



# *Your Rights - A Guide for Foreign Women In France*



FRANCE IS AN INDIVISIBLE, SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIAL REPUBLIC.

THE LAW GUARANTEES EQUAL TREATMENT TO INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF THEIR ORIGIN, RELIGION, RACE OR GENDER

WOMEN AND MEN HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS: THEY HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR SOCIAL, MARITAL, FAMILY AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE.



### ➡ ENTRY ON FRENCH TERRITORY

You are over 18 years old and you are not a citizen of a state of the European Union. If you want to stay in France, you must obtain a visa. Visa applications are made at the French Consulate or Embassy of the country where you are currently residing.

### • Short stay visa:

The short-stay visa allows you to stay in France and other Schengen countries. It is valid for a maximum duration of 90 days. This visa can be granted for tourism, business, a family visit ...

### • Long stay visa:

The Long Stay Visa (VLS) allows you to stay in France for more than 3 months. Several types of Long Stay Visas exist depending on the reason for your stay : the VLS as a residence permit, the VLS which requires an application for family, work or retirement reasons and the special VLS for students, artists, visitors or young people.

If you have a French Spouse: You can apply for a Long Stay Visa as the spouse of a French citizen. It will serve as a residence permit. You must complete formalities with the OFII within 3 months of your arrival. There are no further steps to take with the Préfecture during the validity of this visa.

### • Family reunification:

Family reunification is a procedure that allows you to bring to France your spouse and/or your minor children residing in a foreign country outside the European Union. You must hold a valid residence permit and have been on French territory as a legal alien for at least 18 months. The request is made to the OFII.

### • If you are a victim of domestic or family violence,

the Police Prefect may, under certain conditions, grant the issue or renewal of a residence permit.

### ➡ STAYING IN FRANCE AS A RESIDENT

#### There are different residence permits:

The oneyear temporary residence permit, the multi-year residence permit which is issued for a period of 2 to 4 years, the resident card which is issued for 10 years. These permits are renewable. Application for a residence permit is made at the Préfecture of the place of your residence.

### ➡ ASYLUM

Applying for asylum is the appropriate process to request the status of refugee or to benefit from subsidiary protection. As stated in the 1951 Geneva Convention, refugee status is granted to

*« anyone who (...) has a well-founded fear of persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership to a certain social group or because of their political opinions, is outside the country of which they are a citizen and cannot, or due to this fear, does not want to claim the protection of this country . ».*

To file a petition for asylum, you must contact a pre-reception association (PADA) as soon as you arrive in France and register at the single application desk for asylum seekers at the Préfecture.

A certificate of asylum petition will be given to you and will allow you to stay in France for a month.

You will be given a form for the French Office of Immigration and Integration (OFII). This form must be filed with the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) within 21 days.

### USEFUL CONTACTS

**Préfecture de l'Eure** : Boulevard Georges Chauvin, à Evreux : 02 32 78 27 27

**Sous-préfectures** :

3 rue de la Sous-Préfecture à Bernay : 02 32 46 76 87

10 rue de la Sous-Préfecture aux Andelys : 02 32 54 74 87

**France terre d'asile** : 11 Ter avenue du Château à Evreux : 02 32 23 10 25

**Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration (OFII)** : 02 32 18 09 94

## FAMILY LIFE



take place in the High Court. Legal counsel is mandatory (you can benefit from legal aid, conditions apply). For divorce by mutual consent, a convention established by the spouses and their respective lawyers may be registered at a notary office.

### ▶ THE 3 LEGAL FORMS OF UNION IN FRANCE

#### • Marriage :

A legal act based on the mutual consent of both spouses. Only civil marriage is legally recognized, so it must take place before any traditional or religious marriage.

#### • The civil pact of solidarity (PACS) :

A contract concluded between two people, of different or same sex, to organize their life together lawfully.

#### • Cohabitation, a common-law union :

Characterized by a stable community of life between two persons of different or same sex.

### ▶ COUPLE BREAKUPS IN FRANCE

Just as you can freely decide to live as a couple, you can decide to end your life together. After the breakup, you may be eligible for some benefits (see CAF).

#### • If you want to end the marriage,

you can file for a divorce. Some procedures

#### • If you want to terminate a PACS

your joint declaration of intent is to be sent to the city hall or to the notary office where it was filed. If your partner is opposed to the termination, you will have to contact a bailiff.

#### • Repudiation does not exist in French law.

### ▶ PARENTAL AUTHORITY

Parental authority is the set of rights and duties of parents with respect to their children, until the age of 18. It is exercised jointly and equally by both parents, whether married or not, whether they live together or separately (except in special cases).

### ▶ INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION OR ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF CHILDREN

A parent cannot decide alone to take their child to live in another city or in another country without the consent of the other parent or of a family court judge.

In case of threats, you can contact the Police, the Gendarmerie or the Police Préfecture.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Centre d'information sur les droits des femmes et des familles de l'Eure (CIDFF) :**  
12 rue de l'Esperanto à Evreux,  
02 32 33 44 56

**Maison de la justice et du droit (MJD) :**  
A Evreux : 02 32 32 07 91  
A Louviers : 03 32 40 96 60  
A Pont-Audemer : 02 32 41 78 90  
A Vernon : 02 32 71 28 10

**Caisse d'allocations familiales (CAF) de l'Eure :** 0810 25 27 10  
**Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration (OFII) :** 02 32 18 09 94

## PROHIBITED PRACTICES



### ▶ ABUSE

Any form of violence - physical, sexual, moral, economic or psychological - committed by the spouse or former spouse is prohibited by law and perpetrators are legally prosecuted.

**In case of an emergency, dial 17** (police, gendarmerie).

**For a telephone helpline, dial 39 19.**

**Before leaving the marital home, contact the police or the gendarmerie.**

### ▶ FORCED MARRIAGES

Marriage requires the mutual consent of the future spouses. If it is proven that one or both of the spouses has been forced to marry, the marriage may be annulled and the persons who forced the marriage may be sentenced. The legal age for marriage is 18.

A protection order may be pronounced by the Family Court Judge in the case of such violence (conjugal, forced marriages) with the possibility of concealing the address of the victim and of prohibiting the aggressor from contacting her or even her children.

### ▶ FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Any mutilation practiced on the genital organs, in particular excision and infibulation, is prohibited. Depending on the seriousness of the facts, sentences may reach 20 years of imprisonment.

French law applies when the mutilation is committed in France or in a foreign country, if the victim is French or if, though not a French citizen, she usually resides

in France. In case of threats of forced marriage or sexual mutilation on a minor, a prohibition of exiting French territory may be issued.

### ▶ POLYGAMY

In France, a man is not allowed to marry more than one woman, it is a crime punishable by law.

A man cannot marry on French territory if he already has a wife in his country of origin or elsewhere, regardless of his nationality.

The penalty is 1 year in prison and a 45 000 euros fine.

### ▶ FACE COVERING

The penalty is a fine of up to 150 euros. The penalties are aggravated in case of forced concealment of the face, and doubled if the victim is minor.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Association d'aide aux victimes (AVEDE-ACJE) :**  
02 32 23 15 15

**Centre d'information sur les droits des femmes et des familles de l'Eure (CIDFF) :**  
12 rue de l'Esperanto à Evreux : 02 32 33 44 56

**Maison de la justice et du droit (MJD) :**  
A Evreux : 02 32 32 07 91

A Louviers : 03 32 40 96 60

A Pont-Audemer : 02 32 41 78 90

A Vernon : 02 32 71 28 10

**Police, gendarmerie :** 17

**Groupe pour l'abolition des mutilations sexuelles (GAMS) :**  
01 43 48 10 87 ou 06 78 04 40 29

## HEALTH CARE



### ➡ ACCESS TO CARE, HEALTH CARE

Anyone on French territory is entitled to health care. If you are in a legal immigration situation, you benefit from social security coverage with a social security number:

- either because you work,
- or because you have been in France for more than 3 months

In all cases, contact the Primary Health Insurance Fund (CPAM).

Anyone in an irregular situation and having been in France for more than 3 months can also benefit from health coverage.

It is the State Medical Aid scheme (AME). To benefit, contact the Primary Health Insurance Fund (CPAM) or the Health Access Center at the hospital.

The requirement for 3 months of residence does not apply to minors whose parent is in an irregular situation.

The Primary Health Insurance Fund (CPAM) issues a benefits certificate or a « Carte Vitale », or an AME certificate, which you need to present at medical consultations, at the hospital, and in pharmacies.

With a benefits certificate or a « Carte Vitale », you can apply for a free health check-up that will take place at a CPAM Health Examination Center.

### ➡ CONTRACEPTION

Contraception is the set of methods used to prevent a pregnancy that you do not want. It is a right enshrined in the law since 1967.

No authorization from your family or spouse is necessary.

To choose the method that suits you best, you can contact:

- a general practitioner,
- a gynecologist and, under certain conditions, a midwife,
- a planned parenthood clinic and prenatal consultation center offering free and confidential medical consultations. Free access and anonymity are insured for adults and minors.

If you are a minor, you do not need parental permission to get contraception.

### ➡ VOLUNTARY PREGNANCY TERMINATION (ABORTION)

You are pregnant and you do not want to continue this pregnancy, you can decide on a voluntary termination (abortion).

It is your right by law. No authorization from your family or spouse is necessary. As soon as possible, contact a doctor (private practice, planned parenthood center, hospital). A minor who cannot talk to her parents, must be accompanied by an adult of her choice.

Termination must be performed before the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy.

### ➡ PREGNANCY AND BIRTH

Physicians or midwives can register the insured patient's pregnancy online during the first prenatal examination.

You will receive a guide entitled «My maternity - I prepare the arrival of my child», a calendar of your medical examinations and other practical documents to accompany you during your pregnancy.

The Maternal and Child Protection center (PMI) organizes consultations for pregnant women and children under 6 years old.

**Caisse primaire d'assurance maladie (CPAM) :**  
36 46

**Centre de planification :**  
Bernay : 02 32 45 63 11  
Evreux : 02 32 39 15 00  
Gisors : 02 32 27 78 93  
Louviers : 02 32 25 75 66  
Pont-Audemer : 02 32 42 88 99  
Val De Reuil : 02 32 61 11 15  
Verneuil Sur Avre : 02 32 23 62 16  
Vernon : 02 32 71 66 48

USEFUL CONTACTS

## HOUSING



### ▶▶ APPLYING FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

Anyone with a valid residence permit who wishes to obtain social housing must apply:

- **either online:**  
[www.demande-logement-social.gouv.fr](http://www.demande-logement-social.gouv.fr)
- **or by sending a request**  
to a social landlord (Council Housing or Social Real Estate Agencies)

Your family and financial situation is taken into account to determine if you are eligible for social housing.

No fees are levied when applying for accommodation. You can ask for advice from a Departmental Council social worker at the CCAS of your city or from your advisor if you live in a hosting facility.

If you do not have accommodation, you can be accommodated temporarily or for a varying duration. Seek advice from a Departmental Council social worker at the CCAS of your city.

In case of emergency requiring access to shelter, dial 115 (toll-free 24-hour helpline).

### ▶▶ OTHER SITUATIONS

As part of an application for family reunification, conditions apply.

Your housing and income must meet certain criteria. You must have housing at the time of the

request. You must state the surface area and all the characteristics of the dwelling. If the conditions are met, family reunification may be allowed.

If your spouse is polygamous and you wish to have access to separate accommodation, you can get support : find out from a social worker (at the Departmental Council, or at the CCAS of the City).

### ▶▶ HOUSING BENEFITS (CONDITIONS APPLY)

- **Housing subsidies:**  
paid by CAF.
- **Habitat Solidarity Fund (FSH):**  
provided by the Departmental Council (assistance with rent, deposit).
- **If you have problems in your current home:**  
contact the Departmental Housing Information Association (ADIL).
- **If you are a victim of violence:**  
report to a district social worker (departmental council, CCAS) or to a specialized association and then to the public landlord to obtain housing via the «Prefectoral Quota».

## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Agence départementale d'information sur le logement (ADIL) :** 02 32 24 06 66  
**Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) :** 08 10 25 27 10  
**Conseil Départemental de l'Eure :** 02 32 31 50 50  
**Direction Départementale de la Cohésion Sociale (DDCS) :** 02 32 24 86 01  
**Association ADAEA Services la Pause :** 02 32 33 52 76

## EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING



### ▶▶ TO WORK AND STUDY IN FRANCE

You must be in a legal immigration situation and hold a residence permit authorizing you to work. To help you find a job or ask for training, you can contact the « Pôle Emploi » or the « mission locale ».

To benefit from Pôle Emploi's services, you must register as a jobseeker on the website: [www.pole-emploi.fr](http://www.pole-emploi.fr). If you have worked in France for a few months and the number of hours you have worked is deemed sufficient, you may be entitled to unemployment benefit. You must then apply to Pôle emploi who will calculate your benefits.

### ▶▶ THE « MISSION LOCALE » FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The « mission locale » is a place offering support to 16 to 25 year-olds. Each beneficiary is given personalized support for their endeavours. Reception facilities must provide answers to questions of employment and training, but also about housing or health.

### ▶▶ THE ACTIVITY BONUS

The activity bonus is a social benefit intended to supplement the income of employees and self-employed workers with modest resources. It is paid by the CAF (or the MSA for farmers and agricultural

employees). The activity bonus is intended for people who are engaged in a professional activity and whose income does not exceed a certain threshold. You must file a request for the activity bonus on the [caf.fr](http://caf.fr) website. You can be assisted by the social workers of the local departmental council or of the family allowance fund (CAF).

### ▶▶ HAVING YOUR DIPLOMAS RECOGNIZED

If you wish to have a diploma you obtained abroad recognized in France, you will need to go to the ENIC-NARIC section of the CIEP website (International Center for Pedagogical Studies). They issue certificates of diplomas equivalence. These certificates are a paying service.

The certificates issued by the ENIC-NARIC center may be presented to an employer, to an administration organizing a recruitment examination or to a training establishment.

### ▶▶ LANGUAGE TRAINING

To learn French, you can take courses: apply at the town hall, socio-cultural centers, associations, local dispensaries, OFII.

### ▶▶ DRIVER'S LICENSE

If you have recently settled in France and you hold a non-European driving license, you must exchange it for a French license to continue driving. Depending on your nationality, you must submit your exchange request within a certain time. If you fulfill the conditions for an exchange, a French driver's license will be issued. To exchange your driving license, you must contact the Préfecture of your department.

**Pôle emploi** 39 49 ou [www.pole-emploi.fr](http://www.pole-emploi.fr)  
**Conseil Départemental de l'Eure :** 02 32 31 50 50  
**Caisse d'allocations familiales (CAF) :** 08 10 25 27 10  
**Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration (OFII) :** 02 32 18 09 94

**Missions locales :**  
Pays d'Evreux et Eure Sud : 02 32 39 77 04  
Vernon Sein Vexin : 02 32 51 50 65  
Louviers Val De Reuil Andelle : 02 32 59 76 80  
Ouest Eure Bernay : 02 32 43 36 80  
Ouest Eure Pont-Audemer : 02 32 41 16 63 - 02 32 23 10 25

## USEFUL CONTACTS



## *Your Rights - A Guide for Foreign Women In France*

**Adresse de correspondance unique**  
Accueil Service - CS 50977 - 27007 EVREUX

### **ACCUEIL SERVICE**

#### **Direction Administration**

3 rue du Dr Roux - Evreux

Tél : 02 32 26 73 53

Fax : 02 32 67 88 15

siège@accueilservice.fr

### **PLATEFORME SANTÉ SOCIALE**

Tél : 02 77 02 07 25

### **LA PASSAGÈRE AU FÉMININ**

8 place Alfred de Musset - Evreux

Tél : 02 32 23 01 78

lapassagere.aufeminin@accueilservice.fr

09h00 - 13h00 / 14h00 - 16h30

### **LA PASSAGÈRE**

#### **FEMMES VICTIMES DE VIOLENCES**

8 place Alfred de Musset - Evreux

Tél : 02 32 23 01 78

lapassagere.fvv@accueilservice.fr

09h00 - 13h00 / 14h00 - 16h30

### **CAO DIFFUS**

Evreux / Gaillon / Louviers

Tél : 06 43 46 32 37

cao@accueilservice.fr

### **LA PASSAGÈRE VERNON**

14 rue de la renaissance - Vernon

Tél : 02 32 54 07 99

lapassagere.vernon@accueilservice.fr

8h30 - 13h00 / 14h00 - 16h30

### **LA PASSAGÈRE MARAUDE**

8 place Alfred de Musset - Evreux

Tél : 02 32 23 76 40

lapassagere.maraude@accueilservice.fr

13h00 - 23h00

### **LA PASSAGÈRE EVREUX**

84 avenue Foch - Evreux

Tél : 02 32 32 76 70

Fax : 02 32 37 51 40

lapassagere.evreux@accueilservice.fr

08h30 - 12h30 / 14h00 - 16h30