

# **STOP violence against women**



**ROSA - Centre for Women, z.s.**

Many women find it difficult to recognise that what they are experiencing is domestic violence. For some it can take a longer time, but seeking help is a very important first step. If you are experiencing violence in your relationship, we want to offer you support and help.

## **What is domestic violence**

„Domestic violence is behaviour that causes one partner to fear the other. Through the use of the power that this fear provides, the violent partner controls the behaviour of the other.“

### **If your partner:**

- \* humiliates or berates you,
- \* isolates you from family or friends,
- \* threatens or intimidates you,
- \* locks you in or prevents you from moving freely,
- \* physically attacks you (slapping, hitting, kicking, choking, etc.),
- \* sexually attacks you.

**then he commits domestic violence.**

## **You may experience feelings like**

- \* loss of confidence,
- \* insomnia,
- \* lack of concentration,
- \* fear,
- \* stress,
- \* loss of trust in other people,
- \* anxiety,
- \* guilty feelings.

In most cases, children are witnesses to domestic violence. According to the World Health Organization, the children's presence in domestic violence situation is their abuse.

## **How to end violence?**

Ending the violence often means ending the relationship because perpetrators of violence do not accept responsibility for their behaviour and their goal is to maintain control and power over their partner.

If you decide to end the relationship, this can be a risky time - many perpetrators of violence cannot accept that their partner is leaving them and out of their control. You should therefore consult your situation and safety with the hotline or domestic violence counselling service.

### **Have you been attacked?**

Call the Police (158 or 112), give the exact address where you are, your name and describe what happened. Seek medical treatment immediately, even if the injuries do not seem serious (bruises, etc.). Tell the doctor how the injury happened and who attacked you. Ask your doctor for a medical report. Document evidence of the assault (take photos of your injuries, damaged items).

If witnesses were present or at least heard the incident, inform the Police if witness were present or at least heard the incident.

## **Criminal complaint**

Consider filing a criminal complaint. You can file a criminal complaint with the Police of the Czech Republic or directly with the prosecutor's office.

In some cases, it is safer to make a criminal complaint when you are safe, away from the violent partner.

**Domestic violence is a criminal offence under Section 199 of the Criminal Code: abuse of a close person in a common dwelling.**

Abuse means intentional maltreatment of a close person, characterized by a higher degree of rudeness and callousness and a certain permanence, which is experienced by that person as a severe cruelty (it may include beating, burning or other physical harm, but also psychological and sexual violence, blackmail or abuse, threats, forcing to perform humiliating acts or other activities that disproportionately burden the abused person physically or psychologically).

In the case of offence (dealt with by the misdemeanour committee of the relevant municipality), the entire incident must be dealt with within one year, and the petition for a hearing must be filed within 3 months of the commission of the offence.

### **Eviction of perpetrator**

The police can evict the violent partner from the apartment for 10 days. An extension of this period can then be requested by interim measure, for a maximum of six months. A police officer is entitled to expel a person from an apartment or house jointly occupied with the threatened person and from its immediate surroundings if, on the basis of the established facts, in particular with regard to previous attacks, it can be reasonably assumed that a dangerous attack against life, health, liberty or a particularly serious attack against human dignity can occur.

## **Stalking**

The Penal Code also punishes stalking: It is committed by a person who stalks another for a period of time by threatening bodily harm or other harm to him or to persons close to him, by seeking his personal proximity or following him, by persistently contacting him by means of electronic communications, in writing or otherwise, by restricting him in his usual way of life, or by misusing his personal data for the purpose of obtaining personal or other contact, and this conduct is capable of causing him to have a well-founded fear for his life or health or for the life and health of persons close to him.

## **From the Police you can request:**

- \* Proper receipt and complete documentation of the caller's notification.
- \* Ensuring safety on site for all involved, separating the victim from the perpetrator.
- \* Documenting all information from the victim, perpetrator and witnesses.
- \* Description and recording of the damage, equipment damage, etc.
- \* Arranging medical treatment if needed (The police must ask for your consent to provide information about your medical condition. This information is important to the investigation, so do not withhold consent unless it would otherwise put you at risk).
- \* Assessment of the risk of a recurrence of violence after the departure of the Police.
- \* Providing basic information on where you can find further help.
- \* If you may be in immediate

danger when the detainee returns, the police should ask you if you wish to be informed when the offender is released from custody or prison (if he or she has been detained).

- \* Depending on the specific possibilities, assistance with transportation to safe place, information about the safety plan, and information about your rights.
- \* A police officer is authorised to detain a person for a maximum period of 24 hours. If the reasons for the detention do not exist, the police officer shall immediately release the person.

**From the social worker of the OSPOD you can request:**

- \* Record of the interview with you so that you can read and sign it.
- \* Assistance in drafting an application for custody of minor children.

- \* Inform the OSPOD that you are experiencing domestic violence and tell them what the children have witnessed or heard.
- \* If you have left the abusive partner with the children, inform the relevant OSPOD worker. In the interests of safety, you can ask her not to tell the father your address.
- \* The social worker can not force you to visit couple or family therapy with your ex-partner. If you have experienced violence, have left your partner and it would not be safe for you to do so, or if you are afraid to see your partner, you can refuse. You must only be bound by a court order.

### **Ask the doctor for**

- \* A detailed description of your injuries and a detailed report of your medical condition after the assault.

## **Safety plan**

### **Leaving an abusive partner?**

- \* If you are leaving with the children, leave a short note at home saying that because of the escalating violence you have left for a temporary period of time with the children to a neutral place.
- \* Tell the owner of the house or apartment in writing that you are not giving up your claim to the apartment, but that you are being forced to leave temporarily for protection and safety due to the escalating violence.
- \* After leaving (if you are leaving with children), inform the relevant OSPOD worker.
- \* After leaving inform the children's father in writing about the health condition of the minors.
- \* In case of financial hardship, you can apply to the Labour Office for a material hardship payment.
- \* Think about who you can inform that you no longer live with your

partner and ask them if they would see him near the house or children, to call the police (e.g. if your ex-partner is stopping the children or you from entering the house).

- \* Inform the people who are in contact with your children (kindergarten, nursery, clubs) who is authorised to pick them up.
- \* If you and your children are in serious danger and you have filed a criminal complaint, you can apply to the court for a restraining order.
- \* Avoid places where you and your partner usually go or where there is a high possibility of you meeting.
- \* If your partner is waiting for you outside work etc, exit by a side exit, change your route home, if he follows you, go to the Police.
- \* If you are staying in your flat, you can change the lock, install security locks and doors, if your partner does not have permanent residence in the flat (if your partner is resident there, you could be committing a crime by changing the lock).

## Safety plan

### **Staying with an abusive partner?**

- \* If you are in danger, call the Police: 158 or 112.
- \* Keep important phone numbers with you at all times.
- \* Keep your money, documents and mobile phone in one place (e.g. in a handbag or bag that you can always take with you).
- \* Keep important documents, spare keys or clothes with someone you trust or at work.
- \* Think about where you can go in case of immediate danger (to your parents, a friend, a crisis centre or a shelter).
- \* Think about the escape route from the apartment, do not stay alone with your partner in places with no escape (bathrooms, kitchens, etc.)
- \* Tell someone about what's going on in your home, ask your neighbours for help, arrange with them for a signal to call the police.

## **What ROSA can offer you:**

We always place emphasis on your security and the confidentiality of your communication.

We will give you time and space to think and decide.

We offer long-term support no matter what decisions you make.

We provide specialist social counselling (socio-legal and socio-therapeutic counselling), crisis intervention and sheltered accommodation.

**ROSA - Information and counselling centre for women victims of domestic violence:**

Na Slupi 1483/14, 128 00 Praha 2,

**Free of charge 24/7 hotline**

800 60 50 80

**Counselling center** 241 432 466

**E-mail for clients:**

poradna@rosacentrum.cz

Consultations are available after prior telephone appointment

**ROSA - Asylum house with a secret address**

**Contact address:** Na Slupi 1483/14,  
128 00 Praha 2,

**Telephone of the AD manager:** +  
+420 736 739 467 (po-pá 9-16 h)

**E-mail of the AD manager:**

azyl@rosacentrum.cz

**ROSALIN - centre of comprehensive crisis assistance for women victims of domestic violence**

**Contact address:** Na Slupi 1483/14,  
128 00 Praha 2,

Free of charge 24/7 hotline

**800 60 50 80**

**ROSA - centre for women, z.s.**

ID 68405359

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