



TO GO FURTHER AND
LEARN MORE, CHECK
OUT OUR FREE ONLINE
COURSE:

- Available 24/7 Free and anonymous
- For professionals, victims, perpetrators, relatives, and others

0800 30 030

Helpline



SPECIFIC RESOURCES:

we-access.eu

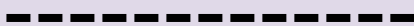
Multilingual online chat:

- Knowing the support network enables you to:
 - Keep the woman and her children safe.
 - Provide access to the most effective assistance.
- Always offer to connect her with specialized organizations. Do not intervene directly within the family. Remember: support services also exist for perpetrators.



WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

KEY RISK FACTORS



Attention, cette liste n'est pas exhaustive. Toutefois, la présence de l'un de ces éléments est souvent associée à une augmentation du danger et nécessite une orientation vers un service spécialisé.

For the Victim

- **Threats against her life or that of her children**
- **Dependency:** residence permit, financial/material insecurity, addictions
- **Social isolation:** lack of supportive networks, prohibition from learning the language or working, self-harm
- **Vulnerabilities:** suicidal thoughts, pregnancy, precarious living conditions, language barriers
- **Cultural/religious pressures:** forced marriage, family opposition, restrictive beliefs
- **Post-separation risk:** escalation of violence after leaving the partner

For the Perpetrator

- **Problematic profile:** manipulative, unstable, defies legal measures, suicidal threats
- **Control and harassment:** jealousy, digital or physical surveillance, social isolation
- **History of violence:** strangulation, weapons, threats against children, family, or pets
- **Triggers:** partner's announcement of separation, police/court intervention

FOR PROFESSIONALS

- **Information to gather:** Residence status, language, children, socioeconomic situation, mobility, vulnerabilities
- **Communication tips:** Simplify language, check understanding, use interpreters if needed, adapt culturally
- **Rights and procedures:** Inform her of available protections (divorce, health, housing, residence permits)
- **Health vigilance:** Involve psycho-medical professionals quickly, detect somatization
- **Safety:** Assess risks of physical and psychological harm, reprisals, and available resources
- **Confidentiality:** Essential, especially in cases of irregular residence status or risk of data access by the perpetrator
- **Trauma awareness:** Consider the cumulative effects of migration history, domestic violence, and other traumas
- **Bias awareness:** Recognize your own cultural biases, avoid stereotypes, and seek training
- **Risk assessment:** Evaluate risks of reprisals (including cultural ones) and psychosocial impacts (employment, family ties, residence status)

IF YOU FEAR FOR HER IMMEDIATE SAFETY, Call the police: 112

& Always refer the woman to a specialized legal aid service, especially for immigration law:



TYPES OF VIOLENCE

- **Coercive control:** Persistent control causing psychological harm.
- **Physical violence:** Direct attacks such as hitting, strangling, or burning.
- **Psychological violence:** Humiliation, threats, isolation, manipulation, or destruction of self-esteem.
- **Sexual violence:** Non-consensual sexual acts, including within marriage.
- **Economic violence:** Controlling finances to create dependency.
- **Honor-based violence:** Harm committed to "protect" family honor, often linked to gender norms.
- **Cyber violence:** Online harassment, threats, surveillance, or deepfakes.
- **Verbal violence:** Insults, shouting, threats, or degrading comments.
- **Institutional violence:** Harm through inappropriate treatment by institutions (justice, police, health, etc.).
- **Administrative violence:** Abuse of legal/administrative procedures (withholding documents, misuse of laws, etc.).
- **Spiritual violence:** Using religion or beliefs to control, blame, or justify violence.
- **Forced marriage:** Marriage imposed without free consent, often under family or community pressure.

- **Listen** attentively, without judgment.
- **Build trust** and maintain a supportive connection.
- **Express concern** and acknowledge her fears.
- **Refer her to specialized services** and make the process easier by acting as a guide or coordinator.
- **Accompany her** to relevant organizations to reduce barriers and limit institutional violence.

YOUR ROLE WITH A VICTIM

But when a woman: feels **afraid** of her partner, cannot express herself without triggering **violence**, or is prevented from acting freely, she is very likely a victim of violence. Her safety is at risk.

In any relationship,

Note: Because this issue is strongly gendered, the victim is referred to as a woman and the perpetrator as a man. However, these guidelines apply to all victims, regardless of gender.

- Nearly 33% of migrant women in the European Union have experienced physical or sexual violence from their intimate partner, compared to around 22% of women born in the host country.
- In France, a study by the DREES found that 25% of women killed by their spouse were born abroad, even though they represent only about 12% of the adult female population.

Some key data:

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST MIGRANT WOMEN

FACING VIOLENCE AGAINST MIGRANT WOMEN

Guidelines for Frontline Professionals

This document can help you better understand the situation of migrant women who are victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) and provide them with more specific support.



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FACED WITH VIOLENCE AGAINST A MIGRANT WOMAN, WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Guidelines for approaching and guiding migrant women in the best possible way

APPROACHING THE TOPIC WITH A MIGRANT WOMAN

Ask yourself: Am I comfortable raising the issue of violence with her?

NO

It's okay

provide a **leaflet** or **refer** her to someone trustworthy and qualified.

Helpline
Belgium

0800 30 030

www.ecouteviolencesconjugales.be

and the chat about violence against migrant women:

we-access.eu



YES

Caring environment

Ensure an appropriate means of communication

Respect beliefs and customs

- Create a supportive environment.
- Provide appropriate means of communication (interpreter if necessary).
- Respect beliefs and customs.
- Ensure confidentiality.
- Use open-ended questions and active listening.
- Pay particular attention to her residence permit and identify trusted contacts.

If she finds herself in a violent situation, make sure she knows her rights.

The person should always be referred to a legal service specialising in immigration law.

**QUESTION AND VERIFY
= IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL!**



TO LEARN MORE AND GO FURTHER, CHECK OUT OUR FREE ONLINE COURSE

GUIDING & SUPPORTING TOWARDS THE SPECIALISED NETWORK

Specialised legal resources



List of useful addresses

