# 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 Haute-Yamaska
- » Maison Oxygène Haute-Yamaska

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This population guide serves several purposes. Firstly, it aims to prevent individuals seeking help from being revictimized by the violence they have experienced. Recounting such violence can be difficult, so the goal of the Corridor Project is to minimize the need for individuals to repeatedly tell their story by ensuring effective communication and collaboration between communities. Additionally, the project seeks to create personalized references that address the unique needs of each person. Collaboration between Divers-Gens and other violence-specialized resources helps prevent individuals from having to disclose their identity multiple times.

Divers-Gens positions itself as a personalized support and referral source to violence-specialized resources. The organization has multiple mandates, including raising awareness among professionals. This guide is intended to be a collaborative effort between resources to prevent gaps in services that individuals of sexual diversity and gender plurality might encounter.

### **GLOSSARY**

#### Cyberviolence

Form of violence exercised by means of technological tools. For example, insulting a person on social media, or sharing intimate photos of a person without their consent.

#### Coercive control

Refers to a continuum of violence. exploitation, humiliation and manipulation repeatedly exercised by the perpetrator with the aim of establishing and maintaining domination over the victim and continuously depriving them of their rights. It is an insidious and progressive takeover of the victim, which does not necessarily need bruises to be exercised. This pattern of behavior aims to make the person dependent, in particular by isolating them from all support, by depriving them of their independence and by regulating their behavior through daily microregulations. (Definition taken from la boîte à outils «Comprendre, repérer et intervenir face au contrôle coercitif»).

maisons-femmes.qc.ca/wp-content/ uploads/2022/11/Outils1-VersionCourte-Web\_vf.pdf

## Violence between intimate partners

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

#### **Domestic violence**

A balance of power within a romantic relationship, in which the aggressor has established domination by creating a climate of physical and/or psychological control, fear and discomfort against its partner/victim. The victim lives in fear and uncertainty. (Definition taken from the *Maison des femmes de Québec*, 2024).

#### Sexual violence

A term that encompasses all forms of violence, whether physical or psychological, that manifest in a sexual manner: sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual cyberviolence, child luring, juvenile prostitution. Regardless of its form, sexual violence has serious consequences for victims, their loved ones, and society as a whole. (Definition taken from Fondation Marie Vincent, 2016)

marie-vincent.org/cause/quest-ce-que-laviolence-sexuelle

#### Sexual assault

Action of a sexual nature (with or without physical contact) committed by an individual without the consent of the person concerned or, in certain cases, particularly in the case of children, through emotional manipulation or blackmail. (Definition taken from the document Contrer la violence sexuelle, la violence conjugale et Rebâtir la confiance - Stratégie gouvernementale intégrée 2022-2027). Sexual assault means imposing gestures, attitudes and words with a sexual connotation against the will of the person using intimidation, threats, blackmail or even using different forms of violence, such as physical and psychological violence. (Source: Regroupement québécois des CALACS)

#### 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).

#### **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 IN A DIVERSITY CONTEXT

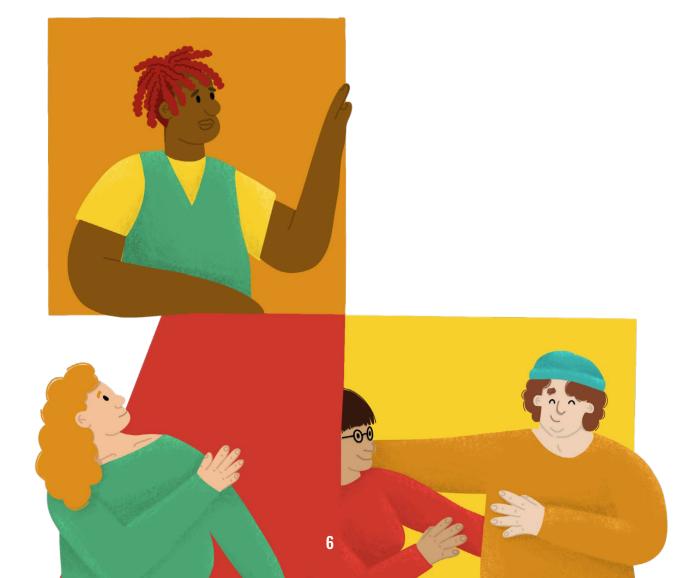
In addition to the SOS violence conjugale detection tools, here are other signs that you could be a victim of sexual violence or violence between intimate partners.

#### Your partner will (or does):

- » Reveal your orientation or gender identity without your consent.
- » Force a sexual relationship in order to impose a romantic or sexual orientation (according to their own rules, without taking you into account).
- » Prevent you from contacting your friends or some people in the community, with the aim of isolating you. 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 you are not safe with those around you because of your identity (that you could experience homophobia or transphobia through your loved ones), and prevent or dissuade you from contacting them.
- » **Prevent the person from receiving services** on the pretext that you will be poorly received (that you will experience homophobia, transphobia from professionals).
- » **Prevent you from taking hormones or accessing** medical appointments.
- » **Prevent you from wearing** certain clothing (especially gender-affirming items).

#### Your partner:

- » Intentionally transmits you HIV or other STIs.
- » Uses homophobic or transphobic slurs (even as a joke or «word of love»).
- » Denies your identity or orientation.
- » **Does not use** your correct pronouns or preferred name.
- » **Touches your 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 your safety.



# PREPARE FOR A CALL WITH A RESOURCE

#### During a call for help you may be asked:

- » If you are safe
- » Your name (potentially legal name, if a complaint procedure required, or personalized sources, administrative procedures, etc.)
- » Your pronouns
- » Your gender
- » Your age
- » If you have children
- » If you need accommodation housing
- » If you have transportation or equipment needs (in an emergency context)

- » If you have past experiences in accommodation or with resources specializing in violence
- » If you prefer a mixed or specific gender (which one?) resource
- » If you want to participate in a support/ discussing group
- » If you need individual support
- » If you want to file a complaint regarding the violence experienced

All the organizations that participated in *The Corridor Project* have developed a collaboration method to support you.

## **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 toît

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

# SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY

#### **Divers-Gens**

Our organization's mission is to educate, raise awareness, demystify and provide all the necessary resources to address the issues present in our community, so that yesterday's and today's actions can make the future better.

diversgens.org/en

#### **Divers-Gens's Glossary**

Glossary of terminology for identities, orientations and other labels.

drive.google.com/file/d/1uuZri9bZu\_I-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

#### **TransEstrie**

Located in Sherbrooke, TransEstrie is a community organization that aims to support, help and represent trans and non-binary people in the Eastern Township.

transestrie.org/en/home

## 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

### **SOCIO-LEGAL**

#### 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

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

#### Sexual violence helpline

A listening and reference service for anyone affected by sexual violence.

sexualviolencehelpline.ca

#### **Juripop**

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

juripop.org/coffre-a-outils

## Designated Centers by regions

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

#### Santé Estrie

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

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

## **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

#### Its not violent

Interactive awareness campaign for people between 15 and 25 year old. Through a game, it is possible to learn about more subtle forms of domestic violence.

itsnotviolent.com

## 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

#### Santé Estrie

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

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



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