



Rheinland-Pfalz

MINISTERIUM FÜR FAMILIE,
FRAUEN, JUGEND, INTEGRATION
UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ

PUT AN END TO VIOLENCE IN CLOSE SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Information for those affected and anyone who may be interested

Englisch





FOREWORD

'I am simply one in three women who is forced to accept violence as a part of her life story. This is a statistic that has to change. One in three women can no longer have to face the stigma or fear that prevent them from seeking help. I am one in three, and I will be the one who yells from the rooftops until those numbers change.'

Teri Hatcher (actress)

On joining the Istanbul Convention in 2017, Germany made a commitment to do everything possible in the future to combat all forms of violence against women, protect those affected and provide them with full support. Under the Convention, standards of protection aimed at encouraging women affected to identify the perpetrators of violence and seek help and support are mandatory throughout Europe.

The Convention reaffirms in no uncertain terms that violence is not a private matter – it's a matter of public concern, because, unfortunately, violence affects women in the very place where they should feel safe and secure: in their relationship with their partner. Sadly, though, it turns out to be exactly the opposite. Statistically, the most dangerous person in the life of a woman is her partner.

Violence against women comes in many guises: it can take the form of humiliation, insults and intimidation; but it can also involve sexualised forms of

violence, such as rape, and can result in physical injury, serious abuse or even violent death. Women often feel that there's no way out of violence in close social relationships, and understandably tend not to confide in anyone. It's my wish that women who are affected don't feel abandoned, that they know where to find support, and that they seek help. Since October 2000, following the implementation of Rhineland-Palatinate's Project for Intervention against Violence in Close Social Relationships (RIGG), the Ministry for Women has been supporting women who have been affected. Help for women and children concerned has been swift and extensive.

In addition to that, we've established a strong state-wide network consisting of the police, the judiciary, intervention agencies, women's refuges, advice centres in women's refuges, emergency helplines for women, youth welfare offices, equal opportunities officers, child protection services and rehabilitation centres for offenders.

This brochure will give you an overview of how the network can provide counselling and protection. Furthermore, it contains legal information and tips regarding financial assistance, and will give you some background information on the issue of violence against women. If you've experienced violence yourself in the past, or are experiencing it now, you can contact any of the organisations listed here at any time to get help. Even if you find it difficult to talk about the violence that you're being subjected to, take that decisive step and get some advice! You can rest assured that your case will be managed confidentially, and that no-one will take any action without your consent. Even if you just want to get some information, this is where you'll find the right people to get in touch with.

I very much hope that this brochure helps to reduce violence in close social relationships, and helps women affected by violence to regain control over their own lives.

Anne Spiegel

*Minister for Family Affairs, Women, Youth,
Integration and Consumer Protection
of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate*

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THE ISSUE

**'Good relationships feel good.
They feel right.
They don't hurt.'**

Michelle Obama

Unfortunately, within your own four walls, in what is supposed to be a safe zone of marriage, family and partnerships, violence is also a part of your life. It is within the 'protective' surroundings of family and other close social relationships that physical violence, rape and other sexual assaults most often occur. Marriage and partnerships are not only the domain of love, closeness, trust and harmony, but also the domain of conflict, disputes, hatred and violence.

It is predominantly men who initiate violence. In doing so, men try to exercise control over women and enforce the 'law of the jungle' by any means possible.

Women of any age, any social class, any level of education or income, any nationality, ethnic origin or religious affiliation are affected.

For a long time, violence in close social relationships was considered a private matter. But it isn't. This kind of violence concerns everyone. Acts of violence in close social relationships are not just family arguments or conflicts within relationships, but serious criminal wrongdoings that the perpetrator of violence must be made accountable for.

THE EXTENT OF VIOLENCE

Women face a greater threat of violence from their partner than they do from any other violent crime. This was proved for the first time in 2004 by a representative study commissioned by the Federal Government on **'Health, Well-Being and Personal Safety of Women in Germany'**¹. According to the study,

- around 25% of women living in Germany have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence (or both) from current or former partners in a relationship,
- 13% of women surveyed – almost one in seven – have experienced some form of sexualised violence since the age of 16,
- 42% of all women surveyed said that they had experienced some form of psychological abuse, ranging from intimidation, aggressive shouting, defamation, threats and humiliation to psychological terror,
- 58% of those surveyed had experienced various forms of sexual harassment.

The extent of violence against women was also confirmed in 2014 following an EU-wide representative survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights for the 28 member states.

Women with disabilities are affected to an even greater extent by violence perpetrated by their partners, because a disability often means increased vulnerability and a greater risk of experiencing violence.

¹ See Schröttle, Monika / Müller, Ursula (2004). *Lebenssituation, Sicherheit und Gesundheit von Frauen in Deutschland. Eine repräsentative Untersuchung zu Gewalt gegen Frauen in Deutschland. Commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Download at: www.bmfsfj.de (see Themen > Gleichstellung > Frauen vor Gewalt schützen > häusliche Gewalt).*

One in two women with a disability will be a victim of violence. One in three has already been sexually assaulted during childhood or adolescence.² Because of their dependence on the perpetrator, they seldom tell anyone that they are experiencing violence, or seek help.

Women's refuges, advice centres in women's refuges, emergency helplines for women, and intervention agencies are of course also available for women with disabilities. In addition, coordination and advice centres for women with disabilities are there to provide support.



² See *University of Bielefeld, Life situations of and pressures on disabled women in Germany, 2012.*

WHAT DO WOMEN EXPERIENCE IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS?

There are various kinds of violence that women can be subjected to. These range from physical injuries, such as broken bones, bruising, stabbings, lacerations and broken teeth, to rape, death threats and killings.

Violence can take the form of insults, humiliation, restrictions on freedom of movement and social life, threats ('If you go, I'll take the kids away from you!') or verbal abuse ('You can't do anything – you don't have a clue!', 'You bitch, you slut, look at the state of you ...').

Spying and pathological jealousy are common. Many women do not have their own income or any available money; they have no authority to access to a bank account and / or have to account for all of their spending.

Contact and relationships with family and friends are often strictly monitored, so that the victim has even fewer options for help. The women are often so intimidated and isolated that they see no way out of their situation.

Going through separation and divorce is particularly dangerous for women. It often leads to domestic violence against women, or else the frequency and intensity of violence increases during this time. Even after separation and divorce, violence from the former partner can sometimes continue in the form of stalking, threats and physical abuse.

TYPES OF VIOLENCE

Physical violence

This includes shoving, grabbing to cause pain, poking, kicking, hitting, punching, throwing objects, pulling hair, slapping, hitting the victim's head against a wall, burning with a cigarette, attacking with weapons, and so on, all the way up to attempted murder or murder.

Sexualised violence

This includes all sexual acts that are imposed or forced on the victim without express consent: rape, attempted rape, other forms of sexual abuse, sexual harassment and any kind of sexual threat, assault or exploitation that infringes upon the dignity and freedom of the victim.

Psychological and emotional abuse

This includes continually exercising control over the woman concerned (What's she doing? Where is she? Who's she talking to?), constantly making derogatory remarks, saying that the woman is worthless, ugly and useless, shouting at her, refusing to talk to her, preventing contact with friends and family, humiliating the woman in front of others and the children, destroying items of personal value.

Harassment and stalking

This includes phoning constantly, phoning in the middle of the night, sending threatening letters, spying, and following the woman to work and back home. This form of violence is more often than not perpetrated by ex-partners who refuse to accept the separation.

Economic abuse

This includes making the partner beg for money, refusing or restricting money, blocking access to bank accounts, forbidding or preventing her from working or training or taking German lessons.

Digital abuse

This includes harassing, insulting, excluding, stalking and threatening by mobile phone or on the internet (e.g. through Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, Instagram, etc.).

In most cases the various forms of abuse are not used in isolation by the abuser, but in combination.

SOS

Notruf

THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

Violence in close social relationships begins gradually and ends up in a vicious circle. Many of those affected hope that the situation will take a turn for the better – but for most, this is a false hope. Women put up with their male partner's violence for an average of seven years before they seek help.

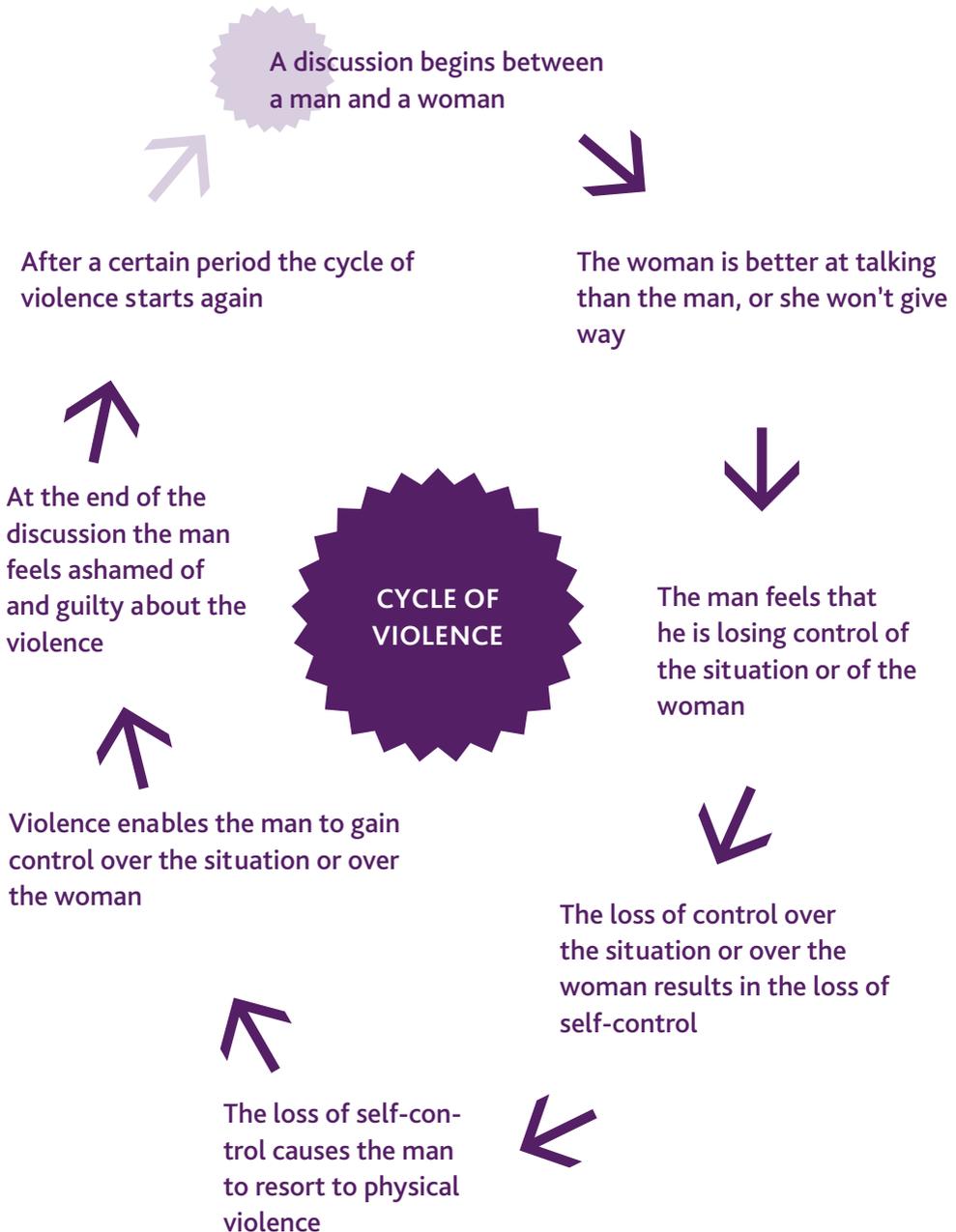
The cycle of violence often starts with embarrassment, humiliation and discrimination. Outbreaks of violence follow on from conciliatory words and promises that are not kept.

Often the perpetrators try to excuse or trivialise their violent conduct. They try to lay some of the blame on the victim: 'She provoked me,' or 'She knows full well that she should back off.' They put their 'lapse' down to stress at work or having had too much to drink. On another occasion the children might have been making too much noise. Perpetrators of violence always find reasons and causes for their acts of violence – and always excuses.

'This so-called "provocation" is often no more than the woman coming home from work late, or having her own opinion, or a friend coming to visit, or her criticism of her partner. Men often feel provoked by behaviours that they naturally engage in themselves.'³

³ See Egger, Renate / Fröschl, Elfriede / Lercher, Lisa / Logar, Rosa / Sieder, Hermine (1995). *Gewalt gegen Frauen in der Familie (Violence against Women in the Family)*. Wien, Verlag für Gesellschaftskritik (Publisher for Social Critique, Vienna).

The following chart illustrates how the cycle of violence often develops.



THE CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE

Besides the physical effects, such as scars, broken ribs, missing teeth, internal injuries, miscarriages, impaired vision or hearing, etc., there are far-reaching psychological consequences that often only become apparent years later. Among these are anxiety, depression, nightmares, eating and sleeping disorders, feelings of guilt and shame, low self-esteem, a loss of confidence and a tarnished view of the world and people.

Women say that they are constantly tense and have difficulty concentrating. They no longer have any confidence in their previous abilities, and often find it an effort to get through an average day. In addition to the physical and psychological consequences of abuse, there is often social isolation. The perpetrators watch every step, or the victims withdraw from their circle of friends and acquaintances.

Many studies show that traumatisation can occur following experiences of sexualised, psychological and / or physical violence. Women who are affected experience intense feelings of powerlessness, helplessness and vulnerability. In many cases rape is repeated or committed regularly. Besides physical injuries, psychological and psychosomatic illnesses can follow on.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS AFFECTED TOO!

Children and adolescents are often aware over a long period of time of how their father abuses, humiliates and intimidates their mother. They feel helpless and vulnerable in the face of their father's violence and their mother's powerlessness, but they also feel responsible or guilty about what is happening. Sometimes they try to protect their mother and hold their father back, and then they often get hurt themselves. They are often afraid to get involved, which results in feelings of guilt, or they see what state their mother is in and take over the responsibility of looking after and protecting their siblings.

Studies show that children are often abused or sexually assaulted by the same man that abuses their mother.

Sleep disorders, difficulties at school, developmental delay, aggressiveness and anxiety to the point of psychological trauma are frequently observed among children of families dogged by violence.

Many girls who identify with their abused mother are at risk of being subjected to violence themselves in their relationships later on. Boys who identify with the perpetrator are at risk later in life of resorting to violence themselves as a means of applying pressure to get what they want.⁴

For this reason women and children in abusive relationships need professional help and support to work through these experiences. Living with violence is always a painful experience. **In no way are the victims themselves to blame for the violence.**

⁴ See Kavemann, Barbara; Kreyssig, Ulrike (Publisher) (2006). *Handbuch Kinder und häusliche Gewalt (Guide to Children and Domestic Violence)*. Wiesbaden, VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften (publisher for social sciences) /GWV Fachverlage (specialist publishers) GmbH.

WHY DO WOMEN STAY IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS?

For the woman concerned it is very difficult to find a way out of an abusive relationship. Many of them endure an enormous amount of violence for years.

They feel that there is no way out of the situation because:

- they are financially dependent on their partner;
- their partner threatens to take the child / children away if they should separate;
- they don't want their child / children to lose their father;
- they hope that things will improve and that their partner's 'good side' (the side of him that she loves) will resurface;
- they feel responsible for family life and the relationship. When it comes to arguments they often blame themselves;
- many of those affected believe that they personally have failed and are ashamed to talk to family members or friends about it;
- the danger is greatest during separation (the risk of being killed by the former husband or partner is five times greater during this time than at any other time)⁵;
- they feel powerless and helpless throughout the years (in many cases) of suffering abuse, fear and social isolation.

Stockholm Syndrome

Sometimes a behaviour that has become known as Stockholm Syndrome is observed among abused women. Like hostages, they declare their solidarity and come to an arrangement with the abusive partner in order to make their subordination more bearable. Without outside help there is little chance of them escaping the abusive relationship.

⁵ See Crawford, M. / Gartner, R. 'Woman Killing. Intimate femicide in Ontario 1974-1990'. Report for the Women We Honour Action Committee, Ontario, 1992.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE SUBJECTED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

If your partner abuses, threatens, or insults you, or, after separation, won't accept that you no longer want to live with him and he stalks you, make a stand! You mustn't take the abuse – you're not defenceless or without rights in this situation. Don't wait until you've been seriously injured! Experience shows that the violence can go from bad to worse.

- **If in extreme danger, phone the police (tel. 110)!**
The police are there to protect you and have various options for dealing with the perpetrator.
- Under the **Protection Against Violence Act**, which came into effect on 1st January 2002, protection under civil law for victims of domestic violence was improved significantly. The police can issue an expulsion order and expel the perpetrator from your residence for a limited time. You can apply to the Family Court to take over the shared residence and obtain a longer-term restraining order. These protection orders will prohibit the perpetrator from approaching you against your will or contacting you. If he does not comply, he is liable for prosecution.

You can find more information on the Protection Against Violence Act in the chapter on 'Protection under civil law – the Protection Against Violence Act' on page 21.

- Domestic violence often involves a range of **criminal offences**: (grievous/serious) physical injury, coercion, threats, deprivation of liberty, insults, rape/sexual assault, stalking, etc., so criminal charges can be brought against the offender.

Note: some of the criminal offences mentioned (e.g. rape) are subject to mandatory investigation. This means that you cannot stop the investigation and prosecution once the police or public prosecutor's office have been informed.

- As of October 2016, under laws governing sexual offences, **'No means no.'** Accordingly, any sexual act carried out without express consent is a criminal offence. It no longer depends on whether or not the woman in question defends herself against the assault, or why she was unsuccessful. Sexual harassment is now a criminal offence as well. Accordingly, assaults which were previously classified as minor offences are also punishable by law.
- The **Prosecution for Repeated Stalking Act (§ 238, Criminal Code)** has been in force since 2007. The legislature ruled that stalking is not a private matter, but an offence punishable by law. This particularly concerns women who have ended a relationship or have declined the offer of a relationship.

In March 2017, amendments to the criminal offence of stalking came into effect with the aim of protecting stalking victims better in the future and making it easier to convict stalkers. Now anyone whose deliberate and unwarranted behaviour constitutes persistent stalking with the intention of impacting negatively on the day-to-day life of another person is liable for prosecution.

- **Get advice and support.** Most women find it difficult to talk about their partner's violence. Nevertheless, you should open up to others about your situation. Talking to someone you trust and visiting an advice centre will

help you to reach decisions that need to be made and give you strength.
Staying silent helps the perpetrator, not the victim!

- Think of your safety and take **precautions to protect yourself and your child / children:**
 - Keep in touch with your neighbours. Ask friends and relatives to drop in regularly. Don't cut yourself off!
 - Confide in your GP and have your injuries witnessed.
 - Keep a diary, and record each assault and the date. If possible, also keep a record of witnesses.
 - Leave home with your children if you are afraid of more violent behaviour by your partner!
 - Ask someone you trust to alert the police following a prearranged signal if you are in danger.
 - Put copies of your most important documents (see checklist on page 18) and any clothes that you and your child / children might need in a safe place.
 - If you are harassed by phone, stop answering the phone yourself; instead use an answering machine or service. Ask for a new (ex-directory) phone number and give yourself the added security of using an answering machine or service. Block the offender's number on your home phone or mobile.
 - Use the blocking functions provided by social networks. Notify the operators of internet platforms of offensive remarks and statements that can be proven to be false – they are obliged to delete them. If necessary, open new accounts.
 - Save any messages that constitute harassment, or print them out. Don't forward them, otherwise the header (record of e-mail history in the original text) will change. Don't reply to these kinds of messages. If necessary, change your contact details (such as your e-mail address and telephone number).

- If you don't feel safe at home, go to a **women's refuge!** There you and your child / children will be given protection and support. Do this if you feel threatened even though you have taken over the residence of your home and a protection order has been issued.

Checklist of things that you and your child / children will need if you move out:

- cash, bank documents, debit card, credit card, savings book
- ID / passport, health insurance card
- marriage certificate, birth certificate
- employment contract, job references, income tax card, pension fund ID, correspondence from the job centre or department of social security
- rental contract, insurance policies
- custody rulings
- court rulings regarding protection orders or the transfer of entitlement to reside in your home, so that you can take action in the event of an infringement
- any necessary medication, doctors' certificates
- personal letters and recordings
- your child's / children's school equipment and toys

WHAT CAN THE POLICE DO?

It is the duty of the police to ensure protection against violence and take action in response to crime.

In an emergency, phone the police (tel. 110)! They can take various steps to protect you and your child / children. They can:

- expel the offender from your residence for an extended period and prohibit him from returning to the residence (**expulsion and occupation order**),
- prohibit the offender from approaching you or contriving a meeting with you (**restraining order**),
- prohibit the offender from communicating with you by electronic means (landline, mobile, internet, etc.) (**restraining order**),
- prohibit the offender from staying in a particular location (e.g. in the vicinity of your home, the kindergarten, the school or your workplace) (**exclusion order**),
- also take the offender into **custody**, particularly in a highly threatening situation, and if expulsion is ineffective. The person in question will be brought immediately before the relevant judge, who will determine how long the offender will remain in custody.



The above-mentioned legal action can be ordered for up to **10 days**. If the danger persists beyond this, an extension is possible. During this time you can get advice, make further decisions in peace, and make applications under the Protection Against Violence Act (**see chapter 'Protection under civil law – the Protection Against Violence Act' on page 21**).

The police will ensure that you are able to make a statement away from the perpetrator. It is very important for further criminal proceedings, for your own protection and in the event of prosecution that you

- describe clearly and precisely what has happened. This is very important, because the police will determine what level of protection you need based on this,
- name witnesses, if possible,
- and mention any injuries that are not apparent or that have occurred in the past.

The staff assigned will preserve all clues and evidence (e.g. take photos, seize items used in the crime, question witnesses, make sure that your injuries are tended to and recorded) and, on suspicion of a criminal offence, press charges.

If you, as the woman affected, do not want to stay in your home, the police will escort you to the home of someone you trust or a women's refuge. They will ensure that the abuser does not find out where you and, if applicable, your child / children are staying.

With your consent the police will pass your name and address onto an **intervention agency**, or take you to a women's refuge, or recommend an advice centre that you can contact yourself (**see chapter, 'Where can women affected find advice and help?' on page 36**).

PROTECTION UNDER CIVIL LAW – THE PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE ACT

The **Protection Against Violence Act**, in force since 1st January 2002, has improved legal protection under civil law in cases of violence and, in particular, violence in close social relationships.

The Protection Against Violence Act defines acts of violence as those causing physical injuries, impaired health, restrictions on liberty, or the threat of any of these, as well as stalking and harassment.

In accordance with the slogan, '**The offender goes – the victim stays!**' the abused woman can also apply for a court order to have her home transferred into her name – at least temporarily. A restraining order can also be issued.

The Protection Against Violence Act applies to married and de facto relationships.

Protection against violence and stalking / protection orders – § 1, Protection Against Violence Act

According to § 1 of the Protection Against Violence Act, the Civil Court can issue protection orders if the applicant has been wilfully and unlawfully harmed by the abuser in terms of physical harm, health or liberty. This is regardless of any relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, so protection orders can also be issued for acts of violence outside close social relationships.

This means that, if you are affected by violence in a relationship, you can demand that the perpetrator refrain from actions that constitute deprivation of liberty, physical injury, damage to property, threats, sexual assault, etc.

Protection orders can also be issued if the perpetrator threatens you with any such actions (unlawful threats) or stalks you. Stalking includes lying in wait around the place of residence, lurking around the workplace, and making contact via the landline or mobile phone (telephone harassment), by e-mail or through social networks (also stalking).

This is very often the case following a separation, which is when the perpetrator begins to follow and harass the woman.

The court can prohibit the perpetrator from:

- entering your home,
- coming within a certain distance of your home,
- frequenting other specified locations where you can regularly be found (e.g. workplace, the child's / children's kindergarten or school, leisure facilities),
- contacting you – in person, on the landline or mobile phone, by letter or e-mail, or through social media,
- contriving a meeting with you.

This list is not exhaustive. Depending on the circumstances of the individual case, the court can order additional measures that may be required for your protection. So several orders can be combined if necessary. Protection orders are issued for a limited time. Their duration depends on the individual case.

The court can also issue a protection order in cases where the perpetrator has committed acts of violence while mentally incapacitated (while drunk or on drugs).

A breach of the protection order is punishable by law and can result in a custodial sentence of up to one year, or a fine (§ 4, Protection Against Violence Act).

Taking over a jointly occupied residence – § 2, Protection Against Violence Act

§ 2 of the Protection Against Violence Act gives victims of violence the right to take over a jointly occupied residence. The aim of this is to keep the victim safe from further acts of violence.

If you are a victim of wilful and unlawful physical injury, impaired health or deprivation of liberty and you have been sharing a household with the perpetrator on a permanent basis, you can ask to have the residence to yourself at least temporarily.

If you have only been 'threatened' with these kinds of harm, you have the right to take over the joint residence if this would prevent 'undue hardship'. Under legislation designed to improve children's rights, it is possible to transfer the residence to one of the parents or a third party to protect the child if the violence is directed solely at the child.

If you are married to the perpetrator, you can apply, under § 1361b of the Civil Code, for the marital home to be transferred to you for your own use if undue hardship would be caused by your husband continuing to stay. This would generally be the case if violence has been used, or if the welfare of the children living in the household is at risk.

Duration of transfer of residence:

- If you are the sole or joint tenant or owner with a third party, the court can decide that you can use the residence permanently on your own with immediate effect.
- If the perpetrator is the sole tenant or owner of the residence, the transfer of residence will initially be for a limited period, as considered necessary for your protection. Generally, the maximum period is six months; however, in exceptional circumstances it can be extended by up to six months.

- In the case of joint tenancy or ownership, the court will be guided by the circumstances of the individual case when determining the period.

Non-compliance:

Your **use of the residence** must not be prevented or impeded by the perpetrator. The court can also expressly prohibit the perpetrator from giving notice to quit the residence or selling it.

If the abuser remains in the residence contrary to the court ruling, the order will be enforced **with the help of a bailiff** and, if necessary, the police.

If the perpetrator gains access to the residence unlawfully during the period in which the residence has been transferred, he will be committing a criminal offence.

If this happens, call the police for help and tell the officer about the court ruling.

However, if you allow the abuser back into the residence, he can apply to the court to have the decision to expel him overturned. If he doesn't do that, the decision remains in effect and can be enforced repeatedly during its period of validity.

INTERIM LEGAL PROTECTION – URGENT APPLICATIONS

It is also possible to apply to the Family Court for protection orders and transfers of residence through summary proceedings in the form of **interim orders**.

Summary proceedings are particularly important when the perpetrator has been expelled by the police for a limited time; but also, if you have separated following an act of violence without any police intervention, a quick decision is needed, as the risk to you as the victim is particularly high during separation. In any case, you should make an appropriate application immediately after the act of violence. If a considerable period of time has elapsed since the violence occurred, the court will be more likely to dismiss the need for summary action.

You can make an urgent application through your solicitor, apply in person to the relevant court, or post it to the court. You also have the option of submitting an urgent application via the court's legal applications office.

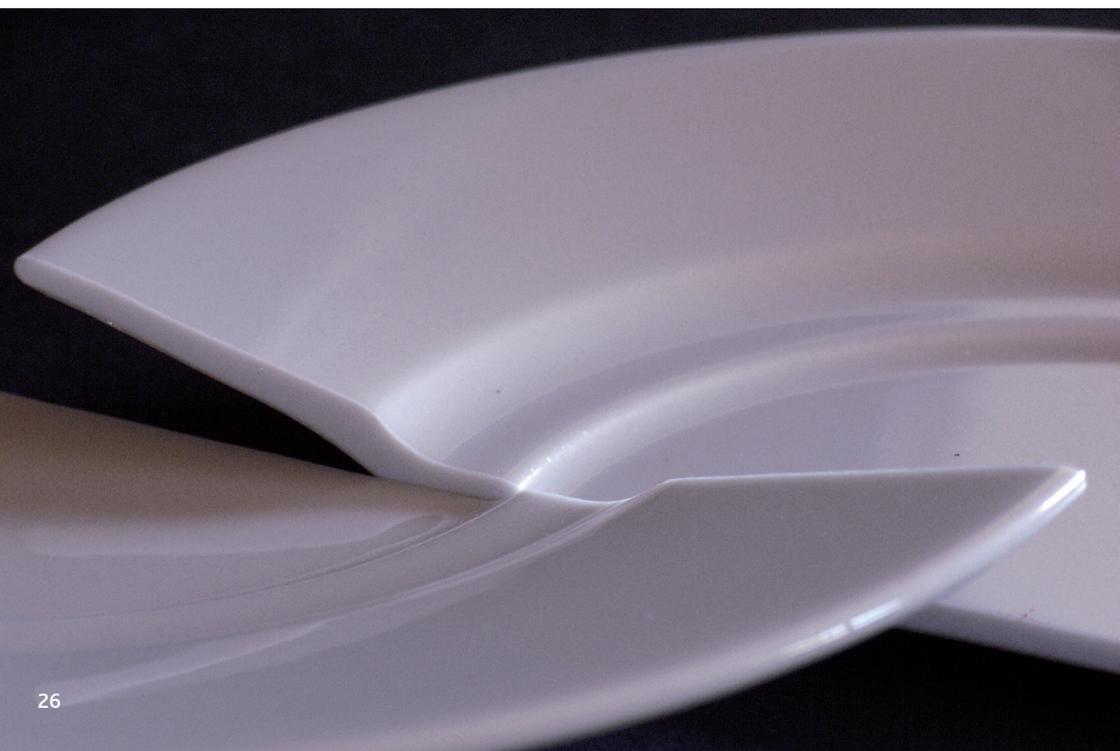
In **summary proceedings** you only need to convince the court that you are being threatened by the perpetrator and that you are afraid of further injuries or harm. This can be done by means of an affidavit, a doctor's certificate, an affidavit from witnesses, or a police report.

Decisions in summary proceedings can also be made by the court **in the absence of the perpetrator at the hearing**.

If a considerable period of time has elapsed since the violence occurred, main proceedings must be initiated. For this, prima facie evidence is no longer sufficient; proof must be provided to convince the court that acts of violence are occurring. Evidence includes witnesses, doctors' certificates, police reports, expert reports, and questioning of the applicant and respondent by the court. In any case, it would be advisable to consult a solicitor.

CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES AND COMPENSATION

According to § 823 of the Civil Code, you can claim damages from the perpetrator, for example, for the destruction or loss of your property, or for medical treatment not covered by health insurance. In addition, you are entitled to compensation for physical injuries, in accordance with § 253, para. 2 of the Civil Code.



MEASURES TO PROTECT CHILDREN

Parental care

Children are always affected too, when their mother is subjected to domestic violence. Because of this, Article 31 of the Istanbul Convention requires that incidences of violence be taken into account when decisions are made regarding visitation rights and custody. In such cases, shared parental care is often not in the best interests of the child, so granting custody to the mother in some instances can be necessary and sensible. So to prevent any (further) danger to your child / children, you should apply for the right to determine the place of residence / custody of your child / children in the interim immediately after separation.

Visitation rights

Regardless of the custody ruling, the perpetrator generally has right of access to the children.

As a child's contact with a violent father is seldom in the best interests of the child, the visitation rights can be restricted or denied upon application to the Family Court. This is the case if, for example, the child's welfare is at risk because of the danger of continued abuse. Victims of violence in close social relationships tend to feel that the granting of visitation rights is inconsistent with their need for protection. Another option is ordering supervised visits, which can be organised in various ways. You can get information about this from the Jugendamt (child welfare office) or from the appropriate advice centres.

To ensure maximum protection, you should make the necessary applications for custody or visitation rights, if possible, when applying for protection.

PROSECUTION

If, for example, you have been physically abused, threatened with a crime, forced to do something as a result of violence or threats, raped, locked up, or your property has been destroyed or taken away from you, etc., then a criminal offence has been committed and **you can press charges**.

You must make it clear, though, that you intend to have the perpetrator prosecuted. This can be done at any police station or directly through your local public prosecutor's office. It would be helpful if you could provide the names and addresses of a few witnesses, photos of injuries or the state of your home, and doctors' notes. Charges should be pressed as soon as possible after the event, to ensure the best possible chance of preserving clues and evidence.

In the case of less serious offences, e.g. slander, you must initiate criminal proceedings within three months of the event.

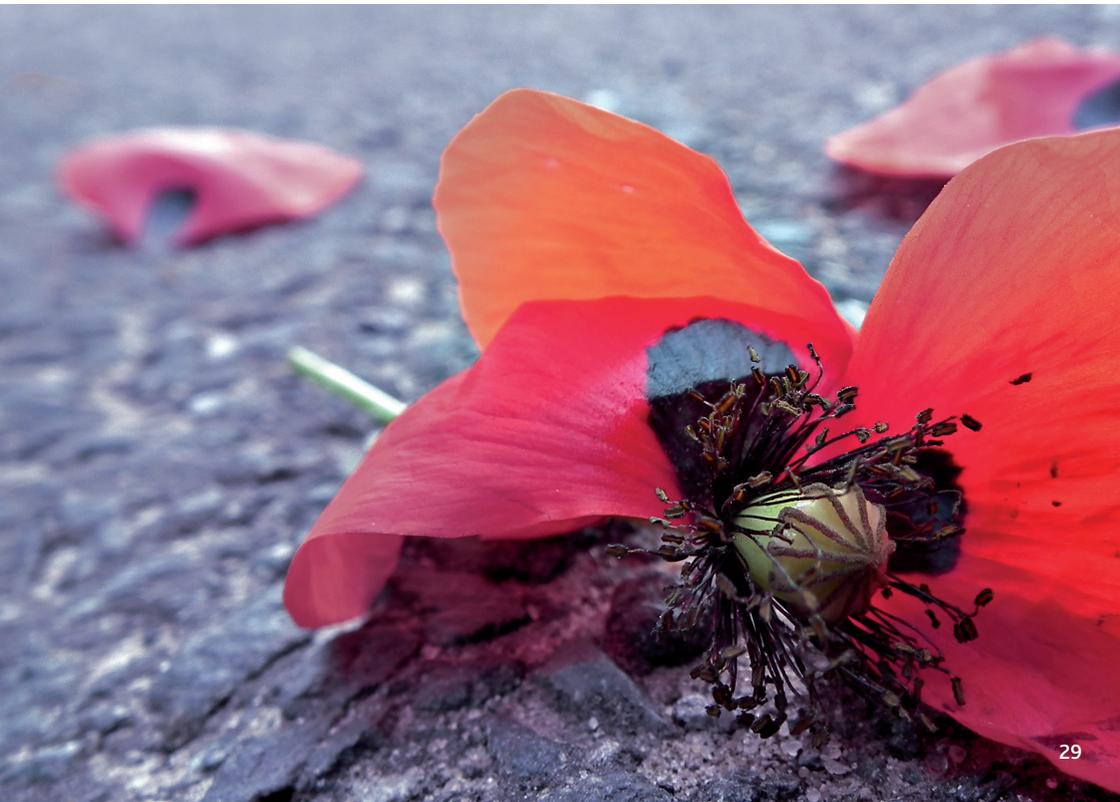
Some criminal offences, e.g. rape, are **are subject to official prosecution by the police and the public prosecutor's office**. This also means that you cannot stop the investigation and prosecution once the police or public prosecutor's office have been called in.

Investigation process and the main trial

Before questioning, you must have your rights as a witness explained to you. Questions about your personal life should only be asked if this is essential. You do not have to answer questions which, if answered truthfully, would place a strain on you or your relatives. If the defendant is a close relative, you have every right to refuse to give evidence. During questioning, you can be accompanied by a solicitor or someone that you trust. Solicitors have the fundamental right to be present during your hearings.

You can be a joint plaintiff in the proceedings and in certain cases be represented free of charge by a solicitor who specialises in representing victims. As joint plaintiff you are not only a witness, but party to the proceedings, and have the right to be present during the main trial, as well as the right to make applications and lodge an appeal.

In order to minimise the risk to yourself, you can ask to have the address of your solicitor, for example, on your file and for use during the main trial. Under certain conditions, you can ask for the members of the public and the defendant to be excluded during your questioning in the main trial.



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS

As of 1st January 2017, if you are the victim of a particularly serious crime (e.g. rape or other sexual assault), you have the right, under certain conditions, to claim free psychosocial support during the proceedings.

The psychosocial support worker will guide you through the investigation process and criminal proceedings, provide you with information about the process and help you to overcome your fears and any possible stress during the criminal proceedings. An overview of qualified psychosocial support staff in Rhineland-Palatinate is available online.⁶

The 'Guide for Victims of Crime' contains detailed information about your rights in criminal proceedings.⁷

⁶ See https://jm.rlp.de/fileadmin/mjv/Themen/Psychoziale_Prozessbegleitung/2017-09-20_anerkannte_psychosoziale_Prozessbegleiterinnen_und_Prozessbegleiter.pdf.

⁷ See https://opferschutz.rlp.de/fileadmin/opferschutz/Startseite/Opfermerkblatt_2017_RLP_Version.pdf.

LEGAL AID

In **family law** cases, if you have no or very little income, you can apply for **legal aid**. Legal aid covers both the costs of the proceedings and the costs of your solicitor. In all proceedings under civil law, this assistance is known as **legal aid**.

If there are no court proceedings, you can obtain a **benefit certificate** for advice and out-of-court representation by a solicitor. You can apply for this benefit certificate if you have little or no income.

Applications for this assistance are submitted via the **court's legal applications office**.

In particular cases involving **criminal proceedings** you can apply for a solicitor to be assigned to you at no cost, or for legal aid to enable you hire a solicitor.

VICTIMS' COMPENSATION ACT

If the crime is a deliberate, unlawful, violent assault that took place in Germany, you, as the victim, can apply for reimbursement of the cost of medical treatment and, if applicable, the payment of pension and social security benefits under the **Victims' Compensation Act**.

Payments under the Victims' Compensation Act must be applied for. Applications can be lodged at the Landesamt für Soziales, Jugend und Versorgung (state social security and child welfare office) (more information at www.lsjv.rlp.de).



WHAT SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO PARTICULAR CONSIDERATION WITH REGARD TO FEMALE MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES?

If you, as a citizen of another country, are affected by domestic violence, you have the same options for protection as German women.

If you separate from your partner after experiencing violence and, for example, seek protection and help in a women's refuge, the helpers need to find out information about your residential status as quickly as possible. For this reason, when separating or moving out, you should be sure to take documents with you that provide this information. This could be your passport or alternative travel document, residence permit, exceptional leave to remain, provisional residence permit or notification of admission.

Separation does not necessarily mean that your right of residence in Germany is at risk.

If you have an indefinite residence permit, e.g. a permanent residence permit, you have nothing to worry about.

Immediately after the separation, get in touch with the immigration office dealing with your case, and inform them (preferably in writing) that it is no longer possible for you to remain in the marital relationship due to incidences of violence. Make sure you tell them if you have previously had to take refuge in a support facility (e.g. women's refuge) because of the abuse, or if your husband has been expelled from the marital home by the police or a court order. If you only have a temporary residence permit, e.g. if you have been married to a German man for less than three years, you have the option, under cer-



tain circumstances, of obtaining an independent residence permit following the separation. This applies when your life, your health and your freedom are threatened due to physical, sexual or psychological abuse by your husband.

If your children are German citizens, you are entitled to a residence permit as long as you have custody of them.

Once you are separated, your partner is generally liable for maintenance. This also applies if your residence permit is temporary, or if your husband is also not a German citizen.

Your legal options under the Protection Against Violence Act, including the transfer of entitlement to reside in your home, are the same as for German women – so don't be afraid of separating from and divorcing your violent husband for fear that you might lose your right of residence.

Get help from the police, advice centres or women's refuges (most of these can also provide counselling through an interpreter).

Even as a **refugee** you have every option to enable you to successfully defend yourself against domestic violence. Filing a complaint or separating from your partner usually has no bearing on the outcome of the asylum procedure. Social security benefits will also continue. Following the separation, in accordance with German law, the father and mother will have joint custody of the children and will make joint decisions about where they will stay, what schools they will attend and what kind of education or training they will have.

During the asylum procedure you must always be contactable.

If you leave your husband, you must **immediately** provide your new address (preferably in writing) to:

- the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees,
- the immigration office handling your case, and,
- if an appeal is pending against a decision to refuse asylum, the court concerned.

Being unable to contact you can have a negative impact on the process and any further payment of benefits.

It is recommended at this point that you seek legal advice as soon as possible in the event of a separation, and accept whatever support is available from specialist advice centres.

Forced marriage and genital mutilation are also criminal offences. Specialised advice centres can help you to find solutions and, if necessary, can provide you with accommodation anonymously.

At the **accommodation centre where you first register**, staff trained in protection against violence will be assigned to look after you. A contingency plan will ensure that you, as the victim, can be separated from the perpetrator immediately after an assault, and that doctors, interpreters and counsellors can be assigned. There is also the possibility that you and your child / children will be transferred to another accommodation centre.

WHERE CAN WOMEN AFFECTED FIND ADVICE AND HELP?

Solicitors are responsible for legal advice. Some of them are specialists in criminal law and accessory prosecution. Solicitors specialising in family law deal with legal matters relating to separation and divorce. You can obtain addresses from the Bar Association or online.

Women's refuges and women's refuge advice centres

Women's refuges provide help and support for women who are victims of, or have been threatened with, emotional, physical or sexual abuse.

Women affected, and their children, can find sanctuary in the refuge at any time of day or night – irrespective of nationality, religion or income.

Men are not allowed in the refuge. **The addresses are kept secret to ensure the safety of the occupants.** Initial contact is made by telephone. A meeting point is agreed to arrange admission.

The staff at the refuge can provide you with advice and support in various ways. They offer psychosocial support to help you to come to terms with your experience of violence, and they can assist you in dealing with authorities and officialdom (police, court, job centre, social security and child welfare office), as well as in finding somewhere to live. If you like, they can also arrange contact with a solicitor. However, you'll be the one to decide what steps you'd like to take.

Working with children is also a major role of the staff at the women's refuge, as children are usually affected by domestic violence too, and are often traumatised; so the staff provide individual support programmes for children at the facility.

Even if you don't want to move into a refuge, you can still get support from the **women's refuge advice centres** that are often located there.

Independent emergency helplines for women – specialist centres dealing with sexualised violence

Women experience sexualised violence perpetrated far more frequently by their partners than by strangers. Two thirds of all cases occur within the confines of the family and household.

Emergency helplines for women offer private counselling (anonymous if preferred) over the phone. They will give you help and support, e.g. in pressing charges or in dealing with the court.

Intervention agencies and specialist advice centres for proactive initial advice

Following police involvement, an intervention agency and specialist advice centre will contact you (with your consent) to provide proactive initial advice and psychosocial counselling. They will inform you of your legal options (e.g. pressing charges in accordance with the Protection Against Violence Act) and will help you to draw up a plan for your protection and safety. They will work closely on this with other institutions such as the police, the judiciary and other facilities set up for the protection of victims, such as women's refuges, emergency helplines for women, and child protection agencies.

Child welfare offices (Jugendämter) / social services (Allgemeine Soziale Dienste, ASD)

Child welfare offices and their affiliated social service departments are points of contact specifically for women who are affected by violence and live with, and have a duty of care for, children or adolescents. The child welfare offices have a clearly defined mission to protect children and adolescents.

Child welfare offices can support you and your child / children by providing

services, e.g. advice about parenting, and can offer advice on custody and visitation rights or issues relating to partnership and separation – and, if the welfare of your child / children is at risk, they can support you with further assistance in matters of parenting. In Family Court proceedings the child welfare offices help the Family Courts to find workable solutions. Furthermore, children at risk can be taken into care.

Don't be afraid to go to a child welfare office (Jugendamt); the staff will provide you with advice and important information relevant to your situation.

In Rhineland-Palatinate the police notify the child welfare office whenever children are affected by violence in close social relationships. If police intervention involves the expulsion of the perpetrator, or a restraining order, and there are children in the family, the child welfare office is informed. The child welfare office will then get in touch with you to offer help and support.

Child protection services

If your children are also affected by violence, or you suspect that they are, you can contact a child protection agency. Child protection services are there to ensure the protection of children and adolescents and safeguard their rights. They are points of contact for boys and girls who are, or may be, victims of physical and / or psychological abuse, sexual abuse or neglect.

Child protection services provide children and adolescents with the help they need to avert further danger, protect themselves against repeated offences, come to terms with traumatic experiences, and recover from the emotional and physical harm suffered.

In Rhineland-Palatinate there are 16 child protection agencies in 18 locations covering 26 towns, cities and districts. Their current locations, jurisdiction and addresses can be found on the website of the Ministry of Family Affairs, Women, Youth, Integration and Consumer Protection.⁸

⁸ See https://mffjiv.rlp.de/fileadmin/MFFJIV/Familie/Adressliste_KSD_mit_Traeger_-_Stand_August_2017_KS.pdf.

Doctors can help you to overcome the effects that violence may have had on your health. They are duty bound to maintain confidentiality and are obliged to keep everything that they hear to themselves. Only in exceptional case, e.g. if they are concerned that you are in danger of further serious and life-threatening abuse, are doctors obliged to break their silence and file a report. But first your doctor will appeal to you to press charges yourself, advising you to take steps to ensure your own safety, so that she / he does not have to break your confidence.

Confide in your doctor! It's the only way for you to get the best possible help.

Confidential preservation of evidence

The **Forensic Outpatient Clinic at the Institute of Forensic Medicine at Mainz University Hospital**, the **Network Hospital in Wittlich** and the **Mutterhaus der Borromäerinnen Clinic in Trier** keep records of victims' injuries as evidence, even if **no charges** have been pressed. The results of the examinations are archived at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in case the victim decides to press charges. The results, which are also documented photographically, can help you later by providing evidence if the matter should go to court. Please contact the appropriate outpatient clinic regarding the documentation of your injuries and the preservation of evidence. You can find the telephone numbers under '**Specialist centres for victims**' on page 53.

OEG (Victims' Compensation Act) outpatient trauma clinics – help for victims of violence

If you are a victim of violence (serious physical injury, rape, or witness to a serious violent crime) and have suffered psychological trauma, you can get treatment at one of the five outpatient trauma clinics. The facilities are located in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, Trier, Kaiserslautern and two in Mainz. You will need to make an application under the Victims' Compensation Act at the Landesamt für Soziales, Jugend und Versorgung (state social security and child welfare office) or at one of the five outpatient trauma clinics. **You can find the**

addresses and telephone numbers under 'Specialist centres for victims' on page 52 f.

Victim support centres such as 'WEISSER RING' (WHITE RING) offer support and counselling. **The state office of WEISSER RING in Mainz can be reached on 06131 6007311.** You can find other addresses online at www.weisser-ring.de.

For **female migrants** there is also a special advice centre dealing with violence; e.g. SOLWODI e. V. takes care particularly of non-German women who have fallen victim to violence, human trafficking and forced marriage.

In addition, in Rhineland-Palatinate there are many migration agencies that provide general advice. **You can find these at <https://einbuerbung.rlp.de/de/themen/information-und-beratung/>.**

Your **local women's representatives and equal opportunities officers** can advise you and refer you to suitable organisations. You can find these in all cities, districts and local municipalities.

You can find out more about Rhineland-Palatinate's intervention project, **RIGG** online at www.rigg.rlp.de.

WORKING WITH OFFENDERS

Question: So you were angry that she wasn't at home and dinner hadn't been made for you and your son?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What happened then?

Answer: Well, she came back at around 9 ... I yelled at her, 'Why are you so late?' ... and then she went into the kitchen and locked herself in. Then I kicked the door in.

Question: What happened then?

Answer: I hit her. In the head. I was ... really angry.

I shoved her against the wall. Then she lay on the ground and I kicked her ... (*crying*) ... It was terrible.

Question: Did your wife report you, or phone the police?

Answer: No.

Question: And the next day your wife was gone?

Answer: Yes. I came home from work and she and the kids were gone.

Question: If she hadn't gone, would you have hit her again?

Answer: (*Pause*) Absolutely.

(*Michael, participant in a training group for violent men*).⁹

Rarely is the cycle of violence, remorse and renewed violence broken without outside help.

Generally, victims escape the violence by ending the relationship, moving out and / or involving the police and judiciary. However, many women don't necessarily want to separate or press charges. All they want is to be able to live their lives without violence.

⁹ See Buskotte, Andrea (2007). *Gewalt in der Partnerschaft; Ursachen, Auswege, Hilfen (Violence in Relationships: Causes, Alternatives, Help)*, Düsseldorf, Patmos Publishers, p. 141f.

For that to happen, the perpetrator has to change, try to see things her way, and learn to react in other, non-violent ways. Only the perpetrator can end the violence in the long run; the victim can only avoid it. Working with offenders is an important way of helping to protect victims and prevent further acts of violence.

In Rhineland-Palatinate there are nine **rehabilitation centres for offenders, 'CONTRA häusliche Gewalt' (AGAINST domestic violence)** (Bad Kreuznach, Betzdorf, Kaiserslautern, Koblenz, Landau, Ludwigshafen, Mainz, Pirmasens and Trier).

The counselling centres help men who resort to violence in close social relationships to face up to their violence and change their behaviour. This takes place through individual discussions and special training courses in which men are confronted with their acts of violence and the consequences for their victim. Through targeted programmes they learn to understand their feelings and emotions better and control themselves in moments of crisis. They practise alternative ways of behaving, as well as practising non-violent conflict resolution strategies to prevent further acts of violence.

Most men who take part in courses to counter violence in close social relationships are fulfilling a legal requirement, which may be a condition of parole; but many men go to counselling centres of their own accord, e.g. because they don't want to lose their partner.

SPECIALIST CENTRES FOR VICTIMS



Independent emergency helplines for women – specialist centres dealing with sexualised violence

Alzey

Telephone: 06731 7227
notruf-alzey@t-online.de

Idar-Oberstein

Telephone: 06781 45599
info@frauennotruf-idar-oberstein.de

Koblenz

Telephone: 0261 35000
mail@frauennotruf-koblenz.de

Landau

Telephone: 06341 83437
aradia-landau@t-online.de

Ludwigshafen

Telephone: 0621 628165
team@wildwasser-ludwigshafen.de

Mainz

Telephone: 06131 221213
info@frauennotruf-mainz.de

Simmern

Telephone: 06761 13636
kontakt@frauennotruf-rheinhunsrueck.de

Speyer

Telephone: 06232 28833
frauennotruf-speyer@t-online.de

 **Trier**

Telephone: 0651 2006588
info@frauennotruf-trier.de

 **Westerburg**

Telephone: 02663 8678
frauennotruf@notruf-westerburg.de

 **Worms**

Telephone: 06241 6094
notruf@frauenzentrumworms.de

 **Zweibrücken**

Telephone: 06332 77778
info@frauennotruf-zw.de

State committee for independent emergency helplines for women and girls who have been raped, Rhineland-Palatinate

Specialist centres dealing with sexualised violence

www.frauennotruf-mainz.de/lag-rlp

(also available in easy-to-understand language and sign language)

Women's refuges and women's refuge advice centres

Ahrweiler

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 02633 470588
beratungsladen@t-online.de

Bad Dürkheim

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 06322 8588

 **Advice centre.** Telephone: 06322 620720
lila-villa@web.de

Bad Kreuznach

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 0671 44877
kreuznacher-frauenhaus@t-online.de

Donnersbergkreis

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 06352 4187
frauenhaus-kibo@gmx.de
 **Advice centre.** Telephone: 06352 401164
frauenberatung-donnersbergkreis@gmx.de

Frankenthal

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 06233 9695
 **Advice centre.** Telephone: 06233 6070807
team@frauenhausft.de

Idar-Oberstein

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 06781 1522
frauenhaus-io@web.de

Kaiserslautern

 **Women's refuge:** Telephone: 0631 17000
frauenzuflucht-kl@gmx.de

Koblenz

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 0261 9421020
info@frauenhaus-koblenz.de
 **Advice centre.** Telephone: 0261 91489470
beratungsladen@skf-koblenz.de

Ludwigshafen

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 0621 521969
 **Advice centre.** Telephone: 0621 521969
frauenhaus-lu.eV@t-online.de

Mainz

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 06131 279292
kontakt@frauenhaus-mainz.de

Neustadt

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 06321 2603
frauenhaus-nw@t-online.de
 **Advice centre.** Telephone: 06321 2329
fachberatungfrauen-nw@t-online.de

Pirmasens

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 06331 92626
frauenhaus-pirmasens@t-online.de

Speyer

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 06232 28835
frauenhaus-speyer@gmx.de

Südpfalz

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 06341 89626
frauenhaus-landau@t-online.de

Trier

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 0651 74444
mitarbeiterinnen@frauenhaus-trier.de
 **Advice centre.** Telephone: 0651 1441914
nachbetreuung@frauenhaus-trier.de

Westerwald

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 02662 5888
 **Advice centre.** Telephone: 02662 9466630
frauenhaus-westerwald@t-online.de

Worms

 **Women's refuge.** Telephone: 06241 43591
frauenhaus@drk-worms.de

Conference on Women's Refuges, Rhineland-Palatinate

www.frauenhaeuser-rlp.de

(also available in English, French, Greek, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Turkish)

Intervention agencies

Ahrweiler

Telephone: 02633 4729161
interventionstelle.ahrweiler@web.de

Alzey

Telephone: 06731 996815
ist-alzey@dwwa.de

Bad Kreuznach

Telephone: 0671 44877
ist@frauenhelfenfrauen-kh.de

Betzdorf / Neuwied

Betzdorf office

Telephone: 02741 9758912
interventionstelle@caritas-betzdorf.de

Neuwied office

Telephone: 02631 987552
interventionstelle@caritas-neuwied.de

 **Cochem / Mayen****Cochem office**

Telephone: 02671 97520

interventionsstelle@caritas-cochem.de

Mayen office

Telephone: 02651 9869139

interventionsstelle@caritas-mayen.de

 **Eifel-Mosel****Bitburg office**

Telephone: 06561 96710

Daun office

Telephone: 06592 95730

Prüm office

Telephone: 06551 971090

For all three locations: interventionsstelle@caritas-west EIFEL.de

 **Kaiserslautern**

Telephone: 0631 37108425

interventionsstelle.kaiserslautern@diakonie-pfalz.de

 **Koblenz**

Telephone: 0261 97353783

info@ist-ko.de

 **Landau**

Telephone: 06341 3819-22

info@haeusliche-gewalt.de

 **Ludwigshafen**

Telephone: 0621 5292536

ist-lu@diakonie-pfalz.de

 **Mainz**

Telephone: 06131 6176570

Info@ist-mainz.de

 **Neustadt**

Telephone: 06321 9269630 or 4845685

interventionssstelle.nw@t-online.de

 **Pirmasens**

Telephone: 06331 289431

interventionssstelle@pfaelzischerverein-zw.de

 **Trier**

Telephone: 0651 9948774

interventionssstelle-trier@web.de

 **Westerburg**

Telephone: 02663 911353

intervention-ist@notruf-westerburg.de

 **Worms**

Telephone: 06241 2088190

interventionssstelle@drk-worms.de

Specialist advice centres for proactive initial advice

 **Idar-Oberstein**

Telephone: 06781 450321

proaktiv-io@web.de

 **Speyer**

Telephone: 06232 290471

proaktiveberatung.speyer@gmx.de

**Advice centres for female migrants who are victims of violence,
domestic violence, human trafficking or forced marriage:**

SOLWODI e. V. Boppard

Telephone: 06741 9807676 or, outside business hours, 06741 2232
boppard@solwodi.de

SOLWODI e. V. Koblenz

Telephone: 0261 33719
koblenz@solwodi.de

SOLWODI e. V. Ludwigshafen

Telephone: 0621 5291277
ludwigshafen@solwodi.de

SOLWODI e. V. Mainz

Telephone: 06131 678069
mainz@solwodi.de

Frauenbegegnungsstätte Utamara e. V. (Utamara Community Centre)

Telephone: 02644 602424
info@utamara.org

Femma e. V. (*for cases of imminent forced marriage*)

Emergency telephone: 06131 230181
Telephone: 06131 230244
maedchentreff@maedchenhaus-mainz.de
maedchenzuflucht@maedchenhaus-mainz.de

Mahaliya e. V. (*for cases of genital mutilation*)

Telephone: 0173 8089166
kontakt@mahaliya.de

Outpatient trauma clinics

Dr. von Ehrenwall'sche Klinik (Dr. von Ehrenwall'sche Clinic)

Hospital specialising in psychiatry and psychotherapy,
psychosomatics, neurology
Walporzheimer Straße 2
53474 Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler
Telephone: 02641 386-119 or -205, or, in an emergency
outside business hours, 02641 386-0

Universitätsmedizin Mainz (Mainz University Hospital)

Clinic and polyclinic for psychosomatic medicine and psychotherapy

Untere Zahlbacher Straße 8
55131 Mainz
Telephone: 06131 17-7381 or, in an emergency
outside business hours, 06131 17-2920

Psychiatrieverbund Nordwestpfalz

(North-West Palatinate Psychiatric Association)

Clinic for psychiatry, psychosomatics and psychotherapy
Albert-Schweitzer-Straße 64
67655 Kaiserslautern
Telephone: 0631 5349-2201 or, in an emergency outside
business hours, 0631 5349-2207

Krankenhaus der Barmherzigen Brüder

(Hospital of the Brothers of Mercy), Trier

Specialist centre for psychology
Nordallee 1
54292 Trier
Telephone: 0651 208-2251 or, in an emergency outside business hours,
0651 208-0

Rheinhessen-Fachklinik Mainz (für Kinder und Jugendliche) (Rhine-Hesse Specialist Clinic, Mainz [for children and adolescents])

Paediatric psychiatry, psychotherapy and psychosomatics

Hartmühlenweg 2-4

55122 Mainz

Telephone: 06131 378-2000 – also in an emergency
outside business hours

**Facilities that offer confidential preservation
of evidence following rape or physical injury:**

**Forensic Outpatient Clinic at the Institute of Forensic Medicine at the
Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz**

Institute of Forensic Medicine at the Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz

Am Pulverturm 3

55131 Mainz

Telephone: 06131 17-9550 or -9499
or 17-0 (on call 24 hours)

www.rechtsmedizin.uni-mainz.de

Verbundkrankenhaus (Network Hospital) Bernkastel-Wittlich

Koblenzer Straße 91

54516 Wittlich

Telephone: 06571 15-0, -23530 or -35310 (staffed 24 hours)

www.vertrauliche-spurensicherung-wittlich.de

**Klinikum Mutterhaus der Borromäerinnen gGmbH
(Mutterhaus der Borromäerinnen Clinic) in Trier**

Gynaecological outpatient clinic

Feldstraße 16

54290 Trier

Telephone: 0651 947-2632 (hours of business: 7.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Telephone: 0651-947-0 or -84020 (from 4 p.m. to 7.30 a.m.)

Other advice centres

Rhineland-Palatinate's Project for Intervention against Violence in Close Social Relationships (RIGG)

www.rigg.rlp.de/Hilfeangebote

KOBRA women's counselling – coordination and advice centre for disabled women in Rhineland-Palatinate

Telephone: 06131 14674-450

Counselling centres for offenders in Rhineland-Palatinate, 'CONTRA häusliche Gewalt' (AGAINST domestic violence) can be found online at:

www.rigg.rlp.de/Hilfeangebote

Police

Telephone: 110

National helplines

Violence against women helpline

Telephone: 08000 116 016

WEISSER RING e. V. victims' line

Telephone: 116 006

Emergency helpline for pregnant women

Telephone: 0800 4040020

Further links

www.rigg.rlp.de

www.opferschutz.rlp.de

www.hilfetelefon.de

www.stalking-justiz.de

www.frauen-gegen-gewalt.de

www.gewalt-ist-nie-ok.de

www.gewaltschutz.info



PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Publisher:

Ministry of Family Affairs, Women, Youth,
Integration and Consumer Protection
Department: Prevention of Violence, Women in Particular Living Conditions
Kaiser-Friedrich-Straße 5a
55116 Mainz
www.mffjiv.rlp.de
www.rigg.rlp.de

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Rheinland-Pfalz

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