

## International Women's Day: the gender aspects of energy poverty

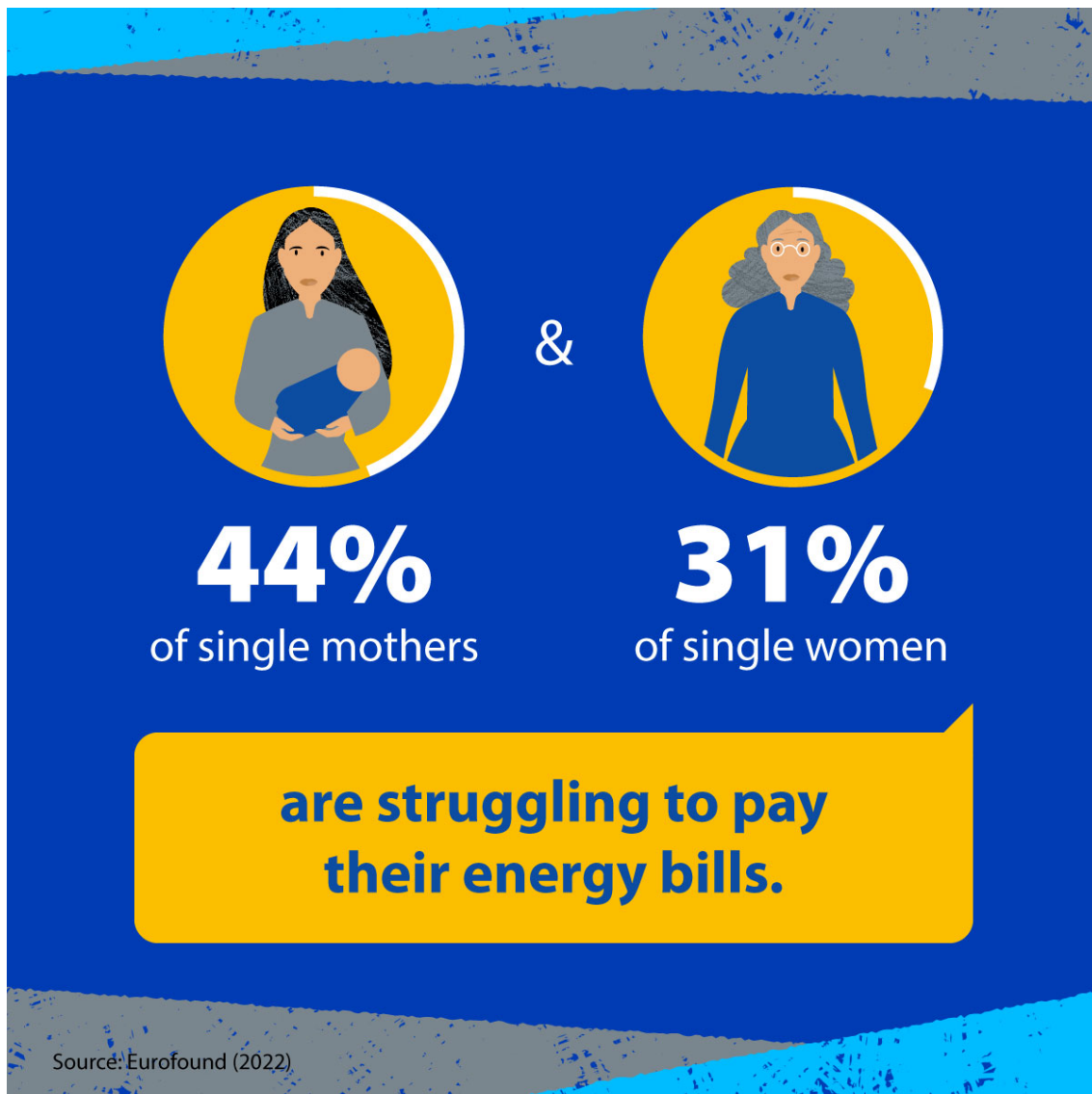
Single women struggle more to pay their energy bills than single men. Find out more about the impact of the recent cost-of-living crisis.




International Women's Day - The gender aspects of energy poverty

Energy poverty is a significant problem in many parts of Europe, as households struggle to pay rising energy costs. [Eurofound data](#) from 2022 shows that single mothers and other single women are more likely have difficulties paying their energy bills than single men. This is often due to lower average incomes and a higher prevalence of low-paid, part-time, or precarious work. The [gender pay gap in the EU](#) was still at 13% in 2020 and has only changed minimally over the last decade. It means women earn on average 13% less per hour than men.

The cost-of-living crisis is having a negative impact on women's economic and social inclusion, health and fundamental rights. It also makes it harder for women without an income or with a low income to [flee abuse and domestic violence](#) from a partner to whom they are financially tied.



The percentage of single women and single mothers struggling to pay energy bills.



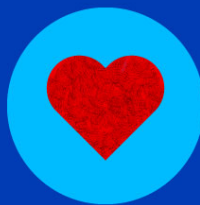
**Women earn less on average and there are more women than men in low-paying, part-time, or precarious jobs. That is why women face greater risk of energy poverty.**

Women have less stable jobs and lower incomes than men, facing higher risks of energy poverty.

## This cost-of-living crisis affects women's



economic and  
social inclusion



health



fundamental  
rights

Parts of women's lives may be affected by the high cost of living.



The European Parliament aims to establish a Social Climate Fund to support the most vulnerable Europeans.

Parliament is working on setting up the [Social Climate Fund](#) to ensure that every European, especially those in vulnerable situations, have access to affordable energy. The fund should finance concrete measures to address energy and mobility poverty, both in the short and longer term.

The women's rights and gender equality committee will [meet with members of national parliaments from EU countries](#) on 1 March ahead of International Women's Day on 8 March and discuss the gender aspects of energy poverty. Hosted by committee chair Robert Biedroń, the meetings features guests such as Katharina Habersbrunner, from Women Engage for a Common Future and Juliana Whalgren, the Director of the European Anti-poverty Network. The

event is a chance to exchange information, experiences and best practices in addressing the energy crisis and its social and economic effects on women.

*[Follow the event live online.](#)*

## **Gender equality**

[Parliament's fight for gender equality in the EU](#)