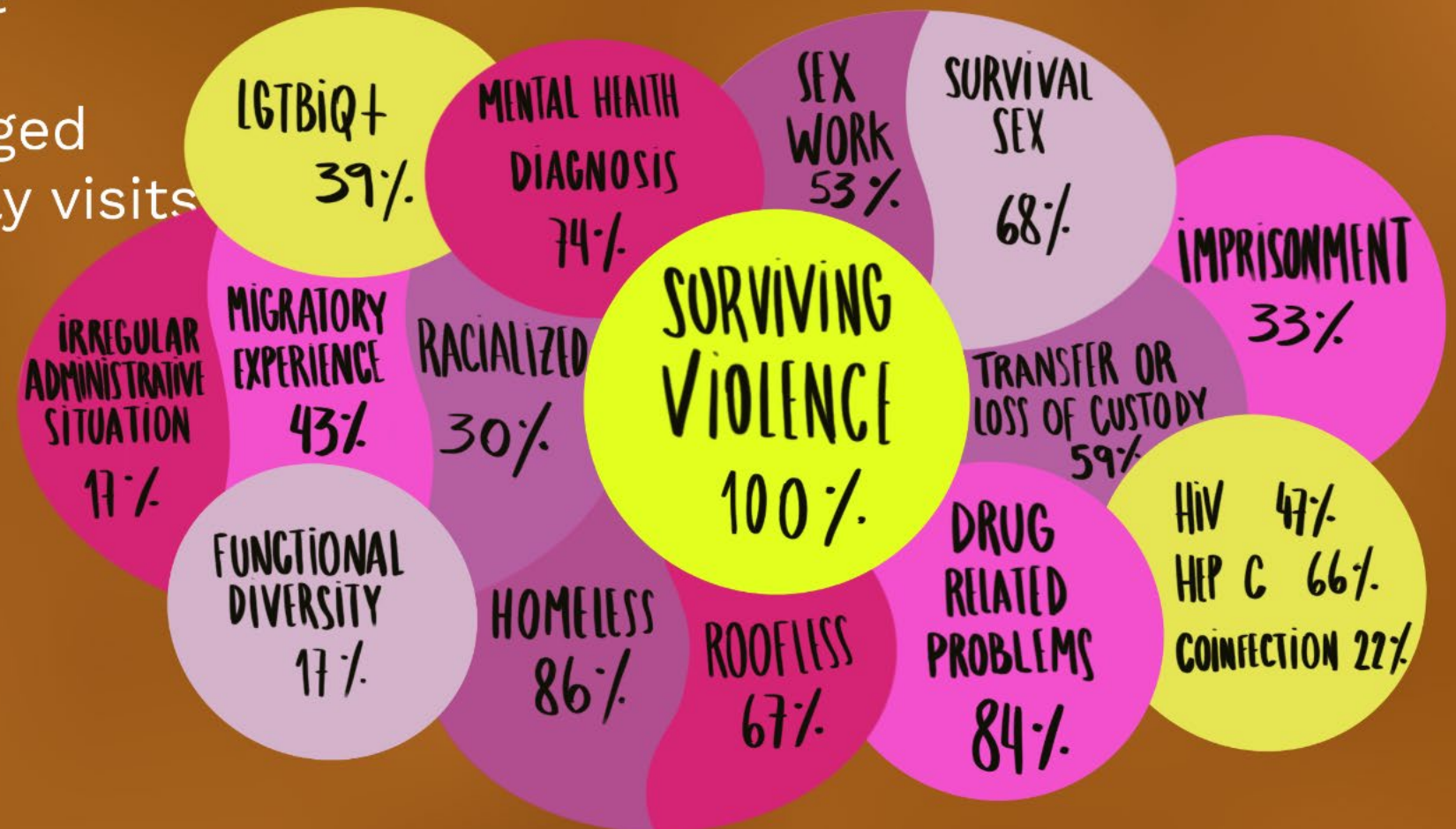
Metzineres welcomes all womxn by forming and adapting compassionate responses to their complex and changing realities.

Rather than creating an exhaustive and exclusive list of entry criteria, emphasis is placed on reaching those facing multiple, simultaneous, and interconnected social variables that shape their experience and existence

575 womxn engaged
Between 45 and 55 daily visits

- Cis: 437 (77%)
- Trans: 103 (18%)
- Non-binary & gender fluid: 19 (3%)

(No info: 16)





DURING CHILDHOOD

83 womxn

- Family circle: 66
- Nearby context: 19
- By strangers: 5
- School: 1

DURING ADULTHOOD

575 womxn

SOURCE: Partner: 159
Family Circle: 29
Nearby context: 99
By strangers: 110


INSTITUTIONAL AND/OR STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE

CRIMINALIZATION:

- Police: 65
- Judicial System: 47
- Penitentiary: 31

SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE

- Health Care: 51
- Social Care: 52
- Others: 20



To seek person-centered approaches, based on the freedom of (re)definition, individual agency, empowerment, and the improvement of personal well-being

Reduce barriers and improve access and adherence to care networks through diversified, comprehensive, appropriate, affordable, easy-to-navigate, and high-quality resources and services for womxn





Support the central role of womxn in influencing the establishment, development, and transformation of public policies and eventual actions that shape their lives.

Reduce prejudice, stigma, and discrimination against people who use drugs, specifically womxn, while actively advocating for their rights.



Sheltered Environments

Each and every person can be part of and wander through the various Sheltered Environments, according to their identified need for personal well-being, their unique circumstances, uncertainties, desire to get involved, or any other requests.

THE COVER

Basic Needs: Food, rest, hygiene, clothing, solidarity, and mutual support.

SIE RAVAL

Specialized Intervention Service in Violence - Network for Addressing Gender-Based Violence of the Generalitat of Catalonia

ACCOMPANIED DRUG USE

Harm reduction strategies for different substances and routes of use.

ARTISANA


Artistic and creative initiatives for changing narratives.


OUTREACH TEAM

Reaches those who do not access any Metzineres spaces.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY

We are part of local networks, participating in and creating community and coexistence spaces.

 Carrer de la Lluna 3

 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 2 to 9 p.m.
Tuesday and Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday closed



2024 Espacio Marianne

Hub

Reducir las múltiples barreras de acceso a la justicia que enfrentan lxs mujerxs.

Since 2015, nearly 60% of fines imposed under the "Ley Mordaza" have been related to drugs.

Sanctions for consumption or possession in public spaces disproportionately affect people experiencing homelessness, forcing them to seek isolated or unsafe spaces. This increases the risk of death from overdose and exposes them to multiple forms of violence.

Penalizing activities linked to certain means of subsistence and/or stemming from poverty and social exclusion disproportionately impacts vulnerable groups already facing significant challenges.

This not only exacerbates economic precariousness but also contributes to increasing stigma and discrimination.



98 womxn
704 actions

192 Coordinations
223 Legal Advices
95 Legal support
12 Lettered Representation
63 Prison Visits
33 Written/Resources
36 Reports addressed to the Court
47 Administrative procedures and others

8 Alternative Measures to Imprisonment
3 Alternative Measures to Administrative Sanctions
(since Setember)



Marianne Brull
Suïssa, 1935
Barcelona, 2023



Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating

- Genuine, accurate, and up-to-date information
- Non-intrusive research tools:
 - It respects privacy, confidentiality, and anonymity.
 - It refrains from imposing any prerequisites or initial interviews
 - Respecting the rhythm of each person. Womxn decide what, when, where, how and to whom they share their biographies.
- New metrics and indicators subject to constant feedback.
- Systematized data collected in our own open code database, based on technological sovereignty.



This method of monitoring and evaluation is applied as a routine process, rather than a singular finality, allowing us to assess the availability, coverage, quality, and relevance of the interventions.

By applying rigorous reviews and pragmatic decision-making, Metzineres is able to constantly reconfigure their actions to the places and populations where it intends to have an impact.

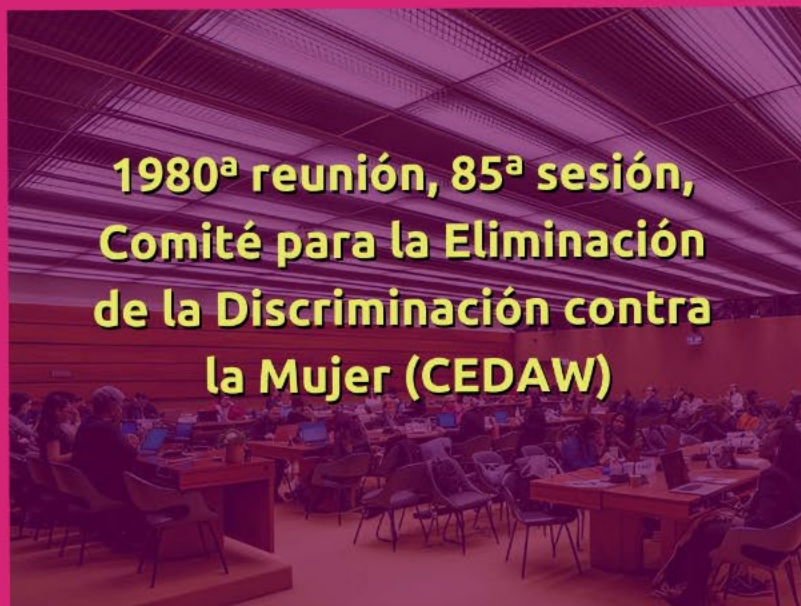
Research, Training, Consulting



Technical
Advocacy

International
cooperation

Networking



Metzineres approach model is pioneering
and has been recognized as good practice
at local, national and international level



