I am inspired, I am inspired because of other women, inspired women are empowered women, I am empowered!

Women have to be strong to face the many obstacles of patriarchal society. Some face more than others. Everyday life can be fraught with difficulty and for some it is a constant, never-ending struggle. Women face violence and discrimination at work and harassment in public and social life. Women and men have yet to become equal. Women have less influence, our voice is seldom heard.

Home, the one place that should offer women a secure refuge, has proven to be the most dangerous place for a woman. Some women have to flee their homes and the life they built for themselves. Protected housing, where women rescue women from violence and discrimination, helps to the process of rehabilitation. They offer a safe haven for shorter periods of time. But when is it time to start the rebuilding life outside of the shelter, there is nowhere to go. The present shortage of housing in Sweden is devastating. How do you rebuild your life and home, without finding a place to call your own?

History has proven that change takes place when women come together and organize themselves. The city, that today is often talked about in terms of fear and insecurity, was once the place for women’s emancipation. The physical spaces that a society builds and occupies contribute to the ways in which human identity is socially constructed. Women have to take active part in this construction and never forget that the architectural value systems is inherently patriarchal. Women must refuse to be defined by others. Women are much more than victims.

Co-housing for women would offer an alternative way of living for women seeking support, care, companionship and a new lifestyle. It would present an option for women ready to leave protective housing. It would offer a lifestyle where you both give and take, where solidarity becomes the security. Co-housing for women would offer a home that is truly a home, a residence that offers safety and sisterhood. It would be a place where women regain power over their lives.