

INTERVENTION GUIDE

THE CORRIDOR PROJECT
A PATH OF SUPPORT AGAINST VIOLENCE



The Corridor project is a Divers-Gens initiative in collaboration with

- » Avante Women Center
- » le Centre d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel des rivières Haute-Yamaska et Brome-Missisquoi (CALACS)
- » Centre d'Aide aux Victimes d'Actes Criminels de l'Estrie (CAVAC)
- » le Centre femmes des Cantons
- » Centre intégré universitaire de santé et services sociaux de l'Estrie - Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke
- » Entr'elles
- » Horizon pour elle
- » Maison Alice-Desmarais
- » Le Passant
- » Le service de police de Bromont
- » Ressource pour hommes de la Haute-Yamaska
- » Maison Oxygène

And financially supported by the *Secrétariat à la condition féminine* of the Quebec government.

Québec 

The project initially aims to create a consultation among community organizations that address sexual and domestic violence in the Haute-Yamaska and Brome-Missisquoi regions, and Divers-Gens (the only organization for sexual and gender diversity (SGD) in these areas). The goal of the corridor project is to define and implement, in a subsequent phase, a range of activities and services for SGD individuals who experience sexual or domestic violence.

This guide is designed to support the corridor project. It offers tips and strategies for addressing sexual and domestic violence situations involving SGD individuals.

GLOSSARY

SGD

Sexual and gender diversity.

Gender identity

Gender label with which one identifies. Is an integral part of our identity as a person. Understanding gender and gender identity as a spectrum, which can change throughout one's life. Inner and personal experience that each person has of their gender.

Gender expression

Way in which we express our gender identity. Understanding gender expression as a spectrum, which can change over the course of life.

Sexual orientation

Sexual attraction to one or more genders.

Romantic orientation

Romantic attraction to one or more genders.

Biological component

In biology there are two broad categories: male and female. Four biological characteristics distinguish them from each other: chromosomes, genitals, gonads and hormones.

Gender assigned at birth

Gender assigned to the newborn by doctors, according to the visible biological components.

Transgender

Umbrella term encompassing anyone who does not adhere to the gender assigned to them at birth.

Cisgender

Anyone who identifies with the assigned gender at birth.

Homosexual

A person who is sexually and/or romantically attracted to people of the same gender as them.

Bisexual

Person being sexually and/or romantically attracted by people of the same gender as them and another gender (or gender group).

Non-binary

A person who does not identify exclusively as a man and/or a woman.

Intersex

Person with a mix of biological components.

MSM

A man having sexual relationships with another man.

WSW

A woman having sexual relationships with another woman.

Gender Affirmation items

Clothing and accessories allowing you to create or minimize shapes, to assert your gender.

Hormonotherapy

Taking masculinizing or feminizing hormones during a medical transition.

Gender affirmation surgery

Surgery to modify one's appearance to affirm one's gender. Part of the medical transition.

Gender dysphoria

Discomfort or distress related to incongruity between an individual's gender identity and the sex assigned at birth.

Gender euphoria

Feeling of well-being or comfort linked to being respected in one's gender or to be able to express your gender as you need.

Forensic kit

Examination with samples which can be used to identify the person responsible for sexual violence and which serves as proof in the event of a complaint. (The victim has 5 days or less following the assault to have this kit made).

Medicosocial kit

Examination without samples which can be used to identify the person responsible for sexual violence and which serves as proof in the event of a complaint. (The victim has 6 days or more following the assault to have this kit made).

Queer

Reappropriation of an insult towards people from the SGD meaning strange, bizarre. This term can be used to demonstrate that we are part of the SGD, without naming which intersection we are located at. However, not all people in the SGD identify with this term.

Chosen family

A group of individuals chosen by a person and who provide support (but who do not share biological ties with the person). This family can support a person who has little or no connection with their blood family, for example during strained relationships, transphobia, homophobia or incomprehension by relatives.

Violence between intimate partners

Violence that can occur in different types of relationships and dynamics (married or non-married people, de facto spouses, cohabiting or not, dating, ethical non-monogamy, etc.).

SERVICE TRAJECTORY

Check the current dangerousness level (risk factors)

Check if there are forms of violence specific to people of SGD

Is this person looking for accommodation?

YES

NO →

What do you think is safe or not safe for this person?

In which city/region would the person like to find accommodation? (Does the person want to stay in their region or leave it and be accommodated elsewhere?)

- » What type of accommodation is needed? (Crisis center, specialized shelter, retreat house)
- » Check if there is the possibility of accommodation with relatives
- » Does the person have one or more children? (Minors or adults)
- » Does the person have a car or means of transportation?
- » Does the person have any special needs? (Ex: accessibility, translation, access to certain medical appointments)
- » Does the person need support to return to their place of residence to collect personal effects? (Ex: gender affirmation articles, medication, clothing, personal documents)
- » Has the person already had one or more experiences in accommodation? And if so, would she feel comfortable returning to certain resources?
- » Does the person want information about a complaint process? Do they want support, and from whom?

If so, you can call the helpline Rebâtir, the DPCP, or CAVAC. Avoid referring a person directly to the police station without being accompanied by a professional (to avoid psychological consequences) and without being prepared.

If not, mention that the person may change their mind along the way, but it is not necessary to file a complaint either.

NO

- » Evaluate the person's needs and desires (where they are in their recovery, what is seen as a priority for the person, need for individual follow-up, group meetings, material needs)
- » Establish a security plan if necessary
- » Referencing targeted resources with the person (personalized referencing)
- » Does the person want information about the complaint process? Do they want support, and from whom?

If so, you can call the helpline Rebâtir, the DPCP, or CAVAC. Avoid referring a person directly to the police station without being accompanied by a professional (to avoid psychological consequences) and without being prepared.

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If a person applying for assistance has identity documents that do not match their gender identity:

- » Warn the person that in certain contexts, the legal name and identity must be used (so that the person is prepared to face this microaggression).
- » The person who must present their official cards, which do not match their current preferred identity, can use certain tricks. For example: pretending that they are using the current first name and identity in order to avoid being asked indiscreet questions about their identity.



Continuously throughout the help process, check the person's consent. If desired by the person:

- » Suggest authorization to share information between the receiving organization and Divers-Gens (or vice versa if Divers-Gens receives the call).
- » Agree on the preferred means of communication and suggest, if desired by the person, thirdparty meetings.

TO PRIORITIZE DURING AN INTERVENTION

✓ Introduction

Introduce yourself (name, title, pronoun, agreements) and ask how you can address the person (during a telephone intervention do not rely on the voice to assume a person's gender – seems like male, female voice, etc.).

✓ Ask

Ask the person if they already have a support person or a trusted person (thirdparty meetings if necessary).

✓ Leave room

Leave room for the chosen family.

✓ Start the meeting

Start the meeting only with the person asking for help, offer to include, towards the end of the meeting, the accompanying person, if this person wants it.

✓ Evaluate services

Evaluate previous accommodation services (positive, negative) to know where not to refer. Know the limits of the person, comfort zone, which is important for their safety.

✓ Validate expectations

Validate the person's expectations towards us (worker), the services, the conclusion of the intervention (mixed environment, women's environment, men's environment, private room, dormitories, double rooms) versus what is realistic and possible to offer. Which location will be preferable for the person (coming out issues, security e.g. Montreal, elsewhere, etc.).








✓ Openness

Validate with resources their openness to welcoming people of diversity (one-to-one conversation with the targeted resource and the worker).

✓ Accessibility

Ensure that appointments are accessible (realize that gender-affirming items are necessary for physical and psychological health).

TO AVOID DURING AN INTERVENTION

-  **Gender identity** **Avoid making assumptions about gender identity**, through a person's gender expression and/or appearance (let the person introduce themselves by their name and pronouns).
-  **Legal documents** **Avoid relying on legal papers** to identify the gender of a person.
-  **Orientation** **Avoid assuming sexual and romantic orientation** (and assigning an identity).
-  **Family model** **Avoid assuming the family model** (e.g. chosen family).
-  **Indiscreet questions** **Avoid indiscreet questions**, not necessary for the evaluation, (avoid indiscreet curiosity), avoid putting the person in a position of education. If you have specific questions, write them down, then seek answers elsewhere.
-  **Heteronormative** **Do not assume that a person is in a heterosexual relationship**, use «partner» or «spouse», do not assume the markers of the relationship.
-  **Relationship dynamics** **Don't assume the dynamics of a relationship.**

SPECIFIC FORMS OF VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED BY SGD PEOPLE

In addition to the *SOS violence conjugale* detection tools, here are other signs to watch out for:

The person mentions that their partner will (or does):

- » **Reveal their orientation or gender identity** without their consent.
- » **Force a sexual relationship in order** to impose a romantic or sexual orientation (according to their own rules, without taking the person's consent into account).
- » **Prevent them from contacting** their friends or some people in the community, with the aim of isolating them. For example, saying: «because you have an STI, you could contaminate those around you by being in their presence» (without there being any risk of actual transmission). Mentioning that if you ask yourself questions about your identity, this could alienate those around you (for example saying: «given your gay identity, all men will think that you want to flirt with them, so you will be rejected.»)
- » **Imply that they are not safe** with those around them because of their identity (that they could experience homophobia or transphobia by loved ones), and prevent or dissuade them from contacting them.
- » **Prevent them from receiving services** on the pretext that they will be poorly received (that they will experience homophobia, transphobia from professionals).
- » **Prevent them from taking hormones or accessing** medical appointments.
- » **Prevent them from wearing** certain clothing (especially gender-affirming items).

The person mentioned that thier partner:

- » **Intentionally transmits HIV or other STIs.**
- » **Uses homophobic or transphobic slurs (even as a joke or «word of love»).**
- » **Denies their identity or orientation.**
- » **Does not use their correct pronouns or preferred name.**
- » **Touches their private parts without consent** under the pretext of wanting to explore new changes (after gender affirmation surgery, for example).
- » **Has certain consumption habits (drugs, alcohol) which have an impact on their safety.**



ACCOMMODATION RESOURCES

Maison Alice-Desmarais

maisonad.org/en

Horizon pour elle

horizonpourelle.ca/en

Halte-crise

entrelles.ca/halte-crise

Transition pour elles

transitionpourelles.ca

Maison Oxygène

rhhy.qc.ca/oxyinfos

Le Passant

lepassant5.wixsite.com/monsite

Auberge sous mon toit

aubergesousmontoit.org

EXTERNAL FOLLOW-UPS

Divers-Gens

diversgens.org/en

Avante Women Center

awcentre.com

CALACS des rivières

calacsdesrivieres.ca

CAVAC

cavac.qc.ca/en

Centre femme des Cantons

rocestrie.org/en/home.htm

Entr'Elles

entrelles.ca

Maison Alice-Desmarais

maisonad.org/en

Horizon pour elle

horizonpourelle.ca/en

Ressource pour homme

rhhy.qc.ca/?lang=en

Newsletter about sexual and domestic violence

This newsletter acts as a reminder for interventions in terms of resources for people who have experienced sexual violence and/or domestic violence.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ROI4PhBdsqwpORIXfigNZWsPI70F2MJ8/view?usp=drivesdk>

VIOLENCE BETWEEN INTIMATE PARTNER

SOS violence conjugale

The mission of *SOS violence conjugale* is to contribute to the safety of victims of domestic violence and to reduce domestic violence and its consequences by offering services to victims, the population and all people affected by domestic violence.

sosviolenceconjugale.ca/en

Explore the presence of violent behavior

SOS violence conjugale offers an interactive questionnaire to assess whether there is the presence of violent behavior in a relationship.

sosviolenceconjugale.ca/en/self-assessment/intimate-partner-violence?lsq=false

Explore the presence of a control report

SOS violence conjugale offers an interactive questionnaire to assess whether there is a control report in a relationship.

sosviolenceconjugale.ca/en/self-assessment/coercive-control?lsq=false

Vision santé publique

This information bulletin published by the Eastern Townships Public Health Department provides a portrait of violence between intimate partners, explaining the relevance of using this term more.

santeestrie.qc.ca/clients/SanteEstrie/Publications/Sante-publique/Bulletin-vision/2024/VSP_no72_Violence.pdf

Understand, identify and intervene in coercive control

This toolkit aims to raise awareness about coercive control.

maisons-femmes.qc.ca/campagnes-de-sensibilisation/improving-justice-system-practices-to-increase-the-safety-of-women-who-are-victims-of-intimate-partner-violence

Santé Estrie

Information on domestic violence, for witnesses, victims or perpetrators.

santeestrie.qc.ca/soins-services/pour-tous/violence-conjugale

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual Violence Helpline

Sexual violence info-help is a listening and reference service for anyone affected by sexual violence.

sexualviolencehelpline.ca

On s'écoute

This campaign aims to prevent sexual violence in higher education settings. Capsules of testimonies, awareness and training are offered.

onsecoute.com

Juripop

This toolbox aims to raise awareness and inform people about sexual violence.

juripop.org/coffre-a-outils

INSPQ

This page brings together in one place different help resources for people who have experienced sexual violence.

inspq.qc.ca/en/sexual-assault/resources

Service trajectory upon disclosure of sexual assault

Developed by the partners of the regional table on sexual violence, this trajectory of sexual assault services reminds us how to properly receive disclosures of sexual violence (resources for referencing and helpful attitudes to present during a disclosure).

santeestrie.qc.ca/clients/SanteEstrie/Professionnels/trajectoire-agression/Trajectoire_service_agression_FR.pdf

Santé Estrie

Information on domestic violence, for witnesses, victims or perpetrators.

santeestrie.qc.ca/soins-services/pour-tous/violence-sexuelle

SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY

Training by Divers-Gens

Training to learn the basics of diversity and good intervention practices with SGD people. Contact us for more info.

diversgens.org/en/nous-joindre

Divers-Gens's Glossary

Glossary of terminology for identities, orientations and other labels.

drive.google.com/file/d/1uuZri9bZu_l-qMj6Dj8YNQiXKdw187Jq/view?usp=sharing

Divers-Gens infographics

These infographics present statistics and information on several topics, including violence in the context of intimate relationships among people of the SGD community.

drive.google.com/drive/folders/11t0jWFS1Y-0Ao3viS_p8apBDUFg6Ej48?usp=sharing

Interligne

Interligne offers a helpline available 24 hours per day. It is available to people from the SGD community, their loved ones or professionals from different backgrounds.

interligne.co/en

Aide aux trans du Québec (ATQ)

ATQ offers a listening and intervention line available 24/7 for trans people or those who are questioning their gender identity.

atq1980.org/en

Labyrinthe project by the Conseil québécois LGBT

The Labyrinth Project is a pilot project led by the Conseil québécois LGBT aiming to improve the inclusiveness, accessibility and quality of services received by 2SLGBTQ+ survivors of sexual violence.

conseil-lgbt.ca/projetlabyrinthes/#:~:text=Le%20Projet%20Labyrinthes%20est%20un,2SLGBTQ%2B%20 survivantes%20de%20violence%20sexuelle.

Training by Conseil québécois LGBT

Better intervene in the context of sexual violence among 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

conseil-lgbt.ca/courses/formation-labyrinthes-2

LEXIC2 +

Anyone likely to intervene with people from LGBTQ+ communities.

familieslgbt.org/ressource/lexic2-comprendre-et-contrer-les-violences-sexuelles-vecues-par-la-communaute-lgbtq

SOCIO-LEGAL

Rebâtir la confiance

This document contains 190 recommendations to improve psychosocial and legal support for victims and their access to justice.

cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/org/SCF/publications/plans-strategiques/Strategie-violence-sexuelle-2022-2027.pdf

Specialized court for sexual violence and domestic violence

The specialized court does not modify the applicable law, nor the rules of evidence or procedure, nor the rights guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Rather, it is the support processes and collaborations surrounding the victim that are adapted to facilitate their passage to court and improve their experience.

quebec.ca/justice-et-etat-civil/systeme-judiciaire/processus-judiciaire/tribunal-specialise-violence-sexuelle-violence-conjugale/a-propos

Designated Centers by regions

To obtain a forensic or medicosocial kit
en.serviceconseilqc.ca

Educaloi

The interactive sheets in this guide allow you to learn more about: sexual consent, the crime of sexual assault, steps to obtain help (police, mediation, being followed in a designated center), recourse when the rights of victims are not respected.

educaloi.qc.ca/en/publications/accompanying-lgbtq-victims

LAFU

Emergency financial assistance for workers to help a person leave violent situations or prevent a person from returning to situations of violence.

[file:///C:/Users/beatr/Downloads/LAFU_FAQ%20G%C3%A9n%C3%A9ral_juin%202023%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/beatr/Downloads/LAFU_FAQ%20G%C3%A9n%C3%A9ral_juin%202023%20(1).pdf)

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