

Domestic violence

Help is available here

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Help is available here

Domestic violence (häusliche Gewalt) refers to violence in the family or partnership. It is important to get help for domestic violence. Various agencies provide information, advice and support. This is usually confidential and often free of charge and with an interpreter if necessary. Help is available from these places.

In an emergency

More information on help in emergencies is available here:

- Police: 112 / ambulance: 144
- Protection, advice and accommodation for women with and without children: Basel women's shelter (24/7), 061 681 66 33, www.frauenhaus-basel.ch
- Protection, advice and accommodation for women with and without children: housing for women and children (24/7), 061 302 85 15, <https://wohnen-frauen-kinder.heilsarmee.ch> (DE)
- Medical help for women: University Hospital Women's Clinic, emergencies (24/7), 061 328 75 00, www.unispital-basel.ch/frauenklinik
- Medical help for babies, children and youths: Basel University Children's Hospital, emergencies (24/7), 061 704 12 12, www.ukbb.ch
- Medical help: Basel University Hospital, emergency centre (24/7), 061 265 25 25, www.unispital-basel.ch/notfallzentrum
- Crisis intervention, help with mental issues: University Psychiatric Clinics Basel for emergencies (24/7), 061 325 51 00, www.upk.ch

Counselling

Confidential and free of charge. An interpreter is possible.

- Advice, support and financial assistance for women, men, children and youths: Basel victims' assistance, 061 205 09 10, www.opferhilfe-beiderbasel.ch (DE)
- Crisis intervention and advice: Cantonal Police Social Service (Domestic Violence Unit of the Cantonal Police), 061 267 70 38
- Advice with alcohol and addiction problems: Addiction Unit of the Health Department, 061 267 89 00, www.sucht.bs.ch (DE)
- Advice with addiction problems in several languages: Multicultural Addiction Counselling Centre MUSUB, 061 273 83 05, www.mituns.ch
- Anonymous advice (over the phone, via chat and email): Extended Hand (24/7), 143, www.143.ch (DE)
- Help and advice for parents, families and trusted persons: parental emergency hotline (24/7), 0848 35 45 55 (Festnetztarif), www.elternnotruf.ch (DE)
- Counselling for men seeking advice: Men's Office for the Basel Region, 061 691 02 02, www.mbrb.ch (DE) The price of counselling is determined by the financial means of the person seeking advice.

Children and young people

Children and young people with difficult family situations can call Pro Juventute day and night to talk. By phone, chat, text message or email.

- Anonymous advice for children and youths (over the phone, via chat, SMS and email): Pro Juventute: Confidential and free advice 24/7, tel. 147, www.147.ch (DE)

Medical Help and Securing Evidence

In the event of physical and sexual violence, it is important to see a doctor as soon as possible. The medical examination is confidential. The police is only informed if the injured person wishes.

The University Hospital of Basel is specialised in injuries and securing evidence following physical and sexual violence. Those who seek medical attention elsewhere should ask the physician to document the evidence of violence with as much detail as possible.

- Women: University Hospital Women's Clinic, emergencies (24/7), 061 328 75 00, www.unispital-basel.ch/frauenklinik, Spitalstrasse 21
- Men: Basel University Hospital, emergency centre (24/7), 061 265 25 25, www.unispital-basel.ch/notfallzentrum
- Family doctor or the nearest hospital in the event of an emergency
- Basel Victims' Assistance, 061 205 09 10, www.opferhilfe-beiderbasel.ch (DE)

Advice for people who are violent

Confidential. An interpreter is possible.

- Counselling in the event of domestic violence: domestic violence conflict counselling, 061 267 00 26, www.bdm.bs.ch (DE)
- Counselling for men seeking advice: Men's Office for the Basel Region, 061 691 02 02, www.mbrb.ch (DE) The price of counselling is determined by the financial means of the person seeking advice.

Other contact points

The website of "Stop Violence" (Halt Gewalt) lists other agencies that can help. For example, for questions about migration, addiction counselling, legal advice or counselling in difficult family situations.

Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/domestic-violence/help-is-available-here

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence (Häusliche Gewalt) is violence in the family or partnership. It injures physically and emotionally. Domestic violence has different forms. Domestic violence is prohibited in Switzerland.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is violence in the family or partnership: Between married people or people who are or were together. It does not matter if they live together. Violence between parents and children or between brothers/sisters is also domestic violence. Domestic violence can lead to mental and psychosomatic illnesses. Domestic violence particularly endangers the health and social development of children. Children who indirectly experience domestic violence are also affected.

Who is affected?

Everyone can be affected by domestic violence: young and old people, people with and without a Swiss passport, rich and poor families. A lot of people in Switzerland suffer from violence in their families or (former) partnerships. It's important for victims to get help.

Various forms

There are different forms of domestic violence – physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence. Often, different forms of violence occur at the same time. For example: constant insults, forbidding contact, imprisoning, pushing, controlling, forcing someone to have sex, taking away money, forbidding someone to learn a language and neglecting children. Threats are also domestic violence.

Domestic violence is prohibited

Domestic violence is prohibited. It will be prosecuted. If the police become aware of domestic violence, they must investigate, even if the person who experienced the violence does not want this.

Advice from Victim Support (Opferhilfe)

The victim support advice centre (Opferhilfe) advises and informs people who experience violence in their families or in their (former) partnerships. This help is free of charge. Victims can plan their next steps together with the specialist. The employees are subject to confidentiality. This means that they are not allowed to inform anyone about the discussions. Not even the police.



**Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets,
brochures)**

www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/domestic-violence/what-is-domestic-violence

Help for violent people

Anyone who hurts others physically or emotionally must take responsibility and get help. A change of behaviour can be learned in counselling sessions.

Where can I find help?

The Educational Programme against Domestic Violence teaches people how to resolve conflicts without violence. The programme is for adults. An interpreter is possible.

Registration is possible on 061 267 44 90 or via haeusliche-gewalt@jsd.bs.ch.

Participation is free of charge.

Further programmes:

- Domestic violence conflict counselling, 061 267 00 26, www.bdm.bs.ch (DE)
- Men's Office for the Basel Region, 061 691 02 02, www.mbrb.ch (DE)
The price of counselling is determined by the financial means of the person seeking advice.

Anyone who needs someone to talk to immediately can contact Helping Hand (Dargebotene Hand) by phone, text message, chat or email. There is always someone there. Even at night. They can be contacted without giving a name (anonymously).

- Helping Hand (Dargebotene Hand) (24/7), 143, www.143.ch (DE)

Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/domestic-violence/help-for-violent-people

Children

Children who experience violence at home need help.

Domestic violence has consequences for children.

When children experience domestic violence at home, it has a negative effect on their development. This happens even if children aren't direct targets of the violence. Some children suffer silently, while others show different symptoms. For example: difficulties at school, bed-wetting, headaches, eating or sleeping disorders, problems in dealing with other children or aggressiveness.

These agencies support children

Victim Support (Opferhilfe) advises children and youths when they experience domestic violence. More information on Victim Support (Opferhilfe) is available [here](#). The Child and Youth Service KJD (Kinder- und Jugenddienst KJD) of the Education Department supports children and youths in their healthy development. Children and young people can find help there, for example with family conflicts.

What can children do?

Children who experience violence at home should talk about it with someone outside the family. For example: teachers, school social workers, parents of friends or neighbours.

Pro Juventute can be called day and night. Their specialists do not tell anyone about the conversation. They listen and help victims find solutions. Calls to Pro Juventute are free of charge. Callers do not have to give their names. Pro Juventute can also be contacted by text message, chat or email.

Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/domestic-violence/children

Sexual violence

Sexual assaults also occur in a (former) partnership and the family. Sexual violence is a form of domestic violence. It can be reported to the police. Even if a victim does not want to report it to the police, it is important to get a medical examination as soon as possible after the assault.

Medical assistance

The Women's Clinic or the Emergency Centre at Basel University Hospital treat victims confidentially.

- The doctor does not tell anyone.
- Any violence is documented. The evidence is kept for 1 year.
- The documents can be given to the police later. It is important evidence.
- The doctor can network with victim support services (Opferhilfe).

Between the violence and the investigation

- Victims should not shower or wash – not even their hands.
- If possible, victims should not go to the toilet.
- Victims should bring their clothes for examination (not washed).

Legal and psychological advice

Victim Support (Opferhilfe) can provide psychological support. They know the answers to a lot of questions.

Report to the police

The police have experience with reports of sexual violence. Interviews are conducted by a person of the same sex. The complaint can be filed at the police station. A trusted person or a specialist from a victim support agency (Opferhilfe) can come with. Outside office hours, the police can be reached by calling 117 or 112. The Social Service (Sozialdienst) of the Cantonal Police is specialised in domestic and sexual violence.

- Social Service of the Cantonal Police: 061 267 70 38 (during office hours)



**Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets,
brochures)**

www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/domestic-violence/sexual-violence

Right of residence

It is important to get personal advice! Talking to someone at the victim support agency (Opferhilfe) never leads to the loss of the right of residence. The conversation is confidential. The victim support agency (Opferhilfe) does not tell anyone.

Right of residence if separated due to domestic violence

If a person is in Switzerland on the basis of a marriage and experiences domestic violence, this person can remain in Switzerland even after the separation, depending on the situation. Every situation is different. That is why seeking advice is important. Victim Support (Opferhilfe) can provide support. A specialist explains the current legal situation and supports the victim in their next steps. Advice is free of charge and confidential. An interpreter is possible.

Documenting violence

It is important to have evidence of the violence. For example: photos of injuries, screenshots of threats or abuse on WhatsApp, Facebook, etc. The evidence should be kept in a safe place. For example, at a friend's house or at work.

It is also good to let people in the surroundings know about the violence. For example, a person from a group of friends, work, neighbourhood or school.

Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/domestic-violence/right-of-residence

Stalking

Stalking is a form of violence and is very stressful. It is important to talk about it and get advice.

What is stalking?

Stalking is the excessive watching, contacting, following and harassing of a person. This is done against the will of the person being stalked. Those who do it are often people known to the victim (ex-partners) but they can also be strangers. For example: sending a large number of text messages, emails and other messages, lurking at work or at home, harassment on the telephone, unwanted gifts and seeking information from the person's environment. Stalking can affect the victim's health physically and psychologically.

Documenting violence

It is important that the stalking can be proven. For example, victims could keep a diary of the individual stalking actions (e.g. gifts, notes, phone calls), victims could inform the people around them (neighbours, friends or an employer) and could take screenshots/photos of any messages (WhatsApp, Facebook, etc.).

Seeking support

Victim Support (Opferhilfe) can provide support. A specialist can clarify the legal situation and support the victim in their next steps. The Social Service (Sozialdienst) of the Cantonal Police is specialised in stalking. Those affected can also contact the Social Service.

Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/domestic-violence/stalking

Forced marriage and female cutting (circumcision)

Forced marriage (Zwangsheirat) and female cutting (circumcision, Mädchenbeschneidung) are prohibited in Switzerland. In addition to specialised agencies, Victim Support (Opferhilfe) also provides support.

What is forced marriage?

If a person marries another under pressure from the family and against the person's own will, this is called forced marriage. The marriage may be declared invalid. People also have the freedom to choose whether they want to stay in a marriage or separate. If a person stays in a marriage against that person's will, it is also called a forced marriage.

Examples of forcing are: threats, blackmail, psychological pressure or physical violence.

Forced marriages are prohibited in Switzerland.

Help

The national specialist unit 'zwangsheirat.ch' provides confidential advice free of charge to victims and professionals: helpline on 0800 800 007 or email info@zwangsheirat.ch

What is female cutting (circumcision)?

In female cutting (circumcision), the female genitals are cut. There are different forms and practices. Circumcised girls and women often suffer health and psychological consequences of circumcision.

Female cutting (circumcision) is prohibited. Parents are also liable to prosecution if they organise the cutting (circumcision) of their child outside Switzerland.

Help

The Network against Female Genital Cutting (Netzwerk gegen Mädchenbeschneidung) provides information and networks with key persons. Caritas Switzerland advises affected families free of charge and confidentially: 042 419 23 55 / beratung@maedchenbeschneidung.ch

Victim Support (Opferhilfe) can also provide support.



**Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets,
brochures)**

www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/domestic-violence/forced-marriage-and-female-cutting--circumcision