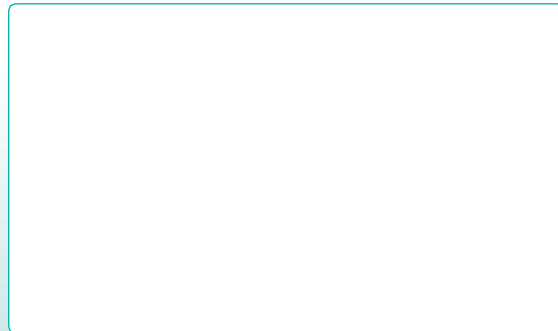


The information contained in this brochure is of a general nature. For specific information related to your personal situation, please contact your local CIDFF, which will provide you with information and assistance, and recommend qualified professionals.

Information provided is confidential and free.

There are **106 CIDFF** (National Information Centres on the Rights of Women and Families) in France, as well as in some overseas departments and territories, with many local branches.

You can find the address and contact details of a CIDFF near you on the website **[www.infofemmes.com](http://www.infofemmes.com)**



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[www.infofemmes.com](http://www.infofemmes.com)

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## Gender equality

Access to rights for newly immigrated women



In France, men and women are equal and have the same rights. Violation of these rights is punishable by law.

# Equality of rights for women and men in France

## Family

- > Marriage is forbidden for both women and men before the age of 18. Women and men may not be forced to marry.
- > Women and men are free to live as a couple, whether married or otherwise, to divorce and to separate. Repudiation is forbidden.
- > Women and men take decisions regarding the household budget together and are both responsible for such decisions.

## Violence

- > Violence (physical, psychological, sexual and verbal) within a couple or family is forbidden and condemned.
- > Forced sexual relations constitute rape even within a couple. It is a crime punishable by law.
- > All violence toward women is forbidden and condemned.

## Body / health

- > Sexual mutilation of girls and women is forbidden.
- > Women are free to choose whether or not to have a child.
- > Women are free to decide whether to take contraception or have an abortion.

## Education / parenthood

- > Mothers and fathers have the same rights and duties regarding their children.
- > School is mandatory for girls and boys aged from 6 to 16.
- > Girls have the right to the same education as boys.

## Work

- > Women and men have the right to exercise all professions under the same conditions and for the same wage.
- > Women may work without the authorisation of their husband, father or a member of their family.
- > Women receive their wages themselves and may open a personal bank account in their name.

## Individual freedom

- > Each person may practice the religion of their choice or have no religion.
- > Women may dress as they wish. However, the wearing of a full-face veil is forbidden in public areas.
- > Women may make choices and take decisions without the authorisation of their husband, father or a member of their family (going out, opening a bank account, working, driving, etc.)