

You are victim of domestic violence if ...

- your partner is physically abusive (slaps, punches, kicks, locking you out of the apartment, hair pulling, strangulation, etc.),
- you are experiencing insults, bullying, humiliation, threats, criticism and ridicule in your home environment,
- your partner is stalking you and restricting your free movement (wants to know constantly where you are, what you do, who you are keeping company with),
- your partner is examining your phone, reading your messages and communication on social networks and preventing you from having phone/social contacts with other people,
- your partner takes your money, and you are unable to freely spend it,
- your partner is (also) violent towards your children,
- your partner threatens to prevent you from having contact with your children if you choose to leave them,
- you are afraid of your partner,
- your partner is deliberately causing you to feel guilt and shame. As a result, you feel humiliated, ashamed and incompetent,
- your partner is forcing you into sexual intercourse and sexual practices which you do not agree with, or which make you feel humiliated or are painful,
- your partner threatens to kill you,
- you have a feeling that you cannot decide on your own about yourself and your body and must obey your partner, who also punishes you for your »disobedience«, etc ...



YOU ARE NOT ALONE. WE WILL HELP YOU.



Published by: Ministry of the Interior, Police

Preparation: General Police Directorate,
Criminal Police Directorate

Design: Administrative Operations Service

Print: Tisk Žnidarič, d. o. o.

Edition: 1000 copies

Ljubljana 2023



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – KEY INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS



Domestic violence

Do you feel unsafe at home because your partner is violent towards you? Do you have a feeling that your partner is constantly controlling your life and humiliating you? Do you have a feeling that violence in your home is making you anxious and you are unable to talk about it with anyone? Are you afraid of your partner?

Domestic violence is not a one-off event, but involves lengthy physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence against the victim or stalking. The perpetrator dominates the victim due to their superiority and the victim is in a subordinate position. Often, the victim experiences more than one form of violence.

Domestic violence is prohibited and considered a criminal offence that is prosecuted ex officio, which means that, after the receipt of the report, police officers will do everything in our power to protect the victims adequately and take action against the perpetrators in accordance with our powers.

Victims of domestic violence frequently feel ashamed, guilty or afraid that no one will believe them. A decision to seek help and leave a violent partner is not an easy one to make, as it may prompt their violent outbursts, which additionally endangers the safety of the victim and other family members.

No victim of domestic violence should deal with violence on their own. Police assistance is imperative to ensure safety.

What happens when violence is reported?

Domestic violence can be reported at the nearest police station, via the web, by e-mail and phone number 113 in case of emergencies. Anonymous reporting is also possible on phone number 080 1200. Anyone, a witness, relative or a friend, can report domestic violence. The report must be completed ex officio by persons who have

detected, while performing their work, that violence is being exerted against a person and they need help.

Despite possible fear and agitation, give the police officers as much information as possible about the violence you are experiencing and whether you require medical assistance upon the arrival of the police officers to your home or at the police station.

Do not change your clothes or clean up the messy apartment and destroyed items.

If you have decided to report violence at the competent police station, you may be accompanied by a person you trust. This can be your friend, acquaintance, a relative or a representative of a non-governmental organisation. Tell the police officer when the violence began, what types of violence your partner inflicts, whether your children are also in danger, which were the worst violent acts, when was the first/last violent event, and who else knows about the violence and could provide important information.

If your safety is at risk, the police officers can issue a restraining order against the perpetrator for up to 48 hours. A restraining order means that your partner cannot approach you (and your children) at a distance of less than 200 metres during this time. The restraining order also applies to communication through electronic devices and social networks. The perpetrator will hand over to the police officers the keys to your shared residence and will be asked to vacate it immediately.

If you wish to remove yourself from the perpetrator, the police officers will help you get to safety by taking you to a safe house or a crisis centre. In this case, the police officers will escort you at your request to your home address, where you will be able to safely collect your essentials and things for your children.

If you report domestic violence, the police will notify the matter to the competent social work centre with regard to your protection. There, you will be offered additional support in leaving an abusive partner, informed of your rights and options, and helped to form a support network.

The safety and protection of the victim are the most important tasks of the police officers when intervening in cases of domestic violence. After the detected suspicion of a criminal offence, the police will start collecting information, even if you are not perhaps prepared to file a report against the perpetrator. It is common knowledge that when a victim starts resisting, wishes to leave or seeks help, the abuse frequently escalates. We thus advise you to go to a consultation session at the competent social work centre or a non-governmental organisation that deals with the victims of such criminal offences.

At the time when you are deciding on the report of the criminal offence, see to your safety and the safety of your children. Keep your mobile phone on you in the event of violence, so you can call the police. Keep the phone number of the police on speed dial. Write down the most urgent phone numbers on several paper notes and put them in the pockets of various clothes. Make sure that you have your personal identity documents on you and copy them if possible. When you are deciding to report domestic violence, keep in mind that your safety comes first and never blame yourself for the violence of which you are the victim. The perpetrator is always solely responsible for the violence. You cannot change their behaviour on your own. They have to become aware of their problem in order to make a change and seek professional help. Seek help for yourself with other family members, friends, acquaintances and colleagues. Tell them what is happening to you and ask them to help you with the report and possible retreat to safety.

The duty of police officers is to help ensure your safety. We will respond to your every call, take suitable action against the perpetrator and protect you.

Here you can find all the rights that you are entitled to as a victim of criminal offense:

