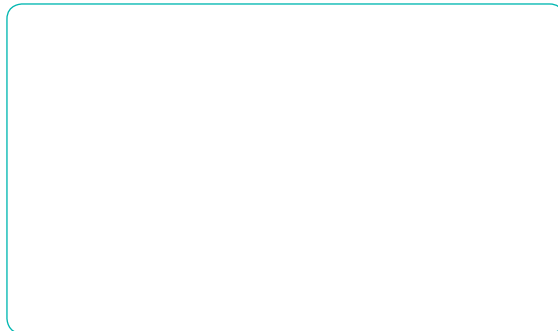
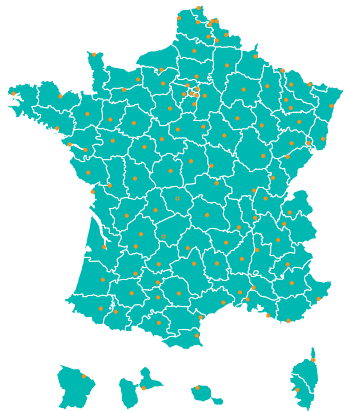


The information included in this brochure is general in content. For further information regarding your personal circumstances, please contact your CIDFF, who can inform you, guide you and direct you towards members of professional staff.

There are **114 CIDFFs** (Information centres for women's and family rights) both in France and in certain overseas territories with numerous hotlines available. There will definitely be one close to you: You can find contact information for the CIDFF online at [www.infofemmes.com](http://www.infofemmes.com)



### Who can help me?

- A CIDFF or an association which specialises in immigration law can inform me of my rights and assist me in my efforts.
- A doctor who deals with violent situations.
- A social worker who will not leave you alone, and who will talk to you. These can also help me to exercise my social rights (social housing, JSA...).

CNIDFF - 7, rue du Jura - 75013 Paris - 01 42 17 12 00 - [cnidff@cnidff.fr](mailto:cnidff@cnidff.fr)

[www.infofemmes.com](http://www.infofemmes.com)

This information booklet has been produced by the CNIDFF in partnership with the housing management division, the Integration and Citizenship Association (DAIC), and in collaboration with the CIDFF in Bouches-du-Rhône/Phocéen, Gard, Haute-Garonne, Haute-Savoie, Hautes-Pyrénées, Hauts-de-Seine/Nanterre, Ile-et-Vilaine, Limousin, Loiret/Orléans, Maine-et-Loire, Nord/Dunkerque, Nord/Roubaix, Paris, French Polynesia, Seine-et-Marne, Var, and Yvelines.

**CNIDFF**  
Centre national d'information  
sur les droits des femmes  
et des familles



## Domestic violence: All women have rights

French law both **prohibits and condemns acts of domestic violence**, even when people are separated, and protects every individual living in France, **whatever their nationality, and irrespective of their immigration or residential status.**

**Le réflexe égalité**

[www.infofemmes.com](http://www.infofemmes.com)

# Domestic violence: foreign and immigrant women also have rights

## I am a victim

He insults me.

He threatens me.

He tells me that I don't have any right over my children.

He refuses to let me out.

He doesn't want me to call my friend.

He humiliates me in front of my children and my family.

He refuses to let me work.

He harasses me.

He steals my identity documents.

He left me in the country without documentation.

He stops me from receiving family allowance.

He hits me.

He forces me to have sex even if I don't want to.

## I have rights: What are they?

**I have the right to be protected** if I am a victim of such violence, whether this be physical, verbal, psychological, or sexual...

I presented all **the evidence** to prove the type of violence I was subject to before the court (medical certificates, witness statements, photos, handrails, complaints, SMS messages...). This **evidence** is imperative for my protection and to help bring the perpetrator to justice.

**I have the right to leave my homeland with my children.**

I brought along both originals and photocopies of all of the important documents (identity card, residence permit, passport, school certificates, NHS card, family booklet, lease agreement, bank statements, rent receipts...).

**I am a mother**, and I have **the same rights to our children as their father.**

**I have the right to oppose my children leaving the territory** in case they are abducted.

**I have the right to be represented** by a solicitor.

**I have the right to return to France** if he left me in the country without any documentation (residence permit, passport...).

I have the right in principle to unemployment benefit on the grounds that **the resignation has been approved and violence is a legitimate reason for resignation.**

## I can act: How?

**I can:**

- **consult a doctor, contact a CIDFF centre or an association** which specialises in immigration law or a **social worker** whom I can speak to, and who can assist me in my efforts.

- **lodge a complaint** at any police station, gendarmerie, or via a public prosecutor **even if I am not in possession of a residence permit.** This complaint may result in the perpetrator being convicted of a criminal offence.

- request a **protection order** from the family court which requires the perpetrator to leave the family home and to break off all forms of contact with me. I can also ask for the court to protect my children.

- request a **divorce on the grounds of fault.**

**I can be assisted in finding accommodation.**

I can request that my **residence permit** be issued or renewed.

**even if we are no longer co-habiting** because the prefecture takes violence into consideration.

**I can request that the family court allow my children to live with me permanently** and to provide family support paid for by the father. Any disputes relating to the children will be addressed by the court.

In an emergency, I can request an **order to leave the country**, which is valid for 15 days either at the prefecture or at the police station. I can also ask the family court for a **banning order on leaving the country** for an extended period of time.

**I am entitled to free legal aid** if I do not have sufficient resources, and even if I am not in possession of a residence permit **when I am granted a protection order.**

**I can contact the French consulate** should my documents be stolen overseas in order to obtain a "pass" which would allow me to return to France.

**I may request a payment of unemployment benefit** by presenting myself at a job centre which has been provided with details of my complaint and change of address.