

The batterer must go!

Safety for victims of domestic violence

Everyone has a right to a life free of violence

“Every person has the right to life and physical sanctity. The freedom of the individual is inviolable.”

German Constitution Article 2, Paragraph 2



That means:

- The right to say “no” – including in a partnership
- The right to be treated with respect and to be taken seriously by a partner
- The right to separate from a partner

Are you affected by violent behaviour by your partner?

Does your partner

- put you down in front of friends or family members?
- prevent you from seeing your friends and relatives?
- stop you from leaving your home?
- keep control over your finances or withhold money from you?
- suddenly get furious, losing his temper?
- destroy your belongings?
- utter threats to hurt you, your children, relatives, friends, and pets, or does he threaten to hurt himself?
- batter, push, punch, bite you?

- use force or coercion to obtain sex or perform sexual acts?
- not accept that you have separated from him, or intend to go; follow, harass or terrorise you?

You don't have to put up with it!

You are not to blame for this violence. There is absolutely no justification to threaten or beat women or children. He is the person responsible for his abusive behaviour, not you.

Make use of your right to get a civil protection order

The Domestic Violence Protection Law boosts your right to protect yourself from abuse from an intimate partner.

- If you submit a petition for court protection, the court can issue a Temporary Restraining Order, as a rule for **six months**, and can mandate that the perpetrator vacate a shared residence even when he is the tenant or owner.
- The Domestic Violence Law also protects you from further abuse and harassment of any type outside your domicile. A court can forbid the abuser from contacting or phoning you against your will etc.

Safety for victims of domestic violence

Safety for victims of domestic violence



What can you do in a case of an emergency?

- If your partner becomes violent, don't hesitate to call the police right away: dial **110**. The police has a legal obligation to protect you. They can order the abuser to leave the residence. This police ban applies for up to 14 days.
- If you feel unsafe in your home, are scared or need intensive support, contact a woman's refuge. You and your children will find assistance and shelter there.
- Always go and see a doctor to get a medical certificate of your injuries as evidence.
- In case of abusive threatening, but especially in case of an act of violence, you should keep all important personal documents and some cash in a safe place – this can help you to get away quickly in an emergency.

Where do you get support?

Don't wait until you suffer from serious injuries. Violence increases in both frequency and severity (cycle of violence). Seek help and support early on at:

- **at women's refuges, crisis intervention centres, telephone hotlines***
- **from friends, relatives, and neighbours**
- **from lawyers, at legal advice centres, or counselling services**
- **victim support offices in your area.**

What can you do when a friend, a neighbour, or a relative is affected?

Don't look the other way!

Offer your support and help. Be patient. Consider that it is not easy to talk about violence or abusive situations. Imagine what would be helpful for you if you were in the same situation.

* You'll find appropriate telephone numbers in the local newspapers (in the emergency numbers section) or in the first pages of the telephone directory (often listed under "women help women").