

Creation of the 1st Shelter in Luxembourg for **FATHERS WITH CHILDREN VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & Emotional Abuse**



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FAD™ Postulate No.4 - “Creation of the 1st Luxembourg based Structure with Services and Shelter dedicated to Fathers with Children, Victims of Domestic Physical Violence and Emotional Abuse” - The FAD™ Study initially publicized in January 2021.

Creation of the 1st Luxembourg based Structure with Services and Shelter dedicated to Fathers with Children, Victims of Domestic Physical Violence and Emotional Abuse” seeking help, assistance, and asylum. A safe place where father with children can find shelter, receive help as well as legal and financial assistance equal to that available in Luxembourg to women and mothers.

1. Introduction

As a result of social stigmas, the narrative introduced in Luxembourg, radical organizations, and gender bias rhetoric as well as government insufficient support, Luxembourg fathers, victims of domestic physical violence and emotional abuse face a challenge of being overlooked or simply ignored.

For years much attention has been focused on domestic violence against women although the facts and statistical data clearly indicate that female violence towards men presents a serious social problem. Studies, research and official reports confirm that when partner abuse is defined broadly to include emotional abuse, hitting, and who hits first, partner abuse is represented almost evenly across both genders. Luxembourg is not an exception to that rule.

In accordance with the 2019 Report on Domestic Violence in Luxembourg average annual number of evictions between 2010-2019 is 286.

In 2019 nearly 40% (36.42%) of victims of annually reported domestic violence in Luxembourg were men. **On average an annual number of evicted men exceeds 85% of all evictions. What is scandalous and unacceptable is that in Luxembourg male evictions include not only male alleged perpetrators but also substantial number of male victims.**

In 2015, there was 66,66% reported male perpetrators and 33,33% reported female perpetrators. There were 242 evictions, and 220 men were evicted which makes 91% of all the cases. Why 91% and not 66,66%?

In 2019, there was 63.58% reported perpetrators and 31.68% reported female perpetrators. There were 268 evictions, and 234 men were evicted which makes 87.3% of all cases. Why every year number of male evictions exceed number of male perpetrators?

The statistical data from 2015 provided by the Ministry of Equality between Women and Men shows that male evictions include 24.34% of male victims ($66.66\% + 24.34\% = 91\%$) and only 9% out of 33.33% female perpetrators.

The data from 2019 shows that male evictions include 23.72% of male victims ($63.58\% + 23.72\% = 87.3\%$) and only 8.2% out of 31.68% reported female perpetrators.

In Luxembourg violent women perpetrating domestic physical abuse often do not bear the consequences for their actions. In situations when physical abuse takes place in Luxembourg household it is often not the female perpetrator but a male victim that is expelled from home and separated from his children. **If this is not institutional gender discrimination against men and fathers what is?**

Furthermore, there are 10 shelters in Luxembourg available to women, girls, and mothers. Yet, according to the Luxembourg Red Cross (Croix-Rouge luxembourgeoise) there is no structures providing similar services are available to fathers with children. In a highly international society often without any family members present in Luxembourg a father with children in urgent need of assistance experiencing physical and emotional abuse in urgent need seeking for asylum have no place to go.

2. Summary

The below summary exposes insufficient support provided to fathers in Luxembourg. A form of gender-bias approach denying one social group equal treatment guaranteed by the Constitution of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The rights guarantee regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, or religion.

The current status quo, institutional gender discrimination of fathers along with the rhetoric and the narrative promoted by certain organizations accompanied by the Luxembourg Ministry of Equal Rights between Women and Men add to profound misrepresentation of facts insinuating that men are the only cause of domestic violence and women are the only victims of it.

All in the name of the ideology indirectly questioning the importance of a nuclear family, the very foundation of the Luxembourg society and undermining the role of fathers in children's lives.

Ministry of Equal Rights between Women and Men is a Ministry when publicly discussing support offered to fathers in Luxembourg has a tendency to provide a global number of “spots” available in Luxembourg to “men in distress”. Presumably with an aim to prove that there is sufficient number of such facilities in the country. It is important to understand what that global number **32** sometimes referred to as **28** represents. These numbers have been presented by Ms. Taina BOFFERDING during the Luxembourg Parliamentary session on 18 March 2023 before the vote on Motion No.3122 – “Création de structures d'hébergement pour hommes et garçons victimes de violence domestique” initially presented by Deputy, Mr. Fernand KARTHEISER.

The Motion No.3122 was presented before the Luxembourg Parliament mainly because of an increase in numbers of female perpetrators in 2020 to 40% (39.72%) and because there is no shelter for fathers with children, victims of violence and domestic abuse.

On 18 March 2021 CSV and ADR voted in favor of the Motion No.3122, **Pirate Partei** abstained from voting and Luxembourg government coalition **DP, LSAP, déi gréng** as well as another party **déi lénk** voted against the motion denying fathers with children EQUAL TREATMENT and the same type of social services already available in Luxembourg to women, girls, and mothers with children.

a) Spots for victims of Human Trade (16)

According to infoMann, a non-profit organization financed by the Ministry of Equality between Women and Men **there “should be 16 spots” for men, victims of human trafficking.**

These facilities are available in Luxembourg as part of a project the Luxembourg *Ministry of Equal Rights between Women and Men* is involved in along with *CARITAS Luxembourg* and *Fondation Maison de la Porte ouverte*.

The project is also supported by two state financed services set up to help victims of Human Trade. The first one is *SAVTEH*, run by *Femmes en détresse*, **an organization fully dedicated to provide assistance to women only.** The second one is *COTEH*, run by above-mentioned *Fondation Maison de la Porte ouverte*, **an organization that provides help mainly to children, adolescents, young mothers, women and immigrant workers in psychosocial distress.**

Locations of the facilities available for victims of Human Trade are usually strictly confidential. These places are not appropriate for fathers with children because of the dangerous nature behind the project with often criminal organizations in the background and the need of providing maximum security for the victims of Human Trade.

b) Spots for perpetrators of domestic violence (5)

infoMann confirms that **there are additional “5 spots” available in Luxembourg for men, perpetrators of domestic violence.** Again, the places are not fit for fathers with children because it is assumed that if you are a man and considered as an alleged perpetrator you are expelled from your home without children.

It is important to note that when there is violence reported in a household, Luxembourg Police is to investigate and establish the reason behind the alleged incident. If no clarity as of who was the instigator or perpetrator of the alleged violent act or in case there is no evidence confirming that physical abuse even took place it is the man who will be removed from the house.

All the female resident needs to say is that she is in fear of her safety or in fear that potential violent act may occur the moment the Police leaves. Psychological blackmail taking advantage of the objectives included in the Istanbul Convention ratified by Luxembourg in 2018.

Furthermore, **the Annual Reports of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg presented by the Ministry of Equality between Women and Men never emphasize the inadequate number of male evictions. Unless we are mistaken as of 2018 the above annual reports stopped mentioning number of male evictions.**

The Annual Reports do not even attempt to discuss evictions of male victims. Presumably for the reason being that such discussion would bring discomfort to certain ideological groups exposing methodological institutional discrimination of men and fathers in Luxembourg.

It has been now nearly 10 years since Mr. Xavier BETTEL has taken over the office of Prime Minister of Luxembourg. Since then, we do not recall a single time Mr. Prime Minister having raised the topic of female violence against men communicating to the public the need of improving the support available for Luxembourg fathers.

FAD – Fathers Against Discrimination asbl has reached out to Minister Taina BOFERDING on numerous occasions asking whether the Ministry of Equality between Women and Men has ever initiated any type of campaign raising the problem of insufficient support fathers and men receive in Luxembourg. We could not name nor find any evidence of any, campaign, project, panel discussion, conference, press release etc. It has been at least 3 years and we are still waiting for reply.

It is evident that there are continuous efforts to suppress any public discussion about the problem. Why? Is it because there is no political incentive or is it because such discussion would antagonize certain lobby groups in Luxembourg?

Perhaps the reason why we never hear about the problem is because any form of dialog would reveal political approval of the situation where **male victims of female domestic physical violence or emotional abuse are evicted from their homes and separated from their children because they are men and considered disposable and secondary parents?**

c) Spots for male victims of domestic violence (11)

infoMann also informs that there are **“11 spots NOT 32 nor 28 available for male victims of domestic violence with 2 of them allowing 2 children!”**. Considering the average of **318 evictions per year in the last 9 years with over 85% of male evictions** there is continuous shortage of services available to men, boys and fathers. 2 spots for fathers with children, victims of domestic violence for entire country! Yet we are told this is adequate and sufficient?

Luxembourg Annual Reports on Domestic violence

2019 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes:

849 domestic violence incidents reported

63.58% reported female victims

36.42% reported male victims

68.42% reported male perpetrators

31.68% reported females perpetrators

Evictions: Total 268 with 234 male evictions (87.3% of all evictions).

2018 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes:

739 domestic violence incidents reported

66,1% reported female victims

33,9% reported male victims

69,46% reported male perpetrators

30.54% reported females perpetrators

Evictions: Total 231.

2018 is a year when the Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg under “*Tableau 7 - Relation auteur-victime au moment de l’expulsion autorisée*” (page 16) that provides correlation between gender-eviction-victim-perpetrator introduced category “*Relation de couple h/f-h/h-f/h-f/f*” putting together all 4 types of relations together with a total number of **72** which is quite significant considering the total number of evictions 231 but without any details showing gender percentage. That itself makes the data unclear as with regards to total evictions per gender.

As mentioned above 2018 is also the 1st year when the report omits mentioning number of male evictions. Surprisingly, the changes how the data is presented started taking place following FAD-Fathers Against Discrimination asbl numerous interventions in 2019 pointing out to an inadequate number of male evictions and the fact that evictions of Luxembourg men and fathers include not only alleged male perpetrators but also male victims of female domestic violence.

2017 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes:

715 domestic violence incidents

64,64% reported female victims

35,37% reported male victims

68,60% reported male perpetrators

31,40% reported female perpetrators

Evictions: Total 217 with 203 male evictions (93% of all evictions).

2016 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes:

789 domestic violence incidents

62.37% reported female victims

37.63% reported male victims

68.08% reported male perpetrators

31.92% reported female perpetrators

Evictions: Total 256 with 210 male evictions (91.41% of all evictions).

2015 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes:

802 domestic violence incidents

62.36% reported female victims

37.64% reported male victims

66.66% reported male perpetrators

33.33% reported female perpetrators

Evictions: Total 242 with 222 male evictions (91.73% of all evictions).

198 of the expulsions (81.81%) concerned couple or ex-couple relationships.

2014 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes

876 domestic violence incidents

62.4% reported female victims

37.6% reported male victims

65.7% reported male perpetrators

34.3% reported female perpetrators

Evictions: 327 expulsions, of which 289 of the perpetrators were male (94.39%). 272 (83.18%) of the expulsions concerned couple or ex-couple relationships.

Tableau 1 – Interventions policières et expulsions (2010-2019)

Année	Interventions policières	Expulsions
2010	589	264
2011	675	331
2012	801	375
2013	844	357
2014	876	327
2015	802	242
2016	798	256
2017	715	217
2018	739	231
2019	849	265

Tableau : Ministère de l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes

3. Conclusions

As a country Luxembourg would like to reinforce positive perceptions, to overcome stereotypes and prejudice. We aim to highlight what Luxembourg, beyond its own interests, can bring to Europe and the rest of the world.

We want to be a modern, dynamic, open-minded, and reliable society where creativity, diversity, and sustainability finds its home. We seek to establish our country as a competitive financial center, innovative and environment friendly economy with number of government initiatives and an objective to make the world a better place. Other projects and ideas include establishing Luxembourg Space Agency, legalization of cannabis, same sex marriages, adoption of children by the same sex couples, building new tram lines, new football stadium etc.

As a nation proud of its heritage and having its roots in the heart of Europe looking into the future, we would like to set example as an inclusive and egalitarian society. Yet, we fail to assure gender-parental equality in Luxembourg institutions.

Ministry of Equal Rights between Women and Men in Luxembourg dedicated to gender equality was established in 2015. Luxembourg is the only EU state with a ministry whose responsibility is exclusively **GENDER EQUITY**. Its missions and initiatives focus mainly on legal and factual equality between women and men.

Official Reports of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg presented annually by the Ministry of Equality between Women and Men leave no question for the urgent need of setting up a structure dedicated to fathers with children, victims of domestic violence and emotional abuse. Services and a safe place where a father with children can find shelter, receive help as well as legal and financial assistance, the same kind of services that have been already available for years in Luxembourg to women, girls, and mothers with children.

Absence of appropriate assistance available to men and fathers creates a serious problem to Luxembourg society. A challenge current Luxembourg government seems to choose not to acknowledge. Inadequate support provided to fathers in Luxembourg leads to gender-bias practices that result in discrimination of fathers in Luxembourg Family Courts and other government institutions. Approach that further expands to violate the rights of Luxembourg children for their natural right to equal access to both parents guaranteed by numerous conventions and international legal instruments including United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

According to the Reports presented annually by the Ministry of Equal Rights between Men and Women, a little over 60% of victims of reported domestic violence are female and almost 40% of victims are male.

Women, girls, and mothers with children have 10 shelters to choose from. Men, boys and fathers with children have **NONE** and **NO** proper services available to fathers with children, victims of emotional abuse and domestic physical violence. Yet, we are being told that everything is fine and that raising the problem of male victims of domestic violence is exotic and not worth discussing. **Where is this gender equality the Ministry so often speak about?**

FAD – Fathers Against Discrimination asbl is not asking for nothing special. We are asking for the Luxembourg government to recognize that domestic violence and emotional abuse is a much greater problem than it is being portrayed. We are asking for equal treatment and gender equality. After all, the current government coalition DP-LSAP-dei greng is apparently such a great advocate of.

It is time for Luxembourg to take appropriate measures to seek for true gender equality with an aim to find balance without favoring only one social group. **Creating the 1st Structure with Services and Shelter for Fathers with Children, Victims of Domestic Physical Violence and Emotional Abuse would be a good first step towards that direction.**

List of shelters for women, girls, mothers with children:

1. Foyer Eschweiler Haus Edith Stein

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes en détresse avec ou sans enfants - Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte
20, Duerfstrooss
L-9651 Eeschweiler
Luxembourg
ehes@fmpo.lu / Tél. : +352 26 95 00 40

2. Foyer Maternel

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes enceintes ou jeunes mamans en détresse avec ou sans enfants
Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte
38, rue d'Anvers
L-1130 Luxembourg
Luxembourg
fmateriel@fmpo.lu / Tél. : +352 40 54 38

3. Foyer Paula Bové

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes en détresse avec ou sans enfants - Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte
38, rue d'Anvers
L-1130 Luxembourg
Luxembourg
fpbove@fmpo.lu / Tél. : +352 49 10 17

4. Foyer Pro Familia

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes en détresse avec ou sans enfants - Fondation Pro Familia
5, rue Zoufftgen
L-3598 Dudelange
Luxembourg
femmes@profamilia.lu / Tél. : +352 51 72 72-41

5. Foyer Siche

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes en détresse avec ou sans enfants - Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte
4, rue Charles Rausch
L-7247 Helmsange
Luxembourg
m.mersch@fmpo.lu / Tél. : +352 33 25 96

6. Foyer Sud

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes en détresse avec ou sans enfants - Conseil National des Femmes du Luxembourg

104, Boulevard J.-F. Kennedy
L-4106 Esch-sur-Alzette
Luxembourg
foyersud@pt.lu / Tél. : +352 54 57 57

7. Fraenhaus

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes victimes de violence domestique avec ou sans enfants
Femmes en Détresse a.s.b.l.
L-1010 Luxembourg
Luxembourg
foyer@fraenhaus.lu / Tél. : +352 44 81 81

8. Maison Maternelle Sichem

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes enceintes ou jeunes mamans en détresse avec ou sans enfants
Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte
4, rue Charles Rausch
L-7247 Helmsange
Luxembourg
m.mersch@fmppo.lu / Tél. : +352 33 25 96

9. Meederchershaus (Accueil urgent en situation de crise psychosociale aiguë)

Centre d'accueil urgent pour jeunes filles en situation de crise psychosocial aiguë AUSCPA (12-21 ans)
Femmes en Détresse a.s.b.l.
L-1010 Luxembourg
Luxembourg
foyer@mederchershaus.lu / Tél. : +352 29 65 65

10. Noémi a.s.b.l.

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes en détresse avec ou sans enfants - Noémi a.s.b.l.
105, avenue Pasteur
L-2311 Luxembourg
Luxembourg
noemiasb@pt.lu / Tél. : +352 540177

