

### Useful addresses :

- ❑ **Police secours** (Police assistance) Tel: 117
- ❑ **Urgences médicales** (Medical emergency) Tel: 144
- ❑ **La Main Tendue** (Samaritans phone assistance) Tel: 143
- ❑ **Hébergement d'urgence** (Emergency accommodation) Tel: 0800 880 480
- ❑ **Solidarité femmes** (Women's Solidarity / Consulting and welcome centre and home for abused women and their children) Tel: 032 886 46 36 ([www.sfne.ch](http://www.sfne.ch))
- ❑ **Centre de consultation LAVI** (LAVI Consulting Centre / for victims of crime) Neuchâtel, Tel: 032 889 66 49 ([LAVI.Neuchatel@ne.ch](mailto:LAVI.Neuchatel@ne.ch))  
La Chaux-de-Fonds, Tel: 032 889 66 52 ([LAVI.VCH@ne.ch](mailto:LAVI.VCH@ne.ch))
- ❑ **Service pour les auteur-e-s de violence conjugale** (Service for perpetrators of domestic violence) Tel: 032 886 80 08 ([savc@cnp.ch](mailto:savc@cnp.ch))
- ❑ **Consultation couples et familles à transactions violentes** (Consultation for couples and families with violent transactions) Neuchâtel, Tel: 032 722 12 21  
La Chaux-de-Fonds, Tel: 032 967 20 61
- ❑ **Service de la cohésion multiculturelle** (Service of multicultural cohesion / Foreign language advice and guidance) Neuchâtel, Tel: 032 889 48 50 ([www.ne.ch/cosm](http://www.ne.ch/cosm))  
La Chaux-de-Fonds, Tel: 032 889 74 42
- ❑ **Office de la politique familiale et de l'égalité** (Office for family policy and equality) Tel: 032 889 61 20 ([www.ne.ch/egalite](http://www.ne.ch/egalite))

More detailed information on domestic violence is available in the **brochure** (in French): "**Violence conjugale: que faire?**" ("*What to do in the case of domestic violence*"), to be ordered from the Office for family policy and equality (Escalier du Château 6, 2001 Neuchâtel, (032 889 61 20) ([opfe@ne.ch](mailto:opfe@ne.ch)) or downloaded from its website ([www.ne.ch/egalite](http://www.ne.ch/egalite)) => topic: "violence conjugale").

This flyer can be ordered, free of charge, from the **Office for family policy and equality** or downloaded from its website. It exists in the **main language of foreign communities** in our Canton, and may be reproduced without authorisation.

Please also visit the site [www.violencequefaire.ch](http://www.violencequefaire.ch)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

# Domestic violence is unacceptable and punishable by law!

## Don't hesitate to ask for help!

Brochure created by :

*Office for family policy and equality  
Service of multicultural cohesion*

Version anglaise

## **Are you a victim of domestic violence?**

Domestic violence can take various forms:

You are the victim of **psychological violence** if your partner:

- insults you
- humiliates you
- threatens you
- destroys your personal belongings
- checks your time-table and your communications
- forbids you to go out alone
- forbids you to see your friends or relatives
- isolates you
- constantly harasses you

You are suffering from **financial violence** if your partner:

- does not contribute, according to his resources, to the household expenses
- appropriates your money without your consent
- checks systematically all your spendings

You are suffering from **physical violence** if your partner:

- pushes you roughly
- slaps you
- punches you or kicks you
- bites you
- burns you
- injures you with a knife, a weapon or any other object

You are suffering from **sexual violence** if your partner:

- rapes you
- forces you to engage in sexual practices or contacts that you do not want

**These acts are unacceptable, and most of them are punishable by law, whatever the excuse given!**



## **Speaking of the violence you are subject to is the first step towards change**

### **The law protects you: call the police!**

The police has the right to take a person who is violent towards his spouse **to the police station**. It may also **expel** a violent person from his or her lodgings and its immediate environment for several days, and **forbid him or her from access** to certain places or premises. The victim can request from court a longer lasting measure.

**Certain situations of domestic violence are now automatically brought before the courts (without having to file a complaint). Filing a complaint enables you to state your views in the criminal procedure and to access the file.**

### **You can obtain help**

Even if you choose not to call the police, several services are available to listen, to advise you and, if needed,

- to organise an accommodation in a home
- to check possible financial aids
- to inform you on your rights

Refer to the "LAVI Consulting Centre" or to "Solidarité femmes". Guidance is free of charge and confidential. An interpreter can be called in.

### **Do you wish to leave the marital home?**

You have the right to **leave the marital home**. If you are the victim of domestic violence or if you feel threatened, the law authorises you to seek protection. Go to people you trust. Provisional emergency accommodation can also be provided for you, alone or with your children. If at all possible, ask a doctor to draw up a detailed **medical report** that describes all the traces or lesions resulting from aggression, including psychological effects (shock, anxiety, insomnia). This will permit you to preserve evidence that may be of use at a later point

**Foreign victims** of domestic violence do not automatically lose their residence permit in the case of separation or divorce. They benefit from a specific assessment that takes into consideration their personal situation and the circumstances specific to each case. **Please enquire!**