

Country and target area of study	France
Your name and title	Ms Stephanie Lamy, consultant Women for Women France
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I . Protection for DV victims
1 Emergency shelters for protecting DV victims and their children
<p>(1) Outline</p> <p>Victims of domestic violence who live with their abuser can request a protection order ("ordonnance de protection") from a judge, which includes the possibility of evicting the perpetrator from the home. This protective measure can be granted within a maximum of one week, regardless of whose name is on the lease or deed. While awaiting the judge's decision or if a protection order has not been requested, emergency accommodation options are available for victims and their children to ensure their immediate safety.</p> <p>The Istanbul Convention, ratified by France in 2014, requires states to prevent violence, protect victims, and prosecute perpetrators, including the provision of emergency shelters at a recommended rate of one space per 10,000 inhabitants. An estimated 20 000 shelter spaces are needed each year. However, as of July 2024, France has 10,823 spaces dedicated to women victims of violence. Specific shelters are designed for women fleeing abuse, offering security, psychological support, and legal assistance. More general shelters, such as emergency accommodation centers (CHU), provide short-term housing for those in distress, including hotel stays and social residences. CHRS (Centres d'Hébergement et de Réinsertion Sociale), provide both housing and long-term reintegration support. Some CHRS are dedicated to women victims of violence, while others cater to a broader public. There are also "accompanied housing" options, including social residences and family pensions, offering temporary or permanent housing with tailored social support. The SIAO (Services Intégrés de l'Accueil et de l'Orientation), manages shelter requests, coordinating between social services and available housing. They are reachable through the dedicated phone number 115.</p> <p>The government funds shelters and organizes housing initiatives, while NGOs manage shelters and offer victim support. Specialized associations focus exclusively on helping women survivors, with the Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (FNSF) playing a key coordinating role. This service is available in multiple languages by calling the 3919. Specific situations, such as victims with disabilities, or seniors can be accommodated if available.</p> <p>Police services can arrange a place in a shelter or accommodation center, sometimes on the same day, and without a complaint filed. On their multilingual resource portal, Women for Women France provides a letter for non-French speaking victims to present to the police to ask for assistance.</p> <p>Victims of domestic violence often face long waiting times for social housing,</p>

particularly in major cities. While awaiting placement, alternative short-term housing solutions are available, such as emergency Hotel Stays. If shelters are full, social workers from CCAS (Centre Communal d'Action Sociale) can arrange temporary accommodation in hotels for victims and their children. Furthermore, NGOs, such as Réseau Solidaire des Familles d'Accueil, match victims with volunteer host families for temporary safe housing.

(2) List of relevant organizations/ shelters in the target area of study, contact information, and how to apply for their support (please list 3 organizations/ shelters)

Call 115 (SIAO), a free 24/7 helpline, for generalist emergency shelter. Most regions have protocols in place that handle specific requests in case of domestic violence in order to coordinate between emergency shelters and local NGOs. For better response rates, call between 11 AM and 3 PM and retry if needed. Specify your department of residence to ensure future eligibility for housing assistance.

Call 3919 (FNSF) a free and confidential helpline available 24/7, for support and guidance on domestic violence. The service provides information, counseling, and referrals to shelters managed by NGOs members of the FNSF.

For immigrant or undocumented women, La Cimade and RAJFIRE provide specialized support and can help find secure accommodation.

Contact local NGOs directly by searching the “departement” section on the government webpage (French only)

<https://arretonslesviolences.gouv.fr/associations-de-lutte-contre-les-violences-sexistes-et-sexuelles/associations>.

(3) Requirements for admission to the relevant organizations/ shelters

Access to shelters for victims of domestic violence depends on the type of accommodation and the organization managing it. Emergency shelters, accessible through 115 and Centres d'Hébergement d'Urgence (CHU), do not require formal documentation or the filing of a complaint. These shelters are open to all victims, including undocumented individuals and non-residents, though availability depends on demand and local capacity.

For protection-specific shelters, such as specialized women's shelters and Centres d'Hébergement et de Réinsertion Sociale (CHRS), priority is given to victims facing immediate danger. Some of these shelters require a referral from 115, social services, police, or victim support organizations, but filing a complaint is not mandatory.

Transitional and long-term housing, including accompanied housing and social residences, requires a referral from a social worker and proof of need. Some of these accommodations apply income-based eligibility criteria, and for non-French residents, access may depend on visa or residency status. Regardless of the type of shelter, priority is given to women with children, those at high risk, and individuals referred by social services or law enforcement.

(4) Programs and services

Shelters for victims of domestic violence offer a range of programs and services aimed at ensuring safety, stability, and long-term reintegration. Specific requirements can be stated when calling 115 or 3919. Needs are evaluated individually upon arrival. Emergency shelters provide immediate protection, including secure accommodation, food, and essential supplies. Psychological support is available through counseling and therapy to help victims recover from trauma. Many shelters offer legal assistance, helping victims navigate procedures such as filing complaints, obtaining protection orders, and managing custody arrangements.

(5) Assistance for immigrant/ foreign victims (including assistance of interpreter, etc.) for each shelter picked up in item.

All specific services are subject to availability. Victims may need to call back.

115 : Interpreters are available for non-French speakers. Victims may be oriented towards generalist shelters without specific assistance, nor services for immigrant/foreign women.

3919 : Interpreters are available for non-French speakers. Victims are orientated towards domestic violence specific shelters with foreign assistance, if available in the department/region.

La Cimade & RAJFIRE : Interpreters available as needed. Victims are orientated in priority towards shelters with specific foreign assistance. Specific assistance may include administrative assistance for residency/asylum rights as well as accommodating dietary restrictions.

(6) Any other useful information related to admission to shelters

It is advisable to prepare by gathering essential items. Important documents, including identification (passport, residence permit, or any official document), health insurance cards, children's birth certificates, and legal papers such as a protection order or police report, should be brought if available. If taking medication, having an adequate supply along with medical prescriptions is necessary. Bringing basic personal belongings, such as clothing, toiletries, and necessary items for children (diapers, baby formula, school supplies), is recommended. While some shelters provide essentials, availability may vary.

For safety reasons, the location of the shelter should not be disclosed to anyone, especially those linked to the perpetrator.

2 Support for DV victims by the police

(1) Outline

Both the Police Nationale and the Gendarmerie Nationale handle domestic violence cases, but their jurisdiction and structure differ. The Police Nationale operates in urban areas and is responsible for receiving complaints at commissariats de police. The Gendarmerie Nationale is responsible for rural areas, small towns, and suburban regions. Victims can report domestic violence at brigades de gendarmerie. Both police officers and gendarmes receive domestic violence training as part of their initial education and through ongoing programs. They learn to recognize different forms of abuse, assess risk, and communicate empathetically with victims. Training covers French legal protections, including restraining orders and victim rights, as well as

coordination with social services and the judiciary.

The police and gendarmerie work closely with Intervenants Sociaux en Commissariat et Gendarmerie (ISCG), social workers embedded in law enforcement agencies who provide psychosocial support, legal guidance, and referrals to emergency housing.

Foreign victims without legal residency can access legal representation through free legal aid (Aide Juridictionnelle) if they have limited financial resources, applying via local courts. Additionally, several nonprofit organizations provide free or low-cost legal assistance, including La Cimade (support for migrants and asylum seekers), GISTI (legal guidance for undocumented people), France Terre d'Asile (aid for refugees).

(2) Details of the police support for DV victims

Victims can call 17 (or 112 European number) in emergencies to receive immediate police or gendarmerie intervention. In case of hearing or speech impediment, they can send a text to the number 114. They can file a complaint directly at the gendarmerie or commissariat. They can also arrange an appointment, ensuring that ISCG personnel is present, through the dedicated chat platform (FR only) <https://www.service-public.fr/cmi>.

Victims are informed that filing a complaint is not required for an investigation to be initiated. Officers can document incidents through a Judicial Information Report ("Procès-verbal de renseignement judiciaire"), even if the victim is not ready to file a formal complaint. This report can later serve as legal evidence.

At the end of their testimony, they are given a "contact sheet" listing local victim support services. ISCG then take over to connect victims with the most relevant support organizations.

Police / gendarmes can assist in obtaining a protection order ("ordonnance de protection"), issued under Articles 515-9 to 515-13 of the Code civil, which allows for the immediate expulsion of the perpetrator from the home and can be granted within one week. Victims do not need to file a criminal complaint to obtain this order. Protection extends to children exposed to domestic violence.

If the police respond to a domestic violence call, their intervention aims to secure the victim, assess the situation, and arrest the perpetrator if possible. When violence is suspected but not immediately evident, officers discreetly give victims a domestic violence information card with emergency contacts.

Police / gendarmes also handle emergencies related to violations of court orders and electronic protections. France has implemented electronic monitoring systems, such as electronic bracelets, to monitor offenders and prevent them from approaching victims. These devices alert authorities and victims if the perpetrator enters a prohibited zone, enabling swift police intervention. Additionally, victims may be provided with emergency alert devices or panic buttons, allowing them to notify law enforcement instantly if they feel threatened. Upon activation, these devices transmit the victim's location to the nearest police units, facilitating rapid response to the situation.

(3) Method to obtain a copy of bill of complaints or police reports

A copy of the complaint is systematically provided to the victim at the end of the filing process. If not received, the victim can request it directly at the police station ("commissariat de police") or gendarmerie where the complaint was filed. It is recommended to bring official identification and provide the date and reference number of the complaint, if available.

For cases involving protection orders or court proceedings, victims may also request access to police reports ("procès-verbal de renseignement judiciaire") or judicial documents through their lawyer or by contacting the public prosecutor's office ("parquet") at the courthouse handling the case.

If the victim has difficulty retrieving their documents, victim support organizations such as Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (FNSF) or CIDFF (Centres d'Information sur les Droits des Femmes et des Familles) can provide assistance in navigating the request process.

(4) Assistance for immigrant/ foreign victims (such as interpretation service)

Non-French speakers are entitled to interpreter services, as required by Article D594-11 of the Code de procédure pénale. Both forces can also coordinate with 115 for emergency shelter placement and work with 3919 to direct victims to appropriate support organizations.

Filing a complaint or being identified as a victim of domestic violence can also support immigration procedures, as victims may qualify for residency permits on humanitarian grounds under Article L. 425-1 of the Code de l'entrée et du séjour des étrangers et du droit d'asile (CESEDA).

Organisations:

La Cimade

- Phone: +33 1 44 18 60 50
- Website: www.lacimade.org

GISTI (Groupe d'Information et de Soutien des Immigré·es)

- Phone: +33 1 84 60 90 26
- Website: www.gisti.org

France Terre d'Asile

- Phone: +33 1 53 04 39 99
- Website: www.france-terre-asile.org

(5) Any other useful information related to police support for victims

Since 2021, the government has promoted "off-site complaint filing" for domestic violence victims who fear going to a police station. Victims can file a complaint in a third-party location: at home, with relatives, in an association, or at the hospital.

Victims are not required to provide medical evidence to file a complaint, but they may be examined by a doctor upon police requisition to document injuries. Police reports serve as critical evidence in criminal proceedings, protection orders, and residency applications for immigrant victims.

3 Any other information related to protection for DV victims

Specialized Domestic Violence Units within the Public Prosecutor's Office: These units are dedicated to expediting cases of domestic violence, ensuring that victims receive prompt protective measures. They collaborate closely with law enforcement agencies, social services, and victim support organizations to prioritize investigations and prosecutions, aiming to reduce the time between reporting an incident and judicial intervention.

To request the electronic bracelet (bracelet anti-rapprochement) for an abuser in cases of domestic violence, the victim or their legal representative must file a request with the public prosecutor (procureur de la République) or the investigating judge (juge d'instruction) at the Tribunal Judiciaire. This request can be made as part of a protection order (ordonnance de protection) issued by the family court judge (juge aux affaires familiales) or during a criminal procedure. The victim can seek assistance from a lawyer, a victim support organization, or local law enforcement. If approved, the abuser is required to wear the electronic bracelet, which alerts authorities if they approach the victim beyond a pre-defined distance. The victim also receives an alert device to notify law enforcement of any violations. The legal framework for electronic monitoring in domestic violence cases is established under Article 138 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Article 515-11 of the Civil Code, which allow judges to impose an electronic bracelet as a protective measure. Law n°2019-1480 of December 28, 2019, strengthened protections for victims by expanding the use of electronic monitoring to prevent contact between abusers and their victims. The measure is enforced by judicial authorities, and violations of the bracelet's restrictions can lead to immediate arrest and further legal consequences. The decision to impose electronic monitoring considers the risk level, history of violence, and the necessity to ensure the victim's safety. For assistance with filing a request, victims may also seek help at their local police station (gendarmerie or commissariat) or legal aid offices (Maison de la Justice et du Droit) for further guidance on obtaining an electronic bracelet for their abuser. <http://www.annuaires.justice.gouv.fr/annuaires-12162/annuaire-des-maisons-de-justice-et-du-droit-21773.html>

Garde Alternée Suspendue Law (2023): Enacted in 2023, this law automatically suspends joint custody rights when one parent is suspected or convicted of domestic violence. This measure prevents abusive partners from using custody arrangements to exert control over victims, thereby prioritizing the safety and well-being of both the victim and the children involved.

In cases of domestic violence, a child involved in legal proceedings can be assigned an administrateur ad hoc to protect their rights and interests when their legal guardians are unable to do so. This appointment is made by a judge (juge des enfants or juge d'instruction) when the child is a direct or indirect victim of domestic violence, especially if a parent is the perpetrator. The administrateur ad hoc, often a trained lawyer or child protection specialist, acts as the child's legal representative, ensuring their voice is heard in court, filing legal actions on their behalf, and making decisions in their best interest. They may also assist in protective measures, such as securing emergency accommodation or requesting a protection order. This legal mechanism ensures that children affected by domestic violence receive independent representation, shielding them from further harm and advocating for their welfare throughout the judicial process.

Pharmacies as Safe Spaces: Initiated in 2020, this program enables victims to seek help discreetly at local pharmacies. By using a predetermined code phrase “mask 19”, victims can alert pharmacists, who are trained to contact authorities or direct them to shelters and support services. This initiative provides an alternative for those who may fear going directly to the police.

Crisis Response Points in Public Transport Hubs: Since 2023, major train stations and public transport hubs have established crisis response points where victims can report abuse discreetly. Trained staff are available to provide immediate assistance, ensuring that victims have access to help even in public settings.

II. Self-sufficiency support for DV victims

1 Medical insurance system

(1) Outline

Victims of domestic violence in France have access to medical care, regardless of their residency status or financial situation. The Protection Universelle Maladie (PUMA) system, commonly referred to as “sécurité sociale”, ensures that individuals residing in France on a stable and regular basis receive health insurance coverage. This system reimburses a portion of medical expenses, with reimbursement rates varying depending on the type of treatment received. Patients must initially pay for their medical expenses before receiving reimbursement directly into their bank account. To cover the remaining costs, victims are encouraged to obtain a private health insurance policy (“mutuelle”). If financial constraints prevent access to private insurance, victims can apply for Complémentaire Santé Solidaire (CSS), an additional state healthcare assistance program that fully or partially covers the remaining medical expenses for those with low income.

Victims without legal residency status can access medical care through the Aide Médicale de l'État (AME), which provides coverage for essential treatments and emergency care. In all cases, hospitals are required to provide emergency medical assistance to victims, ensuring that lack of insurance does not prevent access to urgent care.

It's important to note that in emergency situations, victims should not hesitate to seek immediate medical attention, as Emergency services such as the Pompiers (Civil protection, call 18) and hospitals are required to provide care regardless of the individual's insurance status or ability to pay.

(2) List of relevant organizations, contact information, and how to apply for medical insurance in the target area of study

CPAM : To find the nearest CPAM office, applicants can visit <https://www.ameli.fr/assure/adresses-et-contacts> and enter their postal code or department. This platform allows individuals to book appointments online, access required forms, and check processing times. For direct assistance, the national CPAM helpline can be reached by calling 3646 (standard call rates apply). For english language assistance, call 09 74 75 36 46. For hearing and speech impaired access, a counselor can be reached using preferred communication methods, including French

Sign Language (LSF), Real-Time Transcription (TTRP), and Complemented Spoken French (LfPC).

To use this service, individuals must visit the Elio Connect website at <https://elioz.fr/elioz-connect/annuaire/assurance-maladie-annuaire/>.

CPAM handles requests related to PUMA, AME and CSS.

Protection Universelle Maladie (PUMA): For individuals residing in France on a stable and regular basis.

PUMA for employed victims, the employer is responsible for initiating the registration process with the relevant Caisse d'Assurance Maladie to ensure the allocation of health insurance entitlements. This procedure facilitates access to Protection Universelle Maladie (PUMA) and ensures that employees are covered for medical expenses under the national healthcare system.

PUMA for unemployed victims : the health insurance application form (S1106) must be completed https://www.ameli.fr/sites/default/files/formulaires/168/s1106_puma_demande_od_remp.pdf and submitted along with the necessary supporting documents. The application must include proof of residency rights, such as a photocopy of a valid residence permit ("titre de séjour") or an "attestation" of application for asylum. If the applicant is not employed, additional documents demonstrating the stability of residence in France are required. These may include rent receipts, gas or electricity bills, or an "attestation d'hébergement" (accommodation certificate) from a host. A bank account certificate ("relevé d'identité bancaire – RIB") with the IBAN must also be provided to facilitate direct reimbursement of healthcare expenses. When possible, a tax notice ("avis d'imposition") and a full birth certificate or an extract with parentage should be included. Political refugees must not contact the authorities of their country of origin to obtain these documents. Before submitting the application, it is advisable to make a copy or take a photograph of the complete file. The application should be sent by registered post with recorded delivery ("lettre recommandée avec accusé de réception"). The receipt ("preuve de dépôt") must be kept as proof of submission.

Processing times vary depending on the Caisse d'Assurance Maladie. If no response is received within two months of submitting the application, the applicant should contact their Caisse d'Assurance Maladie to check the status of their file. Once the application is approved, the applicant will receive an "attestation d'ouverture de droits", a document confirming healthcare rights. This document includes the applicant's unique social security number ("numéro de sécurité sociale"). The notification letter will also contain the form "Ma nouvelle carte vitale", allowing the applicant to request a "carte vitale", which serves as the official healthcare card for medical reimbursements. While waiting to receive the carte vitale, medical expenses can still be reimbursed by presenting the attestation d'ouverture de droits at healthcare appointments and pharmacies. Upon receiving the carte vitale, the applicant must activate it by visiting a pharmacy and requesting an update ("mise à jour"). The carte vitale must be presented at all medical consultations and pharmacies to facilitate direct reimbursement of healthcare expenses.

Aide Médicale de l'État (AME): For individuals without legal residency status.

To apply, the applicant must complete the official application form <https://www.ameli.fr/sites/default/files/formulaires/93/s3720-demande-aide-medicale-etat-ame-2021.pdf> and provide supporting documents. The application must include a photocopy of their passport with all pages copied or, if unavailable, a national identity card. A color identity photo is required, along with proof of stable residence in France, such as a rent receipt, utility bills, or an accommodation certificate ("attestation d'hébergement"). Documentation proving financial resources must also be included. If the applicant does not have a passport, it is recommended to attach a sworn statement ("attestation sur l'honneur") indicating the absence of this document.

For applicants who do not speak French, it is recommended to be accompanied by someone who can provide translation assistance during the application process. Within two months, the applicant will receive a letter from the Caisse d'Assurance Maladie with an appointment date. During this appointment, an admission card for Aide Médicale d'État (AME) will be issued. This card is valid for one year from the date of application submission and can be renewed annually, provided the applicant continues to meet the eligibility criteria.

To avoid any interruption in coverage, the renewal application must be submitted two months before the expiration date to the Caisse d'Assurance Maladie. The AME card must be presented at all medical appointments and pharmacies to ensure healthcare services are provided without requiring upfront payment.

If no response is received more than two months after submitting the application, the applicant should contact their Caisse d'Assurance Maladie to request an update on the status of their file. If the application is denied, the decision can be contested through an appeal procedure ("recours"). The applicant has two months from the date of receiving the denial notification to initiate this process. Two types of appeal procedures are available. The amicable appeal ("recours gracieux") consists of requesting a reconsideration of the decision by the director of the Caisse d'Assurance Maladie. The contentious appeal ("recours contentieux") involves filing a case before the administrative court ("tribunal administratif") of the applicant's place of residence. Contact details for the relevant administrative court can be found by entering the applicant's postal code on the official government website.

It is strongly recommended that applicants seek assistance from a lawyer or a recognized non-profit organization ("association") offering free legal support to guide them through the appeal process.

Complémentaire Santé Solidaire (CSS)

Applicants can apply for Complémentaire Santé Solidaire (CSS) either online or by post/in person through their Caisse d'Assurance Maladie. To apply online, applicants must log in to their Ameli.fr account and select "Mes démarches > Faire une demande de Complémentaire Santé Solidaire", then follow the instructions. Once the application is submitted, a confirmation email will be sent to their Ameli account inbox. To apply in person or by post, applicants must download and complete the application form https://www.ameli.fr/sites/default/files/formulaires/formulaire_s3711_-_demande_complementaire_sante_solidaire_-_assurance_maladie.pdf, attach the required documents, and submit the file. It can be delivered in person at the Caisse d'Assurance Maladie reception desk or sent by registered post ("lettre recommandée").

avec accusé de réception") to ensure proof of submission. The receipt must be kept as evidence of postage.

If the applicant is unsure which Caisse d'Assurance Maladie to contact, they can check with the nearest Caisse Primaire d'Assurance Maladie (CPAM), with contact details available on the official Ameli website.

After submission, the Caisse d'Assurance Maladie has two months to process the application and notify the applicant of its decision by post. If the application is approved for CSS free of charge, the applicant must update their "carte vitale" at a pharmacy by requesting a "mise à jour". If they do not have a "carte vitale", they must present their certificate of rights ("attestation de droit") when seeking medical care. If the application is approved with a financial contribution, the applicant must first return the membership form ("bulletin d'adhésion") received with the approval letter. Once completed, they will receive an "attestation de droit", confirming CSS coverage. They must then update their "carte vitale" at a pharmacy to activate coverage or present the attestation de droit if they do not have a "carte vitale".

If the application is denied, the applicant may choose to subscribe to a private health insurance policy ("mutuelle"). If they disagree with the decision and believe they meet the eligibility criteria, they can contest the decision through an appeal ("recours"), following the instructions provided in the denial letter.

Private insurance (Mutuelle)

Employees in France are entitled to a mandatory company-provided mutuelle, as employers are legally required to offer one. The employer can provide details regarding the eligibility conditions, and in most cases, the company covers a portion of the mutuelle cost. Some mutuelles offer customizable packages, allowing policyholders to adjust coverage according to their specific needs.

Once a mutuelle is selected, a contract must be signed, and the provider will specify the required documentation. This typically includes a bank identity document ("Relevé d'Identité Bancaire – RIB"), which allows for direct deposit of reimbursements. Once enrolled, the mutuelle provider will notify the Caisse d'Assurance Maladie if the policyholder is registered in the state health insurance system. Applicants can verify this linkage by checking their Ameli.fr account or the platform corresponding to their health insurance scheme.

Most mutuelles operate with remote transmission, a system that allows the Caisse d'Assurance Maladie to automatically inform the mutuelle of any outstanding healthcare costs that were not reimbursed. This process eliminates the need for additional administrative steps, as the mutuelle will process the reimbursement up to the coverage limit specified in the contract. Reimbursements are then transferred directly to the policyholder's bank account.

(3) Requirements for application

PUMA (employed and unemployed) : stable and legal residency in France.

AME : The applicant must not hold a residency permit ("titre de séjour"), an official receipt ("attestation de prolongation d'instruction") from the ANEF website

confirming a pending residency application, or any other document proving they are in the process of obtaining legal residency. The applicant must have resided continuously in France for at least three months at the time of application. Any interruptions in residence during this period may affect eligibility. AME is not applicable in Mayotte. The applicant's financial resources must be below the established threshold, which varies based on household size and location and the income limits for AME, effective from April 1, 2024, align with those required for Complémentaire Santé Solidaire (CSS). Different income limits apply for metropolitan France and overseas departments ("DROM"). AME coverage is granted for one year and must be renewed annually for continued access to medical assistance.

CSS : Depending on income levels, CSS can be free or require a small financial contribution. As of April 1, 2024, for a single person in mainland France, the annual income limit is €10,166 for full coverage without financial contribution and €13,724 for coverage with a contribution. For a two-person household, the thresholds increase to €15,249 and €20,586, respectively. The limits are adjusted based on the household size. Eligibility is determined based on total household income over the past 12 months, ending two months before the application date. For example, for an application in April 2024, the reference period is from March 1, 2023, to February 29, 2024. If granted, the entire household benefits from CSS, which provides full coverage for healthcare expenses without upfront payments for medical consultations, prescriptions, hospital stays, dental care, hearing aids, and eyeglasses.

Private insurance (mutuelle) : Individuals registered with the state health insurance system, including the general scheme known as Protection Universelle Maladie (PUMA), also referred to as "sécurité sociale", are eligible to subscribe to a complementary health insurance policy ("mutuelle"). For individuals who are not covered by sécurité sociale, it is possible to inquire directly with mutuelle providers to determine whether they accept subscriptions from those without social security coverage.

(4) Assistance for immigrant/ foreign victims

Medical insurance is dependent on residency status. For non-resident victims, AME is the only option. Hospital Emergency Services cannot refuse care regardless of medical insurance status.

CPAM has an english language phone line 09 74 75 36 46. It also has english language resources <https://www.ameli.fr/haute-garonne/assure/english-pages>. CPAM can provide a translator on appointments.

(5) Any other useful information related to medical insurance

Emergency Medical Access: Hospitals and emergency services in France are legally required to provide urgent medical care, regardless of insurance status or financial situation. Victims should not hesitate to seek medical attention in emergencies. Emergency Contacts:

- Pompiers (Fire Brigade & Civil Protection): Call 18
- SAMU (Emergency Medical Services): Call 15
- European Emergency Number: Call 112

Confidentiality Protections: Victims of domestic violence can request confidential handling of medical records and insurance details to prevent their abusive partner from accessing sensitive healthcare information.

- Contact for Assistance: CPAM (Caisse Primaire d'Assurance Maladie) can assist with confidentiality requests. Find your local office here: www.ameli.fr
- English-language CPAM Helpline: 09 74 75 36 46

Free Preventive Health Services: Certain health services are available free of charge through public health programs, including:

- Reproductive healthcare and contraception (available through family planning centers).
- Mental health support via public hospitals and social services.
- Cancer screening and preventive medical check-ups.
- Contact for Family Planning & Reproductive Health Services: Planning Familial (French Family Planning Association): www.planning-familial.org

Specialized Medical Care for Trauma Survivors: Victims can access trauma-informed medical and psychological care through hospitals and specialized women's health organizations.

- Support for Trauma Survivors: Women Safe & Children provides medical, psychological, and legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence.
- Contact: www.women-safe.org | Phone: 01 39 10 85 35

Support for Pregnant Victims: Pregnant victims of domestic violence have priority access to maternity care, including prenatal medical support and emergency shelter for at-risk mothers.

- Maternity and Child Health Assistance: Protection Maternelle et Infantile (PMI) provides free prenatal and postnatal care.
- Contact: Find a local PMI center through the Conseil Départemental website or town hall (Mairie).

Mental Health and Psychological Support Services:

- Psycom (Mental Health Information Service): www.psycom.org
- Medical-Psychological Centers (CMPs) serve as coordination and outpatient care units, providing prevention, diagnosis, outpatient treatment, and home interventions for the general population. <https://www.f2rsmpsy.fr/annuaire-des-CMP>

2 Welfare benefit/ Living expense support

(1) Outline

Most welfare / living expense support necessitates being registered at the Caisse d'Allocation Familiale (CAF), or La mutualité sociale agricole (MSA) for rural areas.

France does not currently offer same-day emergency financial assistance to victims of domestic violence. Victims in need of urgent financial support should consider reaching out to trusted individuals who may be able to lend or provide funds to cover basic necessities. Various NGOs also offer essential services, including food. Parents

can also inquire with their child's school about available financial or material assistance for families in need.

In the short-term, since 2023 victims who are eligible can obtain an Aide Universelle d'Urgence (AUE) from the CAF or La mutualité sociale agricole (MSA). This assistance is available to any victim with valid residency rights in France. Depending on the victim's financial circumstances, the aid can be a non-reimbursable lump sum or an interest-free loan, with a minimum payment of €240. The amount is determined based on the victim's income and family situation. Victims without a personal bank account are advised to open one as soon as possible to facilitate receipt of financial aid. French law guarantees every resident the "droit au compte" (right to an account). This means that banks cannot deny access to a basic bank account, even without proper documentation. Employees with savings in a company plan ("Plan Épargne Entreprise") may request an early withdrawal in cases of domestic violence by contacting their employer.

It is also recommended to schedule a meeting with a social worker ("travailleur social"), who can provide personalized assistance, administrative support, and guidance on financial aid applications. Social workers can also help victims access reduced-cost or free public transportation, depending on their situation. Appointments can be made through the Conseil Départemental (regional administrative authorities), the Centre Communal d'Action Sociale (CCAS) at the local town hall ("mairie"), or a company social worker ("assistante sociale") for employed individuals.

Victims who are married or have children may be entitled to financial support from their spouse or the other parent following a judge's decision. Married individuals may receive spousal financial support during divorce proceedings. Parents may receive child maintenance payments to cover the costs of raising their children after separation. However, these legal proceedings may take several weeks or months before a ruling is issued. Before a court hearing, victims who have children can request an Allocation Soutien Familial (ASF) at the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales.

(2) List of the relevant organizations, contact information, how to apply for the support in the target area of study

CAF / MSA : Victims can apply for family allowance through the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) or their La mutualité sociale agricole (MSA) if they meet the eligibility criteria. Registration is mandatory and can be done in person at the nearest CAF/MSA office, where staff will assess eligibility, or online by downloading, completing, and mailing a "demande de prestation" form. Only those who qualify receive a CAF/MSA number, which is required for future interactions. Once deemed eligible, victims must complete the necessary administrative steps to obtain their CAF/MSA number and access financial support. This includes submitting a complete application with up-to-date supporting documents, such as a declaration of situation, which confirms financial need. A declaration of resources, a bank identity statement (RIB), and valid identification documents may also be required.

AUE is managed by the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) for the general population and the Mutualité Sociale Agricole (MSA) for individuals working in the agricultural sector. Victims can apply online, through their CAF account or in person at their social security office or directly when filing a complaint with the police.

ASF can also be requested online or in person.

<https://pension-alimentaire.caf.fr/>

NGOs : The domestic violence hotline operated by the FNSF, 3919, can orient victims to NGOs that provide immediate assistance. Les Restos du Cœur provides free food parcels, hygiene products, and baby supplies, as well as hot meals and shelters for homeless individuals. Le Secours Populaire offers self-service grocery shopping at no cost, along with free clothing and essential materials. La Croix-Rouge distributes food in multiple forms, including meal parcels, hot meals, and sandwiches, and operates discounted second-hand clothing stores. Banques Alimentaires allow individuals to access groceries free of charge. These service can be accessed by contacting their local town hall or the Communal Center for Social Action (CCAS).

Banks: Some banks provide free accounts solely in the victim's name, remaining confidential from the abusive partner, and not linked to the shared residence, ensuring the victim's protection. The service is available through Crédit Mutuel branches across 14 affiliated federations and all CIC agencies, in collaboration with 81 associations under the Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (FNSF 3919).

<https://solidaritefemmes.org/trouver-une-association-violences-femmes/>

Victims can also open a bank account at a "bureau de tabac" (cigarette shop) that provide Nickel banking services. This option provides a fast and accessible banking solution without requiring proof of residence.

https://nickel.eu/fr/points-de-vente?_gl=1*h5xbba*_gcl_au*MTY1ODAyMDc4Ni4xNzM5OTY2Nzk1

Social workers : contacting their local town hall or the Communal Center for Social Action (CCAS). Contact details of Mairies : <https://www.adresses-mairies.fr/>

(3) Requirements for application

CAF/MSA : To qualify for emergency financial aid program available for victims of domestic violence in France through the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) and the Mutualité Sociale Agricole (MSA) applicants must provide official proof of domestic violence issued within the past 12 months, such as a protection order, a police report, or a prosecutor's statement. Foreign nationals must have a valid residence permit, excluding tourist visas. The aid is granted regardless of income, with the amount determined based on household composition and calculated using the Revenu de Solidarité Active (RSA) scale. Payments are typically processed within three to five business days. Victims already registered with CAF or MSA can apply online or through their local office. More information is available through CAF at www.caf.fr and MSA at www.msa.fr.

Food assistance : Victims can apply for food assistance by contacting their local town hall or the Communal Center for Social Action (CCAS). They can request an appointment with a social worker to assess their eligibility for aid and obtain a list of the necessary documents. Victims can prepare for the appointment by gathering all required documents to ensure a complete evaluation of their situation. They must provide proof of income, such as a tax notice, payslips, a CAF/MSA certificate, family pension records, or any other financial resources. They should also collect documents related to essential monthly expenses, including rent receipts, utility bills, health and home insurance, loan repayment schedules, and phone or internet bills. If they own a

vehicle, they must include proof of insurance and fuel costs. Parents must also provide records of childcare and school-related expenses. If a recent financial hardship has worsened their situation, such as an urgent appliance replacement or car repairs, victims can present supporting documents. On the day of the appointment, victims can explain their circumstances and submit all necessary documents. The social worker will review their case and determine whether they qualify for food assistance. If eligible, victims can receive information on where to access food aid and the duration of support. Once approved, victims can visit the designated organization or CCAS, where they will receive guidance on how the assistance program operates. The CAF/MSA certificate, which details received benefits, dependent children, and the family quotient, can be obtained online through a personal account under "Request a payment and family quotient certificate," at a CAF/MSA office, or by phone.

Banks : Contact 3919 for eligibility.

Nickel : To open an account, applicants must present a valid identity document and provide a phone number. A one-time registration fee of approximately €20 is required at the time of opening. Upon completion, the applicant will receive a bank account, a payment card, and a "Relevé d'Identité Bancaire (RIB)" within minutes.

(4) Details of their support

- **Universal Emergency Financial Aid (AUE):** Victims with valid residency status can apply for an interest-free loan or a non-reimbursable grant through CAF/MSA to cover urgent financial needs, such as securing safe housing or basic necessities.
- **Family and Living Expense Support:** Victims with children may qualify for family allowances (CAF/MSA), including the Allocation de Soutien Familial (ASF), which provides temporary child maintenance assistance while awaiting legal decisions.
- **Food Assistance and Basic Necessities:** NGOs such as Les Restos du Cœur, Le Secours Populaire, La Croix-Rouge, and Banques Alimentaires provide free food parcels, hygiene products, and clothing. Access to these services is available through CCAS (Centre Communal d'Action Sociale) at local town halls.
- **Banking Assistance for Financial Independence:** Certain banks, including Crédit Mutuel and CIC, offer confidential bank accounts for victims in collaboration with FNSF (3919). Victims can also open an account through Nickel banking services at a bureau de tabac, which does not require proof of residence.
- **Transportation and Utility Assistance:** Social workers can help victims apply for free or reduced-cost public transportation and emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, and household expenses through CAF/MSA, CCAS, or regional social services.
- **Financial Counseling and Budget Management:** Victims facing financial instability can seek support from social workers to access debt relief programs, interest-free emergency loans, and financial planning services.

(5) Assistance for immigrant/ foreign victims

Victims without legal residency status can still access essential services, including food assistance, hygiene products, and clothing, through humanitarian organizations

such as Les Restos du Cœur, Le Secours Populaire, La Croix-Rouge, and Banques Alimentaires. These services are available through local CCAS offices at town halls, where social workers can guide victims through the application process for emergency aid.

Access to banking services is possible even for undocumented victims. Banks such as Crédit Mutuel and CIC, in partnership with the Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (FNSF – 3919), offer confidential accounts that protect victims' financial independence. Additionally, Nickel banking services, available at bureaux de tabac, allow victims to open an account without requiring proof of residence, ensuring they can receive financial assistance securely.

(6) Any other useful information related to the welfare benefit/ living expense support

Economic violence is not recognized as a form of domestic violence under French law; however, it is mentioned in the Istanbul Convention which France ratified in 2014. Economic violence refers to situations where a victim is financially controlled, deprived of resources, or left unable to meet basic needs due to the actions of their partner. French legislation provides several legal remedies to help victims regain financial independence, recover unpaid financial obligations, and prevent further exploitation.

Victims can seek emergency financial protection through the Family Court Judge (Juge aux Affaires Familiales - JAF) by requesting provisional financial measures. This can include freezing joint accounts, preventing one partner from mismanaging household finances, or ensuring fair financial contributions to household expenses. Article 214 of the French Civil Code states that spouses must contribute to household costs according to their financial capacity, while Article 215 prevents the unilateral sale or transfer of the family home. Victims can also request urgent spousal support during divorce proceedings or apply for child maintenance payments, even before a final court decision.

Victims of domestic violence who need to legally separate from a joint bank account should first inform their bank in writing, requesting the closure or modification of the account. If both account holders must agree, but the abuser refuses, the victim can unilaterally revoke their authorization to prevent further transactions in their name. Under Article 221 of the French Civil Code, each co-holder remains responsible for debts incurred before the separation.

Victims experiencing financial abandonment—where their partner refuses to provide necessary financial support—can file a criminal complaint for abandonment of family (abandon de famille) with the police or gendarmerie. This offense applies when a person fails to meet court-ordered financial obligations for at least two months and carries legal consequences. In addition, victims can request direct wage deductions from their partner's salary to recover unpaid child support or spousal maintenance. This is done through a judicial officer (huissier de justice) and allows funds to be automatically transferred from the abusive partner's salary or bank account.

Victims struggling with coerced debt or fraudulent financial agreements can take steps to protect their finances. If an abusive partner has taken out loans in their name or accumulated debt without their consent, they can contact their bank to request account separation or remove themselves from joint credit agreements. In cases of

severe financial hardship, victims can file for over-indebtedness (surendettement) with the Banque de France, which may result in debt suspension, renegotiation, or cancellation. More information on debt relief procedures can be found at www.banque-france.fr or by calling 34 14.

Victims should also inform the French Treasury (Trésor Public) of their change in situation, particularly if they were financially dependent on their abusive partner. Reporting domestic violence and a change in household composition can help victims access tax adjustments, exemptions from financial penalties, or adjustments to public debts such as unpaid taxes, fines, or social security contributions. Requests can be made by visiting the local Centre des Finances Publiques, calling the tax administration at 0809 401 401, or submitting an official request via www.impots.gouv.fr under the "Messagerie sécurisée" section.

Victims needing urgent legal guidance can contact legal aid services (Maisons de Justice et du Droit), which offer free consultations for those facing financial hardship. Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (FNSF) helpline at 3919 provides confidential support, while financial planning services are available through Crésus (09 69 39 54 28, www.cresus.org) for victims dealing with debt and financial instability.

Victims who do not have access to immediate financial aid may be eligible for community-based assistance programs offered through local associations and religious organizations. Some charities provide one-time financial grants or emergency vouchers for essential goods, such as food, hygiene products, and school supplies for children. These programs vary by region, and victims can check available support by contacting their local CCAS (Centre Communale d'Action Sociale) through their town hall (Mairie) at www.adresses-mairies.fr.

Employed victims may access salary advances or employer-based financial assistance programs. Some companies allow employees to request early salary payments to help cover urgent expenses, while others provide employee hardship funds that offer interest-free loans or financial grants. Victims can inquire with their company's human resources department or company social worker (assistante sociale d'entreprise) for assistance.

For victims struggling with long-term financial stability, debt restructuring services are available through the Banque de France's over-indebtedness relief program (Surendettement des Particuliers). This program helps individuals in severe financial hardship renegotiate or suspend loan repayments, prioritizing essential expenses. Victims can apply online at www.banque-france.fr or call 34 14 (local call rates apply).

Victims with dependent children may qualify for special allowances through the French education system, including free or reduced-cost school meals, educational grants, and extracurricular activity subsidies. Schools provide temporary financial assistance for families in distress. Parents can request help through the school's social service department (Service Social en Faveur des Élèves - SSFE) or by calling the Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale helpline at 01 55 55 10 10.

To help victims establish financial independence, organizations like Crésus and Secours Catholique offer financial literacy programs, budget management workshops, and support in applying for benefits.

- Crésus (Financial Education & Debt Assistance): www.cresus.org | Phone: 09

69 39 54 28

- Secours Catholique (Emergency Aid & Social Support): www.secours-catholique.org | Phone: 01 45 49 73 00

3 Family and childcare benefits

(1) Outline

France provides financial support to families through various benefits managed by the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) or La mutualité sociale agricole (MSA) in rural areas. Victims of domestic violence with children may be eligible for assistance, ensuring financial assistance and access to childcare services. Family benefits include the Allocations Familiales, which support households with at least two dependent children under the age of 20. The amount depends on income levels and the number of children. Parents who temporarily stop or reduce their professional activity to care for a child under three years old can receive the Shared Childcare Benefit (PreParE). For working parents, the Complément de Libre Choix du Mode de Garde (CMG) partially covers childcare costs, including hiring a nanny or placing a child in daycare. Single parents raising a child alone without financial support from the other parent may receive the Allocation de Soutien Familial (ASF). Families with a child with disabilities can receive l'Allocation d'Éducation de l'Enfant Handicapé (AEEH) to cover additional care expenses.

Victims can apply for these benefits by registering with CAF/MSA online or at a local office. The application process requires proof of income, a bank account statement (RIB), and identification documents. For single parents seeking child maintenance payments, CAF/MSA can facilitate financial support by acting as an intermediary between parents through the Agence de recouvrement et de l'intermédiation des pensions alimentaire (ARIPA).

In addition to national benefits provided by the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF), regional and local governments offer additional financial and social support for families, particularly for victims of domestic violence. Mairies (town halls) and regional councils play a key role in assisting families through the Centre Communal d'Action Sociale (CCAS).

Each municipality offers reduced-cost childcare options, including subsidized places in crèches (daycare centers), after-school programs, and municipal nurseries. Priority access to these services is often granted to single-parent households and families in vulnerable situations, including those affected by domestic violence. Victims can apply for these services through their local mairie or directly with the childcare provider. Some municipalities also offer home-based childcare support, where licensed professionals provide care at home for young children.

For school-age children (3 years old and up), local governments provide school meal subsidies to ensure that children from low-income households receive nutritious meals at a reduced cost or for free. Families can apply for these subsidies through the local education department of their mairie or the school administration. Additionally, some regions provide financial assistance for school supplies, textbooks, and transportation to support families facing financial hardship. Schools all provide access to emergency funding should a parent's situation deteriorate. This can be accessed by contacting the school's social service. Victims of domestic violence may qualify for extra support to

cover educational expenses, particularly if they have relocated and need to enroll their children in a new school.

Regional governments also offer youth programs and extracurricular activity subsidies, allowing children from low-income households to participate in sports, arts, and cultural activities at reduced fees. Victims of domestic violence can request financial assistance from the regional council to ensure their children have access to social and recreational activities.

For families experiencing financial difficulties, regional social services may provide additional housing aid, psychological support, and family counseling. Victims can consult a social worker at their local mairie or Conseil Départemental to access these services. Schools also have dedicated school social workers and psychologists who can support children affected by domestic violence, ensuring their emotional and academic well-being.

Foreign victims with residency rights can access all CAF, MSA and local benefits. Those without residency permits may have limited access, depending on individual circumstances. Victims seeking asylum or humanitarian protection should consult specialized organizations such as La Cimade or RAJFIRE for assistance.

(2) List of relevant organizations, contact information, and how to apply for the support in the target area of study

CAF / MSA

Victims can apply for family allowance through the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) or their La mutualité sociale agricole (MSA) if they meet the eligibility criteria. Registration is mandatory and can be done in person at the nearest CAF/MSA office, where staff will assess eligibility, or online by downloading, completing, and mailing a "demande de prestation" form. Only those who qualify receive a CAF/MSA number, which is required for future interactions. Once deemed eligible, victims must complete the necessary administrative steps to obtain their CAF/MSA number and access financial support. This includes submitting a complete application with up-to-date supporting documents, such as a declaration of situation, which confirms financial need. A declaration of resources, a bank identity statement (RIB), and valid identification documents may also be required.

Centre Communal d'Action Sociale (CCAS)

The CCAS provides local social services, including emergency financial assistance, food aid, housing support, and subsidies for school meals and childcare. It also assigns social workers to assist victims of domestic violence in navigating administrative procedures. Victims should contact their local mairie (town hall) to schedule an appointment with a social worker. Applications for financial aid, childcare assistance, and housing support are processed based on household income and urgency. The contact information for each CCAS is available at local mairies or through the municipal government website.

Conseil Départemental (Departmental Councils)

Each Conseil Départemental manages social assistance at the regional level, offering services such as emergency financial aid, psychological counseling, and priority access

to childcare and housing. Victims of domestic violence can request support through social services managed by their department. Victims can visit the Conseil Départemental office in their area or contact their local Maison Départementale des Solidarités (MDS), which provides social assistance services. Social workers assess eligibility and assist with applications for benefits. Contact information for each departmental council is available by typing Maison Départementale des Solidarités into a search engine, followed by the name of the department.

(3) Requirements for application

- **Residency:** Applicants must legally reside in France and have a stable and regular residence. Foreign nationals may need a valid residence permit unless they are exempt (e.g., EU/EEA citizens).
- **Age:** Most CAF/MSA benefits are available to adults aged 18 and over, but some allowances, like family benefits, also extend to minors if they are legally emancipated.
- **Status & Income:** Eligibility depends on the type of aid requested (housing assistance, family allowances, RSA, etc.), with benefits often subject to income thresholds. Some benefits, like the RSA (Revenu de Solidarité Active), require applicants to be seeking employment or actively engaged in professional reintegration.

Required Documents: Proof of identity (passport, residence permit). Proof of income (tax statements, pay slips). Family composition (birth certificates, court documents). Bank details (RIB) for direct payments.

Victims of domestic violence can request confidential processing of their case to ensure that their address and financial information remain secure. Social workers at CCAS (Centre Communal d'Action Sociale) can assist with navigating CAF/MSA applications and additional local benefits.

(4) Details of their support

- **Allocations Familiales (Family Allowance):** Financial aid for families with at least two dependent children under 20 years old. The amount increases with the number of children and is income-dependent.
- **Complément Familial (Family Complement Allowance):** Additional financial support for low-income families with at least three children over three years old. Eligibility is subject to income limits.
- **Allocation de Soutien Familial (ASF) – Single Parent Allowance:** Support for single parents raising a child alone without financial assistance from the other parent. If child support is unpaid, CAF/MSA (ARIPA) can advance the payments and recover them from the non-paying parent. The parent must not be living with another adult. The child must be under 20 years old. This allowance is not subject to financial requirements.
- **Majoration pour Parent Isolé (Increased Allowance for Single Parents):** An additional supplement for single parents who receive family allowances and have at least one child under 3 years old.
- **Allocation de Base (Basic Allowance for Young Children - Paje):** A monthly benefit for families with children under 3 years old, designed to cover early childhood expenses. Subject to income conditions.

- **PreParE (Prestation Partagée d'Éducation de l'Enfant) – Parental Leave Benefit** Financial aid for parents who reduce or stop working to care for a child under three years old (or under 20 if adopted). The amount depends on work reduction percentage and income.
- **Complément de Libre Choix du Mode de Garde (CMG) – Childcare Subsidy:** Helps parents pay for childcare, including hiring a nanny, daycare assistant, or placing a child in a crèche. The amount varies based on income and the child's age.
- **Congé Parental d'Éducation (Parental Education Leave):** Allows parents to take unpaid leave from work after the birth or adoption of a child. While no salary is provided, parents may qualify for the PreParE benefit.
- **Allocation de Rentrée Scolaire (ARS) – Back-to-School Allowance:** Annual financial aid to help low-income families cover school expenses for children aged 6 to 18 years. The amount varies based on the child's age.
- **Aide à la Scolarité des Enfants en Situation de Handicap (Education Assistance for Children with Disabilities):** Financial assistance for families with disabled children, covering school-related expenses, adapted education programs, and specialized transportation.
- **Allocation d'Éducation de l'Enfant Handicapé (AEEH) – Education Allowance for Disabled Children:** Financial aid for families caring for a child under 20 with a disability, providing support for education, medical needs, and specialized care.
- **Complément d'AEEH (Supplementary Education Allowance for Disabled Children):** Additional financial aid for families with children requiring intensive medical care, therapy, or home assistance.
- **Intermédiation Financière de la Pension Alimentaire (Child Support Collection Assistance):** CAF/MSA can collect unpaid child support and transfer payments directly to the receiving parent through the ARIPA agency.
- **Fonds de Solidarité pour les Familles Monoparentales (Support Fund for Single-Parent Families):** Financial assistance for single parents facing financial hardship, especially in cases where the other parent does not contribute financially.

(5) Assistance for immigrant/ foreign victims

Children of undocumented victims have the right to enroll in public schools and crèches (daycares) regardless of their parents' immigration status. Documents Required for Registration: parent's identification document and that of the child (e.g., family record book, identity card, passport, copy of birth certificate extract, or a sworn statement). A proof of residence (e.g., a copy of your rental contract, an electricity bill, or a sworn statement).

Public nursery schools (écoles maternelles) accept children aged 3 to 6 years, while municipal crèches may offer places to younger children, depending on local availability. Parents must register their children through the mairie (town hall) or the local Direction des Services Départementaux de l'Éducation Nationale (DSDEN) office.

While CAF/MSA benefits are typically unavailable to undocumented victims, Centre Communal d'Action Sociale (CCAS) at local mairies can offer emergency childcare subsidies and free access to municipal daycare programs. Certain regions provide discretionary financial aid for single parents or families in distress, including

childcare assistance.

More information here : <https://refugies.info/fr/demarche/61702a98b46dbd0014fa27a4>

(6) Any other useful information related to childcare support and expenses arising from marriage

Domestic violence situations involving children are particularly critical for victims. Care must be taken to follow procedures in order to not lose custody and continue protecting the child from violence. A legal procedure ensures that child support is granted. This often necessitates legal council.

Legal aid : Victims of domestic violence may apply for l'aide juridictionnelle, a legal aid program that fully or partially covers legal costs based on financial conditions. This assistance allows victims to obtain legal representation from a lawyer or a legal professional such as a huissier de justice. Legal aid can be requested before or during legal proceedings. Victims may choose a lawyer who accepts cases supported by l'aide juridictionnelle, or they may request that a lawyer be assigned to them upon application.

Eligibility for legal aid is determined primarily by income level, residency status, and legal needs. In most cases, applicants must be involved in legal proceedings, meet specific income requirements, and have French residency rights. Those whose legal costs could be covered by an existing insurance policy must verify their coverage before applying. However, exceptions exist for individuals in urgent or serious situations. Victims of violent crimes, including rape, those applying for a protection order (ordonnance de protection), and individuals under an Obligation de Quitter le Territoire Français (OQTF) order may receive automatic approval for legal aid. Additionally, individuals experiencing extreme hardship, classified under situation digne d'intérêt, may qualify. Organizations specializing in domestic abuse or migrant rights can provide assistance with these applications.

Applications for legal aid must be submitted to the Bureau d'Aide Juridictionnelle (BAJ), which is responsible for processing requests. Victims can apply at the BAJ office in their area or that of the defendant. The process involves completing an application form and, if applicable, an attestation de non-prise en charge to confirm that the applicant's insurance does not cover legal expenses. The application must be sent by registered mail (lettre recommandée avec accusé de réception) to ensure proof of submission. It is recommended to keep a copy of all documents.

In cases where legal aid is requested for a protection order (ordonnance de protection), applications are processed more quickly than in standard cases. The procedures may vary by court, so applicants should contact the relevant tribunal judiciaire for specific instructions. When completing the application, victims must check the huissier box to ensure they do not bear the cost of the court officer responsible for delivering the protection order to the perpetrator.

Once the application is submitted, a decision is sent by mail to the applicant's registered address. Processing times range from a few days for protection order cases to several weeks for standard applications. If legal aid is denied, the applicant may file an appeal (recours) within 15 days of receiving the refusal notice. The appeal must be sent to the same BAJ office via registered mail, and it is advisable to seek assistance from a lawyer or an association specializing in legal aid.

Victims who do not speak French can access interpreter services during legal proceedings. It is recommended to be accompanied by a lawyer, an organization offering free legal support, or a trusted individual who can assist with interpretation. Courts provide interpreters for hearings, and victims should notify them of their language needs as soon as their legal aid application is submitted.

Legal aid remains accessible to non-residents in certain situations. Victims without French residency rights may still apply if they have been victims of a serious crime, are seeking a protection order, or are in a legally recognized vulnerable situation. Specialized organizations, such as those supporting migrants, can guide applicants through the process.

4 Housing support

(1) Outline

The Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) and the La mutualité sociale agricole (MSA) provides financial assistance to low-income individuals and families through several programs, including Aide Personnalisée au Logement (APL), Allocation de Logement Familial (ALF), and Allocation de Logement Social (ALS). These benefits help cover rent or mortgage payments for eligible households based on income, family size, and housing conditions. Victims of domestic violence may receive priority access to housing assistance and can apply for emergency financial aid to secure stable accommodation.

For housing in the private sector, financial aid for security deposits, rent advances, or relocation costs are available through the Fonds de Solidarité pour le Logement (FSL) – Provides rental assistance, guarantees, and aid for unpaid rent. and the Action Logement – Locapass – Offers interest-free loans to cover security deposits and rental guarantees.

Victims of domestic violence with limited financial resources may apply for logement social (social housing), also known as HLM (Habitation à Loyer Modéré). Social housing provides rent-controlled accommodation at rates significantly lower than those in the private rental market. Victims of domestic violence may receive priority status when applying for social housing to ensure rapid access to stable accommodation.

Social housing is managed by bailleurs sociaux, organizations responsible for allocating housing based on eligibility criteria and priority needs. Applications are assessed according to income limits and personal circumstances, with priority given to individuals facing urgent housing insecurity, including victims of domestic violence.

Victims with a Téléphone Grave Danger (Serious Danger Phone), a security device provided by judicial authorities for those at high risk of violence, are considered a top priority for social housing allocation. Those who have experienced domestic abuse but do not have this device may still qualify for accelerated housing placement under priority housing laws, particularly if they have left the shared residence due to domestic violence (Applicable law: “Code de la construction et de l’habitation”, art. L-441.1.).

Bailleurs sociaux are legally prohibited from discriminating against applicants based on factors such as origin, health status, sexual orientation, or religion. If a victim of domestic violence suspects that discrimination has played a role in a housing denial

or delay, they may file a complaint through the Défenseur des Droits (Ombudsman) or seek legal assistance from anti-discrimination organizations.

(2) List of relevant organizations, contact information, and how to apply for the support in the target area of study

CAF / MSA : Victims can apply for family allowance through the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) or their La mutualité sociale agricole (MSA) if they meet the eligibility criteria. Registration is mandatory and can be done in person at the nearest CAF/MSA office, where staff will assess eligibility, or online by downloading, completing, and mailing a “demande de prestation” form. Only those who qualify receive a CAF/MSA number, which is required for future interactions. Once deemed eligible, victims must complete the necessary administrative steps to obtain their CAF/MSA number and access financial support. This includes submitting a complete application with up-to-date supporting documents, such as a declaration of situation, which confirms financial need. A declaration of resources, a bank identity statement (RIB), and valid identification documents may also be required.

The Fonds de Solidarité pour le Logement (FSL) : provides financial aid for rent payments, security deposits, rental guarantees, and unpaid rent for low-income individuals, including foreign women victims of domestic violence. Each departmental council (Conseil Départemental) manages its own FSL program, and eligibility criteria vary by region. Applications must be submitted through the Centre Communal d'Action Sociale (CCAS) at the local mairie www.adresses-mairies.fr or through a social worker at the Conseil Départemental www.service-public.fr. Assistance is also available via France Services centers, which offer in-person guidance: www.cohesion-territoires.gouv.fr/france-services

Action Logement offers Locapass : an interest-free loan that covers security deposits and guarantees rent payments for tenants facing financial difficulties. It is available to employees in the private sector and individuals in social reintegration programs, including victims of domestic violence. Applications can be completed online through the Action Logement website or in person at a local Action Logement agency. Social workers at CCAS and victim support organizations can assist with applications. www.actionlogement.fr. Customer Service Number: +33 9 70 800 800 (Monday to Friday, 9 AM – 6 PM). Agency Locator: Find the nearest Action Logement office: www.actionlogement.fr/agences

Victims of domestic violence seeking social housing are encouraged to contact local social workers, ADIL <https://www.anil.org/lanil-et-les-adil/votre-adil/> , or CCAS services for support in preparing their application and securing safe and stable accommodation.

For general administrative assistance, PIMMS Médiation provides support for accessing public services, healthcare, unemployment benefits, and tax declarations. This service is free of charge and primarily available in French. Victims can locate the nearest PIMMS Médiation center through the official directory <https://www.pimmsmediation.fr/> .

Applications for social housing must be submitted through an official social housing registry. This can be done online via the national portal <https://www.demande-logement-social.gouv.fr/index> or in person at designated application points, including

local bailleurs sociaux, the mairie (town hall), or the préfecture. The application must include proof of identity, income documentation, and justification of the housing emergency, such as a protection order, police report, or letter from a social worker confirming the situation of domestic violence.

Once the application is submitted, it is processed based on urgency and priority status. If housing is granted, the victim receives an official offer from a bailleur social, which must be accepted within the stated timeframe. In cases where no immediate housing is available, victims may receive temporary accommodation assistance until a social housing unit becomes available. If an application is delayed or denied, victims may escalate their case through DALO (Droit au Logement Opposable), which grants priority access to housing when urgent need is proven.

(3) Requirements for application

The Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) and La mutualité sociale agricole (MSA) provide housing benefits to individuals and families who meet specific residency, income, and housing criteria. The main housing benefits include Aide Personnalisée au Logement (APL), Allocation de Logement Familial (ALF), and Allocation de Logement Social (ALS). To qualify for CAF/MSA housing benefits, applicants must:

- Legally reside in France with valid residency rights (French nationals, EU citizens, or non-EU nationals with a valid residence permit).
- Live in France on a stable and regular basis (tourists and short-term visitors are not eligible).
- Provide a valid residence permit for all non-EU nationals applying for benefits.
- Have a permanent address (private rental, social housing, or host family arrangement).

Eligibility for housing benefits is based on household income. CAF/MSA evaluates income from the previous year, and the total resources of the household must not exceed a specific threshold. These income limits depend on:

- Household composition (single person, couple, children, dependents).
- Housing type (private rental, social housing, homeownership).
- Geographic location (Paris and large metropolitan areas have different thresholds).

CAF/MSA uses an income scale that is revised annually. Applicants can estimate their eligibility using the CAF/MSA online simulator at www.caf.fr.

To receive housing benefits, the applicant must:

- Be renting, subletting, or repaying a mortgage for their principal residence in France.
- Have a written rental agreement (bail) or mortgage contract.
- Pay rent or home loan repayments directly to the landlord or bank.
- Live in housing that meets minimum habitability standards, meaning it is not substandard, dangerous, or illegal.

Victims of domestic violence may receive priority access to housing benefits and can apply without the income of their abusive partner being considered. If a victim has left the shared household, CAF/MSA may recalculate benefits based solely on their personal financial situation. Victims should inform CAF/MSA of their situation and provide supporting documents such as:

- A protection order (ordonnance de protection).
- A police report or legal proceedings confirming the domestic abuse.
- A social worker's statement or referral.

Victims who have been granted a Téléphone Grave Danger (TGD), an emergency phone allocated by judicial authorities for those facing immediate risk of violence, may be automatically allocated social housing upon application. For further information on the housing application process, victims can seek assistance from the organization managing their Téléphone Grave Danger device or the relevant victim support service.

Victims who have experienced domestic violence but do not have a Téléphone Grave Danger are still recognized as priority applicants under Article L-441.1 of the Code de la Construction et de l'Habitation. Individuals who have left a shared residence due to domestic abuse are entitled to accelerated access to social housing, though waiting times vary significantly between departments. In some regions, demand for social housing is high, leading to delays despite priority status.

Victims of domestic violence facing prolonged waiting periods for social housing may request priority processing under the Droit au Logement Opposable (DALO). This procedure, managed by the Commission de Médiation at the departmental level, allows individuals in urgent housing need to secure an accelerated allocation of social housing.

To qualify for DALO, applicants must meet the general eligibility conditions for social housing and demonstrate that they fall under at least one of the following priority criteria:

- They have been on a social housing waiting list for an extended period without receiving a suitable offer.
- They are homeless and temporarily staying with friends or relatives.
- They have received a court order for eviction from their current residence.
- They have been living in a hostel or hotel for more than six months.
- Their current housing is unsuitable, unsanitary, or dangerous for habitation.
- They or a dependent family member have a disability that requires adapted housing.
- They have at least one minor child and currently live in an overcrowded or inadequate dwelling.

Given the complexity of the process, it is strongly recommended to seek assistance from social workers, or victim support organizations to complete the DALO application correctly.

(4) Details of their support

- Housing Benefits: Assistance through APL, ALF, and ALS to help cover rent or mortgage payments for eligible low-income households.
- Emergency Housing Assistance: Access to social housing (HLM) with priority placement for victims of domestic violence, including those with a Téléphone Grave Danger (TGD).
- Financial Aid for Private Housing: Support from Fonds de Solidarité pour le Logement (FSL) for security deposits, rent advances, and unpaid rent, as well as Action Logement's Locapass interest-free loans for rental guarantees.
- Priority Social Housing Placement: Fast-tracked housing applications for

victims who have left a shared residence due to abuse, with additional support available under the Droit au Logement Opposable (DALO) procedure.

- **Legal Protection Against Discrimination:** Victims facing housing discrimination can file complaints with the Défenseur des Droits (Ombudsman) or seek legal support from anti-discrimination organizations.
- **Confidential Processing:** Victims can request address protection and financial reassessment through CAF/MSA to ensure that their abuser has no access to their location or financial information.
- **Social and Psychological Support in Housing Programs:** Victims placed in transitional housing or CHRS (Centres d'Hébergement et de Réinsertion Sociale) can access mental health services, legal aid, and job placement programs.

(5) Assistance for immigrant/ foreign victims

Despite administrative challenges, foreign women victims of domestic violence with or without legal residency can access housing support through social housing, CAF/MSA subsidies, emergency financial aid, and legal pathways to secure stable accommodation.

Foreign women with legal residency rights in France can apply for social housing (HLM – Habitation à Loyer Modéré). Victims without regular immigration status may still apply if they are in the process of obtaining a residence permit under humanitarian grounds, particularly if they have filed a complaint or legal proceedings are ongoing. Social workers and victim support organizations can assist in compiling the necessary documentation.

(6) Any other useful information related to the housing support

Victims of domestic violence can request confidential processing of their housing aid applications with CAF/MSA, social housing providers (bailleurs sociaux), and local authorities. This ensures that their new address remains undisclosed to the abusive partner. When applying for social housing or housing subsidies, victims should inform authorities of their need for address protection (dissociation de dossier CAF/MSA) to prevent any correspondence from being sent to a former shared residence.

Victims of domestic violence cannot be legally evicted if they are forced to leave their home due to abuse. Under Article 10-3 of the French Law on Housing, victims who have left their home due to violence are protected from eviction, even if they are behind on rent. Those at risk of eviction should immediately seek assistance from a social worker, a legal aid service, or the Défenseur des Droits (French Ombudsman).

If a victim was living with the abuser in a joint financial arrangement, they may request individual reassessment of their financial situation when applying for housing benefits. CAF/MSA and social housing providers can recalculate eligibility based solely on the victim's income, even if the previous application included the abuser's financial information. Victims should notify CAF/MSA, social services, or bailleurs sociaux and provide supporting documents, such as a police report, protection order, or court ruling confirming separation due to domestic violence.

Victims who were living in an abusive household but were not named on the rental contract may still be eligible for housing support. Certain programs, such as intermédiation locative and Fonds de Solidarité pour le Logement (FSL), provide

rental guarantees for victims transitioning to independent housing. In cases where the abuser is the sole leaseholder, victims can request a legal transfer of the lease (attribution judiciaire du bail) through the courts, ensuring they can remain in the home without the abuser.

Foreign victims of domestic violence who lack stable immigration status can access housing aid linked to residency applications. Filing for a residence permit on humanitarian grounds (under Article L. 425-1 of CESEDA) can strengthen access to social housing and rental subsidies. Victims seeking asylum or regularization should consult La Cimade, RAJFIRE, or GISTI to explore housing options available during their legal process. <https://www.gisti.org/spip.php?page=sommaire>

Long-term housing programs for domestic violence victims include on-site psychological support, legal aid, and social reintegration services. Victims housed in Centres d'Hébergement et de Réinsertion Sociale (CHRS) or long-term transitional housing can receive mental health support, employment assistance, and child welfare services to facilitate their reintegration into independent life.

5 Employment support and vocational training

(1) Outline

To legally work in France, individuals must hold a valid residence permit (titre de séjour) that explicitly authorizes employment. The titre de séjour must include a work authorization, allowing the holder to engage in professional activities.

For individuals who do not possess a titre de séjour, or whose residence permit does not grant work authorization, it may still be possible to obtain a work permit under specific conditions. Eligibility depends on factors such as employment status, residency history, and employer sponsorship requirements. Applications for a work permit must be submitted in accordance with French immigration regulations and are subject to approval by the relevant administrative authorities.

For victims of domestic violence who are residents in France, France Travail, the National employment agency can assist in support and vocational training. Victims are granted expedited access to job search assistance, career counseling, and vocational training programs. Dedicated advisors provide personalized support to address the unique challenges faced by survivors. Eligible individuals may receive financial aid during their job search or training period. This includes access to unemployment benefits and specialized programs designed to support those re-entering the workforce after experiencing domestic violence. France Travail collaborates with various NGOs and support groups to offer comprehensive services, including legal assistance, psychological support, and housing solutions, ensuring a holistic approach to each individual's recovery and professional development.

In addition, victims may be eligible for CAF/MSA-supported benefits such as the Revenu de Solidarité Active (RSA), a financial aid designed for individuals with little or no income, which remains available while they undergo professional training or job searching. To facilitate access to employment or vocational training, victims may also apply for childcare assistance (CMG – Complément de Libre Choix du Mode de Garde), which provides financial support for daycare costs, allowing them to participate in professional reintegration programs.

NGOs such as the CIDFF, Force Femmes and Each One offer job coaching, mentoring, and skill development tailored to victims.

Victims that are housed in Employment and Social Reintegration Centers (CHRS) may be eligible to receive job readiness programs and work placement services.

Employers are not allowed to refuse a job application due to criteria considered as discriminatory. Examples include the person's origin, name, health, physical appearance, gender, sexual orientation or religion.

(2) List of relevant organizations, contact information, how to apply for the support in the target area of study

France Travail : Registration with France Travail is required to access its services. This involves creating a personal account on the official platform and providing necessary documentation, including identification, a social security number, and proof of residence. After completing the registration process, an adviser is assigned and schedules an appointment at the nearest branch. Attending this meeting is essential to validate the registration and access employment services. Following registration, individuals must create an online profile, known as "espace candidat", which allows them to search for job opportunities and submit applications easily. To maintain eligibility for job search assistance, it is necessary to confirm active job-seeking status every month through a process called "s'actualiser" (updating the profile). This monthly update is done online via the espace candidat platform.

Once registered with France Travail, individuals receive free access for three months to the OpenClassRooms online training platform, which offers courses in French. Additionally, vocational training programs can be explored through France Travail's online database or by consulting an assigned advisor. Training courses may be free of charge or require a fee, depending on the program. If a selected course requires payment, applicants can request funding assistance through France Travail, subject to eligibility and approval by their employment advisor. Upon completion of a training program, participants receive a certificate of achievement (certificat de réussite), which serves as proof of acquired skills. While this certificate is not equivalent to a formal degree, it can strengthen job applications for positions that require the specific competencies gained through the training.

An account can be created online on their website : <https://www.francetravail.fr/accueil/> . Personal appointments may be made by calling the number 3949.

CAF / MSA : Victims can apply for family allowance through the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) or their La mutualité sociale agricole (MSA) if they meet the eligibility criteria. Registration is mandatory and can be done in person at the nearest CAF/MSA office, where staff will assess eligibility, or online by downloading, completing, and mailing a "demande de prestation" form. Only those who qualify receive a CAF/MSA number, which is required for future interactions. Once deemed eligible, victims must complete the necessary administrative steps to obtain their CAF/MSA number and access financial support. This includes submitting a complete application with up-to-date supporting documents, such as a declaration of situation, which confirms financial need. A declaration of resources, a bank identity statement

(RIB), and valid identification documents may also be required.

CIDIFF : Contact your local office here <https://fncidff.info/trouver-mon-cidff/>

Each One : Fill out this form <https://www.eachone.co/formulaire-entreprise>

Force Femmes : Fill out this form <https://www.forcefemmes.com/inscription/>

(3) Requirements for application

Access to employment : To verify access to employment regarding residency status, victims can consult the following website

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2728>

France Travail services : To register with France Travail, applicants must meet specific eligibility criteria based on their nationality and residency status. Nationals of European Union (EU) Member States are required to present a valid identity document to complete their registration. Nationals from non-EU countries must provide a valid residence permit (titre de séjour) that explicitly authorizes employment in France. A comprehensive list of accepted titres de séjour is available through the official France Travail platform. Individuals who are awaiting the issuance of their final residence permit may, in certain cases, register using a provisional residence document (récépissé). Eligibility for registration with a réceptionné depends on the specific rights attached to the document. Verification of eligibility can be conducted by consulting the préfecture that issued the réceptionné or by seeking guidance from a France Travail branch

To benefit from services provided by NGOs, victims should contact them directly. There are no particular requirements for this assistance, but vocational training may be limited in some regions.

(4) Details of their support

- Employment Assistance: France Travail provides job search support, vocational training, and career counseling, with priority access for victims of domestic violence.
- Vocational Training Programs: Victims can access free or subsidized training courses through France Travail, OpenClassRooms, and regional employment programs to develop professional skills.
- Financial Aid for Job Seekers: Eligible victims may receive Revenu de Solidarité Active (RSA) or unemployment benefits (ARE/ASS) to support them during training or job searches.
- Childcare Assistance for Working Victims: The Complément de Libre Choix du Mode de Garde (CMG) provides financial aid for daycare, nannies, or after-school care, enabling victims to work or train.
- Specialized Employment Support from NGOs: Organizations such as CIDIFF, Each One, and Force Femmes offer mentoring, job coaching, and skill-building programs tailored to survivors.
- Legal Protections in the Workplace: Victims of domestic violence can request special leave for legal or administrative matters and negotiate flexible work arrangements with their employer.
- Work Authorization Support for Foreign Victims: Victims applying for residency permits based on employment can access legal guidance and job placement support through France Travail and NGOs specializing in migrant

rights.

(5) Assistance for immigrant/ foreign victims

Foreign victims who do not speak French fluently may face additional challenges in securing employment. France Travail, OFII (Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration), and local associations offer free or subsidized French language courses designed to improve workplace communication and job readiness. Certain vocational training programs also include French language instruction tailored to specific industries.

Work Authorization and Residency Rights: Victims applying for independent residence permits may access employment support programs through France Travail. For non-European Union nationals, possessing a valid residence permit with work authorization is essential to access France Travail's services. Victims of domestic violence who are in the process of obtaining legal status may receive additional support from social workers, legal aid organizations, and specialized NGOs to facilitate their access to employment assistance programs.

A titre de séjour (residence permit) can be issued to individuals who have an employment contract in France, regardless of whether they already possess a valid residence permit. One of the requirements for obtaining this permit is that the employer must pay a tax to the Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration (OFII). The amount of this tax varies depending on the duration of the employment contract and the salary offered. Additional conditions apply based on the applicant's residency status.

For individuals who already hold a titre de séjour, specific conditions must be met to obtain a work permit. The applicant must have a full-time employment contract with a French employer in a profession and geographic area where there are documented recruitment difficulties due to labor shortages. In such cases, the employer is required to apply for a work permit online through the official government platform, where the necessary steps and supporting documents are detailed. Before the expiration of the current titre de séjour, or in cases where the individual's status changes, the applicant must schedule an appointment with the préfecture (local administrative authority) to apply for a residence permit adapted to their new employment situation. This process, known as changement de statut (change of status), requires the submission of documents specified by the préfecture at the time of the appointment. This procedure is governed by Articles L.421-1 to L.421-4 of the CESEDA (Code de l'Entrée et du Séjour des Étrangers et du Droit d'Asile).

For individuals who do not yet have a titre de séjour, a residence permit is not automatically granted, and approval remains at the discretion of the préfecture. This procedure, referred to as admission exceptionnelle au séjour (exceptional admission to residency), requires applicants to meet additional conditions. It is highly recommended that individuals seek assistance from an organization specializing in foreign nationals' rights, as these associations provide free legal and administrative support for the application process.

To qualify for an exceptional residence permit, applicants must have an employment contract with a French employer, which must be either a permanent contract (Contrat à Durée Indéterminée – CDI) or a fixed-term contract (Contrat à Durée Déterminée –

CDD) lasting at least six months. The contract can be full-time or part-time, but the salary must meet or exceed the legal monthly minimum wage (SMIC). Additionally, the applicant must be able to demonstrate prior employment in France by providing proof of at least 8 months of work within the last 2 years or 30 months within the last 5 years, either consecutively or not.

Applicants must also provide evidence of continuous residence in France for at least five years. However, a shorter three-year residency period may be accepted if the applicant can also prove at least 24 months of employment in France, including at least 8 months in the last 12 months. This process is regulated under Article L.435-1 of the CESEDA and the "Valls" circular dated 28/11/2012.

To support their application, individuals must submit official employment-related documents, such as employment contracts and payslips, as proof of their professional activity. Proof of residence in France must cover the entire required period, with one document per month whenever possible. Documents issued by a French public administration are considered strong evidence, while documents from private institutions, such as bank statements or medical records, may also be accepted. Personal documents, such as envelopes addressed to the applicant or certificates from relatives, are rarely considered as valid proof. Only the issuance date of a document is taken into account when proving residence. For example, a tax notice confirms presence in France at the time of issuance but does not prove residency for the entire tax period it covers.

(6) Any other useful information relayed to employment support and vocational training

For victims already employed, legal provisions exist to protect their job security while they seek safety and professional stability. Victims can request special leave from work to attend court proceedings or access social services without risk of dismissal. Flexible working arrangements, including telecommuting or schedule adjustments, can also be negotiated with employers. Employment advisors at France Travail or legal aid organizations can provide guidance on workplace protections under French labor law.

Victims who have work experience but lack formal qualifications can apply for Validation des Acquis de l'Expérience (VAE), a system that recognizes professional experience and skills as a pathway to obtaining a diploma or certification. This process allows individuals to convert past work experience into officially recognized credentials, improving their employability without the need for extensive retraining. VAE applications can be processed through France Travail and regional employment services.

Certain industries in France experience labor shortages, making it easier for victims of domestic violence to access employment, even without extensive experience. Sectors such as healthcare, childcare, elderly care, hospitality, and logistics actively recruit workers and offer on-the-job training. France Travail and vocational training centers provide specific job listings in these fields, along with opportunities for government-funded apprenticeships and internships.

Employers who hire individuals in vulnerable situations (homelessness, longterm redundancy) may receive government incentives such as reduced social security contributions, hiring subsidies, or tax benefits. Victims should consult employment

advisors at France Travail or social workers at CCAS to identify companies participating in these incentive programs.

6 Support provided by support centers for DV victims/ social service agencies

(1) Outline

In France, victims of domestic violence have access to a comprehensive range of social and legal support services provided by dedicated support centers, NGOs and social service agencies. These organizations offer emergency assistance, legal aid, psychological counseling, housing support, and employment reintegration programs to help victims achieve safety and independence. Many services are available regardless of residency status, with specialized assistance for immigrant and non-French-speaking victims.

The legal framework supporting these services is grounded in both international and national legislation. The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, commonly known as the Istanbul Convention, is a pivotal international treaty that France has ratified. This convention mandates comprehensive measures to prevent violence, protect victims, and prosecute perpetrators. Notably, Article 4 of the convention emphasizes the protection of rights without discrimination, ensuring that services are accessible to all victims, including immigrants and non-citizens. Additionally, Article 20 requires the provision of support services facilitating victims' recovery, covering legal and psychological counseling, financial assistance, housing, education, and employment assistance. Article 22 further mandates the establishment of multilingual 24/7 specialized support services for victims and their children.

At the national level, France enforces laws that align with the principles of the Istanbul Convention. The French legal system prohibits domestic violence and provides mechanisms for victim protection and support. Social service agencies and NGOs, such as the Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (FNSF), the Centres d'Information sur les Droits des Femmes et des Familles (CIDFF) and the Centre Communal d'Action Sociale (CCAS), play crucial roles in delivering these services. They offer legal assistance, emergency housing, financial aid, and support for social and professional reintegration. These agencies are committed to assisting all victims, irrespective of their immigration status, and often provide services in multiple languages to accommodate non-French-speaking individuals.

(2) List of relevant organizations, contact information, and how to apply for the support in the target area of study (please list 3 organizations)

Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (FNSF) – 3919: Confidential helpline, psychological support, legal guidance, referrals to shelters, and assistance with social reintegration. Contact: Call 3919 (24/7, free and anonymous), website: www.solidaritefemmes.org. No prior registration is required.

Centres d'Information sur les Droits des Femmes et des Familles (CIDFF): Legal aid, professional reintegration programs, counseling, and guidance on social benefits and parental rights. Find a local CIDFF office at www.cidff.info. Victims can visit a local CIDFF branch or call for an appointment with a legal or social advisor.

Women for Women France: Provides comprehensive multilingual resources for victims of domestic violence, offering legal guidance, psychological assistance, financial aid information, and referrals to emergency housing and employment services. The organization also assists victims in navigating administrative procedures related to CAF/MSA benefits, social housing, and residency applications. Services are accessible through their multilingual online platform at www.womenforwomenfrance.org. Victims can access free and confidential support. No formal application is required, and victims can browse resources or request.

All web-based platforms dedicated to victims of domestic violence include an escape button for immediate exit, and most can be accessed through private browsing mode to ensure confidentiality and security. Most don't collect personal data.

(3) Requirements for receiving their assistances

Most services, including emergency shelter, psychological support, and legal aid, are available without income or residency requirements. Access to social benefits, financial assistance, and long-term housing solutions may require proof of residency, a protection order, or a referral from a social worker or police officer. Victims in urgent danger can access services without formal documentation through emergency response programs.

(4) Details of the programs and services

- Emergency Assistance: Immediate access to shelters, crisis counseling, and legal protection.
- Legal Aid: Guidance on filing complaints, obtaining protection orders, child custody rights, and immigration status adjustments.
- Financial and Housing Support: Access to CAF/MSA benefits, Fonds de Solidarité pour le Logement (FSL) rental assistance, and DALO priority housing.
- Employment and Vocational Training: Support in job searches, vocational training, and childcare assistance for working victims.
- Psychological and Social Support: Free therapy, group counseling, and trauma-informed care for victims and their children.

(5) Assistance for immigrant/ foreign victims (such as interpretation service, etc.)

Non-French victims of domestic violence can access specialized assistance, including legal aid for residency permits, asylum applications, and work authorization requests. Many organizations provide interpretation services and multilingual support to help victims navigate administrative procedures.

- La Cimade and RAJFIRE offer legal aid and advocacy for migrant and undocumented victims, ensuring access to emergency housing and financial aid.
- Many CIDFF branches have interpreters available for non-French-speaking victims seeking legal or professional reintegration support.
- The 3919 helpline offers multilingual service
- The Women For Women multilingual portal offers resources in 15 languages.

(6) Any other useful information related to public support centers for DV victims/ social service agencies

Victims are not required to file a police complaint to access most support services, including shelters and legal aid. Services are free and confidential, with priority given to those in immediate danger. In cases where the victim is undocumented, seeking a protection order or filing a complaint can strengthen their case for a humanitarian residence permit (titre de séjour pour raisons humanitaires).

For generalist services, France Victimes, a national network comprising 130 local victim support associations, offers comprehensive assistance to victims of all crimes, including domestic violence. Services include legal information, psychological support, and guidance through judicial processes. Visit [France Victimes](#) to locate the nearest association. Victims can directly contact the nearest association by phone or visit their offices for support.

Non-governmental organisation can also provide thematic services to victims:

The Collectif Féministe Contre le Viol (CFCV) operates a dedicated helpline, 0 800 05 95 95, providing support to survivors of sexual violence, including domestic sexual abuse. This service is free, anonymous, and available in multiple languages to assist non-French-speaking victims.

For children and adolescents exposed to domestic violence, 119 - Enfance en Danger offers 24/7 confidential support and intervention services. This hotline connects minors at risk with child protection services and law enforcement if necessary.

Victims of Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV) can access support through StopFisha's online platform at www.stopfisha.org, where they can find resources on legal rights, digital security, and reporting abusive content. The organization also collaborates with other NGOs, law enforcement agencies, and digital platforms to ensure better protection for survivors of online sexual harassment and cyberviolence.

The Association Européenne Contre les Violences Faites aux Femmes au Travail (AVFT) offers legal assistance and advocacy for victims of workplace sexual harassment and gender-based violence. The organization provides legal advice, psychological support, and representation in legal proceedings to help victims seek justice and ensure workplace safety. Their services are available nationwide, and they actively engage in policy advocacy to strengthen protections for workers. Contact: Phone: 01 45 84 24 24, Website: www.avft.org. Victims can contact AVFT via phone or submit an online request for assistance through their website.

For victims experiencing domestic violence in the context of immigration or asylum-seeking, La Cimade offers specialized legal aid, support in securing residency rights, and assistance in asylum applications. They provide guidance on humanitarian residence permits for survivors of abuse, helping them navigate France's administrative and legal systems to secure safety and stability. Contact: Phone: 01 44 18 65 90, Website: www.lacimade.org. Victims can reach out to La Cimade via phone or visit their local branch for direct legal assistance.

LGBTQ+ victims of domestic violence can access specialized support through Le Refuge, an organization dedicated to assisting LGBTQ+ individuals facing abuse, family rejection, or homelessness. Le Refuge provides emergency housing,

psychological support, and legal assistance to ensure the protection and reintegration of victims into a safe environment. Their national helpline and regional centers offer confidential support to LGBTQ+ survivors in distress. Contact: Phone: 06 31 59 69 50, National Helpline: 114, Website: www.le-refuge.org. Victims can contact the helpline 24/7 or visit the Le Refuge website to request assistance.

The Mouvement du Nid provides specialized support for individuals in situations of prostitution / sex workers who are victims of violence, exploitation, or precarious living conditions, including those seeking to exit prostitution. The organization offers legal assistance, social and professional reintegration programs, psychological support, and emergency accommodation referrals. Their services include counseling, financial aid guidance, and legal advocacy to help victims of sexual exploitation regain autonomy and access long-term support. Contact: Phone: 01 42 82 17 10, Website: www.mouvementdunid.org. Victims can contact the organization via phone or visit their regional branches for personalized assistance. The organization provides in-person support, case evaluations, and referrals to specialized services.

Several mobile applications have been developed to support victims of domestic violence and sexual harassment. Here are some notable ones:

- The Sorority: A global support network that connects women and gender minorities facing violence, offering a platform for mutual assistance and safety alerts. www.jointhesorority.com
- App-Elles: Provides assistance and support to women victims of violence, featuring alert functions to notify trusted contacts and emergency services. <https://www.app-elles.fr/>
- Umay: Allows users to share their journeys with trusted individuals and report any issues encountered, aiming to prevent street harassment. www.umay.fr
- Garde ton corps: Focuses on protecting women from street harassment by enabling them to share their locations and access safe places. www.gardetoncorps.fr
- Sekura: Offers features to enhance personal safety, including emergency alerts and location sharing with trusted contacts.
- App-Elles Bracelet: A connected bracelet that works in tandem with the App-Elles application, allowing discreet activation of alerts in case of danger.
- HandsAway: Aims to combat sexual harassment by enabling users to report incidents and receive support from the community. www.handsaway.fr
- Stop Harcèlement de Rue: Focuses on raising awareness and providing tools to combat street harassment.

Additionally, Mémo de Vie – A secure and personal digital platform designed to assist victims of repeated violence by offering a confidential space to store sensitive information, record incidents, and access legal and support resources. This tool is particularly useful for helping victims document abuse over time and maintain records that may be used in legal proceedings. Website: www.memo-de-vie.org

7 Any other information related to independence support

Victims of domestic violence often face long-term challenges in achieving financial, professional, and social independence. In addition to employment and housing

support, several other initiatives exist to help victims regain autonomy and stability.

Education

For victims seeking to return to education or obtain new qualifications, regional councils provide grants and scholarships specifically designed for women re-entering the workforce after leaving abusive situations. These financial aids help cover tuition fees, transportation, study materials, and childcare costs, ensuring that victims can focus on their education without additional financial burden. Each region manages its own programs. Visit the official website of the regional council or contact their offices directly to inquire about available grants and application procedures.

Victims interested in pursuing higher education or university studies can apply for financial aid through the Centre National des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CNOUS), which provides student grants, accommodation assistance, and subsidized meals for individuals in financial difficulty. Information on application procedures is available at www.etudiant.gouv.fr

French language courses

- Alliance Française – A global network offering French language courses for all proficiency levels, including intensive and evening classes.. Website: www.alliancefr.org or inquire at +33 1 42 84 90 00.
- Campus France – A government agency providing information on French language courses nationwide, including training centers accredited by the state.. Website: www.campusfrance.org . Contact: +33 1 40 40 58 58
- Cours de Civilisation Française de la Sorbonne (CCFS) – Offers structured language courses for all levels, helping individuals integrate into French academic and professional environments. Website: www.ccfs-sorbonne.fr. Contact: +33 1 44 10 77 00
- To find language courses offered by local mairies, victims can visit their nearest town hall (Mairie) or CCAS (Centre Communal d'Action Sociale). A directory of town halls across France is available at www.adresses-mairies.fr.

Digital and Technological Assistance

Access to secure communication and technology is essential for victims rebuilding their independence. Victims who need safe access to digital tools can visit public digital access points (Espaces Publics Numériques - EPN) in libraries, community centers, and France Services offices, where they can use computers and the internet for free. Some regions offer refurbished computers at reduced costs for individuals receiving social benefits. Victims can locate their nearest EPN at www.francetravail.fr/trouver-mon-epn.

For those requiring secure mobile communication, organizations such as Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (FNSF) and La Fondation des Femmes distribute emergency mobile phones to victims in critical situations. These phones allow them to contact support services discreetly and stay connected when leaving an abusive situation. <https://fondationdesfemmes.org/>

Financial Education and Entrepreneurial Support

For victims looking to start their own businesses or become self-employed, microcredit programs are available to help finance small business projects. ADIE (Association pour le Droit à l'Initiative Économique) provides microloans, financial coaching, and business mentoring for individuals facing financial instability, including survivors of domestic violence. Victims interested in entrepreneurship can seek assistance at www.adie.org or call 09 69 32 81 10.

Additionally, BGE (Boutiques de Gestion) offers business creation workshops, coaching, and networking opportunities for those looking to start independent work. They provide specialized support for women entrepreneurs and offer financing solutions in collaboration with regional economic development programs. More information is available at www.bge.asso.fr

Community and Social Reintegration Support

Beyond economic independence, social reintegration programs play a key role in helping victims rebuild their lives. Many regions offer women's empowerment workshops, peer support groups, and confidence-building programs. These initiatives, provided by organizations such as CIDFF (Centres d'Information sur les Droits des Femmes et des Familles), focus on self-development, legal empowerment, and professional reintegration. Victims can locate their nearest CIDFF at www.cidff.info.

Additionally, victims who have relocated to a new city due to domestic violence may need assistance in integrating into local communities. Many municipalities offer community networking events, language courses, and cultural orientation programs through town halls (Mairies) and local associations. Victims can check their Mairie's website or visit in person for available programs.

Psychological and Emotional Recovery for Long-Term Independence

Healing from the trauma of domestic violence is a crucial step toward independence. In addition to therapy services, art therapy, trauma-informed yoga, and mindfulness programs are available in certain victim support centers and NGOs. Programs such as Women Safe & Children provide specialized trauma recovery workshops for survivors, helping them regain self-confidence and emotional stability. Victims can contact Women Safe & Children at 01 39 10 85 35 or visit www.women-safe.org.

III. Any other relevant information

Culture of assistance

In the past decade, awareness of domestic violence in France has significantly increased, leading to stronger public discourse, policy changes, and support measures for victims. Shame, that victims often feel, is changing sides. While gaps remain, particularly in ensuring full compliance with the Istanbul Convention, the general sentiment in French society is that women who experience violence are entitled to state protection and assistance. Speaking up is an important step, and while caution should be taken to avoid individuals close to the perpetrator, victims are encouraged to confide in trusted people, social workers, and official institutions to access the aid

they need.

Return to country of origin

Leaving France with a child without the explicit consent of the other parent or a court decision can have serious legal consequences, including accusations of parental abduction (soustraction d'enfant) under Article 227-5 of the French Penal Code. This offense applies even if the parent is fleeing domestic violence and can result in criminal charges, loss of custody rights, and difficulties obtaining legal protection. The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, ratified by France, allows the other parent to request the child's return through international legal mechanisms, potentially leading to an enforced repatriation of the child to France. Instead of leaving the country without legal authorization, victims are advised to seek a family court ruling (Juge aux Affaires Familiales - JAF) to establish protective custody arrangements before considering relocation. Specialized legal aid services and victim support organizations can provide guidance to ensure that legal steps are followed to protect both the parent and child.

Victims may apply for Aide au Retour Volontaire (ARV) through the Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration (OFII).

This support includes the payment of travel expenses, covering flights and transfers, financial assistance, and administrative support to facilitate departure preparations. The program allows individuals to return to the region of their choice within their home country.

To qualify for aide au retour volontaire, applicants must be in one of the following situations: lacking legal residency status in France (situation irrégulière), subject to a formal expulsion order (Obligation de Quitter le Territoire Français - OQTF), or having had their asylum application rejected or choosing to discontinue the process. Additional conditions include not having previously received voluntary return assistance and being able to demonstrate a minimum of six months of residence in France, although exemptions to this requirement may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Applications for voluntary return assistance must be submitted directly to OFII. Contact details for the nearest office can be found on the official OFII website. Further information on voluntary return procedures is available at www.retourvolontaire.fr, with resources in multiple languages, including French, English, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin.

In certain cases, and for specific countries, additional reintegration support (aide à la réinsertion) may be provided to help returning individuals to establish stable conditions in their home country. This support may include assistance in finding housing, securing employment, or starting a business. Further details on reintegration assistance can be obtained by contacting OFII directly.