

## What can **YOU** do?

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Day in and day out women are beaten, abused and mistreated by their husbands. Husbands or other family members who beat, injure, threaten, confine, trap, sexually abuse, or rape you or your children are punishable by law. There is help – even if you speak little or no German.

If you want to escape the violence, there are special places where you and your children can stay. All major cities have women's shelters and safe apartments. Help is available on site from female employees. The addresses of these institutions are kept secret: your husband will not know where you are staying. You have a temporary safe haven.

You can also call the police if you are in immediate danger. If you want help, the police can put you in touch with in a women's shelter and help you leave your apartment. The police can force your husband to leave your apartment immediately, take the key from him and forbid him from coming near you. The court can grant a permanent protection order later.

You can find detailed advice in women's outreach centers. Outreach employees can help you make financial and legal decisions and find a permanent way out.

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### Tatort Familie – Wege aus der Gewalt

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Diese Broschüre klärt über die Rechte von Frauen auf, die häuslicher Gewalt ausgesetzt sind. Sie ist in englisch, russisch, türkisch, serbokroatisch und arabisch erhältlich. Im Mittelpunkt stehen die Probleme und Ängste von Migrantinnen. Die Themen Aufenthaltsrecht, Schutz der Kinder und finanzielle Unterstützung greifen die wichtigsten rechtlichen Fragen auf. Ziel ist es, Frauen einen Ausweg aus der Gewalt aufzuzeigen.

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Bundesregierung für Migration,  
Flüchtlinge und Integration

## Family Violence A Way Out

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Information for immigrant women

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Tatort Familie - Wege aus der Gewalt - Eine Information für Migrantinnen



## Love...

...what about when it hurts?

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## Family...

...and when it no longer offers protection?

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## Honor...

...what about when it is harmful?

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## Fear...

...shouldn't be associated with your husband.

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## Pain...

...shouldn't be part of the family.

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## Abuse...

...cannot be tolerated.

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## You will not lose your right to residency!

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If you leave a violent marriage, you do not need to be afraid of being forced to leave Germany.

If you have German citizenship, you cannot lose it if you separate from your husband. You are safe even if your residence permit is tied to your marriage. If you separate from or divorce your spouse, you are generally entitled to separate residency if you were married and living in Germany for at least two years before the separation or divorce. You can live in Germany independently from your husband.

Even if you have only been married or living in Germany for a short time, help and counseling will be provided. If your spouse beats, torments, or abuses you or your children, residence law provides for a separate right to residency independent from your husband in such hardship cases. You may also be entitled to stay in Germany even if you have only been married for a short time. Different rules apply if you are seeking asylum or have temporary suspension of deportation. This is no reason for you not to seek help if you are in a violent situation. In all cases you will be referred to an outreach center or attorney for legal help.

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## You can protect your children!

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Your children's wellbeing has priority over the rights of the father! The family court can step in to protect your children. It can prevent the father from contacting your children, give you the sole right to determine your children's place of residence, and give you sole custody for your children. You alone can then make decisions for your children. Outreach centers and women's shelters provide free assistance with these legal issues.

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## You will receive financial support!

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You are not dependent on the financial support of your spouse. If you do not have your own income, the government offers you and your children financial and other assistance.

If your husband is banned from your apartment or if you move to a women's shelter, the authorities will no longer consider you to be cohabiting with your spouse. You can therefore receive assistance independently of your spouse's financial situation.

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## Help will be provided!

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You are entitled to a life free of violence and fear. No one – not even a family member – has the right to beat or abuse you! There are many organizations that can help you.

If you are in immediate danger, call the police (free emergency call 110).

Directory assistance and your local government can provide numbers for outreach centers and women's shelters in your area.

Berlin and Schleswig-Holstein have central telephone numbers for women in violent situations. They can provide additional contact information for all of Germany.

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### Berlin

Daily: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 midnight  
**☎ (030) 611 03 00**

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### Schleswig-Holstein

Mon. – Fri.: 6:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m.  
Sat., Sun.: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 a.m.  
**☎ (0700) 999 11 444**

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