



**„More than a heart
has been broken“**

**The Women's Advisory Service EN
(Frauenberatung.EN) advises and supports
women who have experienced domestic
violence in their relationships.**

Did you know that every third woman in Germany is offended, insulted, humiliated in front of other people, constantly monitored or even threatened by their partner or ex-partner? Did you know that every sixth woman in Germany says that she has repeatedly been subjected to physical violence in her relationship?

Actually women hope that relationships and family will offer them a place where they can feel secure and experience love – and naturally conflicts cannot always be avoided. But repeated insults, fits of rage, humiliation and cruelty from your partner are WARNING SIGNALS.

Many women don't know what to do in such situations. Many women feel as if they are paralyzed by fear and can't trust other people to help them. Others feel torn between the love they feel for their partner and the fear they are experiencing. Many female migrants are worried about losing their rights of residence as soon as they separate from their husbands.

Don't stay alone with your problems. We, the employees of the Women's Advisory Service EN (Frauenberatung.EN), will help you.

Recognizing Domestic Violence!

When most people think of violence against women they think of the proverbial "black eye". But there are many facets of violence to be seen in relationships and family*.

In everyday life:

- Does your partner tell you who you can meet and who you can't meet?
- Does your partner forbid you to leave the house or to use the phone?
- Does your partner give you very little money or none at all?
- Have you ever felt threatened or been frightened in your relationship?
- Has your partner hit you, pulled your hair, kicked you or choked you?
- Were you forced to marry against your will or are you to be forced to marry soon against your will?
- Have you separated and is your ex-partner following you, harassing you with phone calls, text messages, and letters or stalking you?

In the company of others:

- Has your partner insulted you, shouted at you or humiliated you in front of other people?
- Does your partner deliberately put you in embarrassing situations?

In Sexuality:

- Are you being pressurized into performing sex acts that you don't like?
- Are you being forced to watch pornography?
- Are you being forced to perform sex acts or have you actually been forced to have sexual intercourse against your will?

Further examples of Domestic Violence:

Has your partner ever threatened:

- With violence against you?
- That you will lose your rights of residence if you separate from him?
- To take your children away from you?
- To destroy your belongings?
- To kill himself?

* The violent person can also be your female partner, your father, brother, flat mate etc.

What can you do?

The path leads to the Women's Advisory Service EN (Frauenberatung.EN)!

If you are experiencing domestic violence it is important to talk to other people about it. Perhaps you have a girlfriend, a friend or relative who you especially trust and from whom you can get support.

But even then many questions remain unanswered! This is where the Women's Advisory Service EN comes in with its support.

Frequently asked questions in this connection are:

- I'm torn back and forwards by my feelings. What should I do?
- Is it violence I'm experiencing although he doesn't hit me?
- Where can I get money to live on if I leave him? What happens to my residence permit?
- What will happen to the children if we separate?
- Even if I decide not to leave him, how can I protect myself from further violence?
- We have already separated but he won't leave me in peace?

If you are experiencing acute violence or your partner is threatening further violence, and you require protection: In this case also you have come to the right address.

Together with you, we will plan how you can protect yourself from further violence and we will support you when you are looking for a safe place to stay.

We will advise you free of charge and in confidence. We are legally obliged to safeguard your confidentiality.

You decide for yourself which steps you want to take. We won't force you into any decision.

In the Case of Acute Abuse you can call the Police!

Phone 110

- . The police can remove the offender from the flat, take the keys from him and forbid him to return for 10 days. If the person removed from the flat does not adhere to the ban and returns, phone the police immediately.

You can stay in your flat for 10 days and use this time to find out about your rights and plan further steps (see your rights in accordance with the protection against violence law).

- . If you agree, the police will give your telephone number to the Women's Advisory Service EN (Frauenberatung.EN) and we will get in touch with you as quickly as possible. We will give you advice and inform you about your legal options and try to answer all the other questions you may have.

- . If you don't want to stay in the flat, the police can help you to go to a Women's Refuge either on your own or with your children.

If your male/female partner, your father, brother or boyfriend is abusive towards you or threatens you that is not a private matter. It is a criminal offence.

Your Rights in Accordance with the Protection against Violence Law!

In the case of domestic violence you can file an application with the court in accordance with the Protection against Violence Law (§1 and §2 Protection against Violence Law) for cessation of tenancy and/or a restraining order and have the person banned from approaching you. This application can be filed by you in person, or with the help of the Women's Advisory Service EN (Frauenberatung.EN) or by a solicitor/lawyer at the local court near where you live (legal department of court).

The court has the following option to issue a court order for your protection:

- Your flat/house will be allocated to you for your sole use.
- Your partner will be banned from approaching you within a certain radius.
- Your partner will be banned from frequenting any places where you regularly stay (e.g. flat, place of work, kindergarten, school).
- Your partner will be banned from contacting you (e.g. by phone, telefax, letters, emails, text messages).

Even if you are
not a German citizen
you still have the following
rights and options!

Information for migrant women

- If need be, we can organise a female interpreter for the consultation.
- The Violence Against Women support hotline offers around the clock, 365 days a year, and free of charge telephone advice for women on the subject of violence in 17 languages.
Tel.: 0800 116016

The Path which leads to a Women's Refuge!

Women's refuges in the whole of Germany offer you and your children protection and safeguard you from further violence. The women's refuge in the Ennepe-Ruhr district can be reached day and night by telephone. For your own safety, its address is kept secret. You will be told personally on the phone how you can get to the Women's Refuge safely. If possible, you should bring the following documents with you:

Your passport, your children's birth certificates, health insurance card, and certificate of marriage.

The Women's Refuge in the Ennepe-Ruhr district can be reached at the following phone number: **02339-6292**.

Places in Women's Refuges in the whole of North-Rhine-Westphalia can be found at: **www.frauen-info-netz.de**

You can reach us:

- **Women' Advisory Service.EN:**

58332 Schwelm, Markgrafenstr. 6
Tel. 023 36 - 475 90 91

58452 Witten, Augustastr. 47
Tel. 023 02 - 5 25 96

45525 Hattingen, Talstraße 8,
im Bürgerzentrum Holschentor
Tel. 023 24 - 38 09 30 50

info@gesine-intervention.de
www.gesine-intervention.de

- **Women's Refuge EN**
Tel. 023 39 - 62 92

- **Police Emergency Number**
Tel. 110

Donations account:

Förderverein Frauen helfen Frauen EN. e.V., Account number: 126 005 57, Bank Identification Code 452 500 35