

La Chaux-de-Fonds, 28 August 2026

Announcement on violence within the family

Violence against one's wife/husband and children constitutes a violation of fundamental rights and is prohibited under Swiss law.

This does not just mean that physical violence and beatings are forbidden. It also includes repeated comments and behaviour that trigger feelings of fear: humiliation, threats, being prevented from seeing close ones, and harassment, for example.

Taking money from one's wife or husband without their consent, or failing to contribute to household expenses, is also a form of violence. And when one partner forces the other to engage in non-consensual sexual acts, that is sexual violence.

All these forms of violence are punishable by law. They occur in every country, in every language and in every culture. The police must intervene when acts of violence are committed, even if no complaint has been made.

Victims who come from other countries and do not have a network of people around them to support them or to help them understand how they can protect themselves are particularly vulnerable. They can seek support from the police, the victim support service and the service for multicultural cohesion, in their own language.

Individuals who commit acts of violence are arrested by the police and then questioned about the circumstances surrounding the event. Depending on the severity of the offence, they will be reported to the court, who will decide on a sentence or other measure and prevent them from committing further acts of violence.

Close relations or acquaintances of the individuals concerned should not intervene in a situation that does not concern them. In particular, it is forbidden to make accusations, to threaten, intimidate or harass anyone, including on social media or via messaging services. Such behaviour is punishable by law, whether or not there is an ongoing legal proceeding.

Grégory Jaquet
Head of service

Resources

Neuchâtel police service, 0328899000

Service for multicultural cohesion (Service de la cohésion multiculturelle), social consultations, translated and confidential: 0328897442

Support service for victims of violence (Service d'aide aux victimes d'infractions), 032 889 66 49

For any general enquiries, 142