

Creation of the 1st Structure
in Luxembourg with
Shelter & Services dedicated to
**FATHERS WITH
CHILDREN**
**VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
& Emotional Abuse**



Lët'z Make Résidence Alternée **THE DEFAULT LAW** in Luxembourg

FAD™ Postulate No.3 - “Creation of the 1st Luxembourg based Structure with Services and Shelter dedicated to Fathers with Children, Victims of Domestic Physical Violence, Moral violence and Emotional Abuse”, seeking help, assistance, and asylum. A safe place where fathers with children can receive help as well as legal and financial assistance equal to that available in Luxembourg to mothers - The FAD™ Study initially published in January 2021 and updated in May 2023. The study is in English for the purpose of providing the content to the public in Luxembourg but also to distribute them to other organizations in Europe specializing in dealing with inequality of treatment in government institutions of EU member states.

1. Introduction

As a result of social stigmas, the narrative, radical organizations, and 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 moral violence, emotional abuse, hitting, and who hits first, partner abuse is represented almost evenly across both genders. Luxembourg is not an exception to that rule.

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2. Summary

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

The current status quo and institutional discrimination of fathers along with the rhetoric and the narrative promoted by certain organizations 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 indirectly questioning the importance of a nuclear family, the very foundation of Luxembourg society and undermining the role of fathers in children's lives.

When Luxembourg officials discuss publicly the support offered to men and fathers in a global number of "spots" available in Luxembourg to "men in distress" is provided. Presumably with an aim to prove that there is a sufficient number of such facilities in the country. It is important to understand what that global number **32** sometimes referred to as **28** stand for.

Assistance available to "men in distress" in Luxembourg:

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 helping 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.

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

occur the moment the Police leaves. Psychological blackmail taking advantage of the Istanbul Convention ratified by Luxembourg in 2018. And, yes, this is not an alleged theory but fact. FAD receives many reports, and this is a general approach taken in such cases.

The Annual Reports of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg never emphasize the inadequate number of male evictions and do not even attempt to discuss evictions of male victims. Presumably for the reason being that such discussion would bring discomfort exposing methodological institutional discrimination of men and fathers in Luxembourg and continuous efforts to suppress any public discussion about the problem. When FAD pointed this out in one of our correspondences, the annual reports as of 2018 stopped mentioning number of male evictions in a coherent form.

The reason why we never hear about the problem is because any form of dialog would reveal facts to Luxembourg citizens and residents that it is not just alleged male perpetrators that are evicted from their homes. We would learn that it is also the male victims of domestic violence or emotional abuse that are ordered to leave their houses and often forced to be separated from their children. Why? Mainly because of the well-known cruel narrative that promotes the idea that men are disposable, and fathers are secondary parents whose love to their children is not that important or at least does not have the same value as the love of the other parent.

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

infoMann also informs that there are “**11 spots NOT 32 nor 28** available for male victims of domestic violence with **only 2 of them allowing 2 children!**”. Considering the average of 318 evictions per year in the last 10 years with over 85% of male evictions there is continuous shortage of services available to fathers with children. 2 spots for fathers with children, victims of domestic violence for the entire country. Yet, the narrative is that the numbers are adequate and sufficient.

3. Annual Reports on Domestic violence in Luxembourg

2021 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes:

917 domestic violence Police interventions

60.69% reported female victims

39.31% reported male victims

67.69% reported male perpetrators

32.31% reported females perpetrators

Evictions: Total 249 with 229 male evictions (91.96% of all evictions).

The 2021 Report shows an increase of male victims of annually reported domestic violence in Luxembourg with the number to be again close to 40% (39.31%).

Following a set of FAD interventions asking about the high number of male victims of domestic violence being evicted, the Report, as of 2021, stopped providing precise information about gender of those expelled from home. Withholding this information from the public makes it no longer possible to establish an accurate number of male victims of domestic violence evicted from their homes and often separated from children. Uncomfortable truth.

2020 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes:

943 domestic violence Police interventions

60.28% reported female victims

39.72% reported male victims

70.35% reported male perpetrators

29.65% reported females perpetrators

Evictions: Total 278 with 234 male evictions (84.1% of all evictions). Evictions included 23.89% of male victims.

The 2020 Report mentioned 39.72% of male victims of domestic violence and 234 male evictions of which 23.89% included male victims. This is the last year when manual calculation to receive the number of male victims evicted was possible. The next report from 2021 will no longer mention nor provide information that will allow such calculation, denying Luxembourg citizens and resident information on the magnitude of unjust practices with regards to the number of evicted male victims of domestic violence.

2019 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes:

849 domestic violence Police interventions

63.58% reported female victims

36.42% reported male victims

68.32% reported male perpetrators

31.68% reported females perpetrators

Evictions: Total 265 with 234 male evictions (87.3% of all evictions). Evictions included 18.98% of male victims.

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 unacceptable is that in Luxembourg male evictions include not only male alleged perpetrators but also high numbers of male victims.

In 2019, there were 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. Every year the number of male evictions exceeds the number of male perpetrators.

2018 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes:

739 domestic violence Police interventions

66,1% reported female victims

33,9% reported male victims

69,46% reported male perpetrators

30.54% reported females perpetrators

Evictions: Total 231. Erroneous data provided not allowing to calculate evicted male victims.

In 2018 the Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg introduced a new form of presenting data. Under "Tableau 7 - Relation auteur-victime au moment de l'expulsion autorisée" (page 16) introduced category "Relation de couple h/f-h/h-f/h-f/f"

putting together all 4 types of relations with a total number of **72 (Row 7)** but without any details showing gender percentage. That itself makes the data unclear as with regards to total evictions per gender with calculations having to be done manually.

2018 is also the 1st year when the report stops clearly mentioning the number of male evictions. The changes to how the data began to be presented started taking place after FAD – Fathers Against Discrimination a.s.b.l. numerous interventions pointing out 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 Police interventions

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). Evictions included 24.4% male victims.

2016 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes:

798 domestic violence Police interventions

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). Evictions included 23.33% male victims.

2015 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes:

802 domestic violence Police interventions

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). Evictions included 25.07% male victims. 198 of the expulsions (81.81%) concerned couple or ex-couple relationships.

In 2015, there were 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%?

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.

2014 Official Report of Domestic Violence in Luxembourg concludes

876 domestic violence Police interventions

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%). Evictions included 28.69% male victims. (83.18%) of the expulsions concerned couple or ex-couple relationships.

3. Conclusions

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. 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 an example as an inclusive and egalitarian society. Yet, we fail to assure gender-parental equality in Luxembourg institutions.

The 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 equality. Its missions and initiatives focus mainly on legal and factual equality between women and men.

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. The facts leave no question for the urgent need of setting up a structure dedicated to fathers with children, victims of domestic and moral violence often exposed to 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 mothers with children.

The absence of appropriate assistance available to men and fathers creates a serious problem to Luxembourg society. A challenge that seems to be ignored. Inadequate support offered to fathers in Luxembourg leads to 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 or as equal as possible access to both parents guaranteed by numerous conventions and international legal instruments including United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In 2021 there have already been 10 facilities available to women, mothers with children. Yet, according to the Luxembourg Red Cross (Croix-Rouge luxembourgeoise) there are no structures providing similar services and available to fathers with children. In a highly international society often without any family members present in Luxembourg a father with children in desperate need of assistance experiencing physical and emotional abuse in urgent need seeking for asylum have no place to go.

There is of course infoMann, but the office is short staffed, with insufficient facilities and a long waiting list for those in need. 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.

FAD – Fathers Against Discrimination a.s.b.l. is not requesting anything 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 services dedicated to fathers with children like the already existing in large numbers and available only for mothers with children. Our association is ready to support and participate in the creation of the 1st facility dedicated to fathers with children.

It is time for us 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 another good 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

2. Foyer Maternel

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes enceintes ou jeunes mamans en détresse avec ou sans enfants
Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte

3. Foyer Paula Bové

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes en détresse avec ou sans enfants
Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte

4. Foyer Pro Familia

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes en détresse avec ou sans enfants
Fondation Pro Familia

5. Foyer Sichem

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes en détresse avec ou sans enfants
Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte

6. Foyer Sud

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

7. Fraenhaus

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes victimes de violence domestique avec ou sans enfants

Femmes en Détresse a.s.b.l.

8. Maison Maternelle Siche

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes enceintes ou jeunes mamans en détresse avec ou sans enfants
Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte

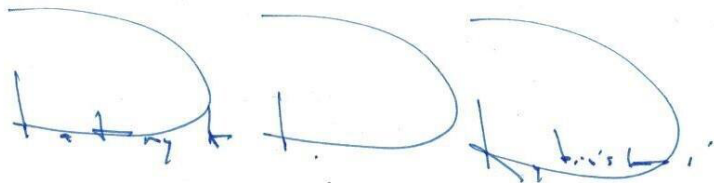
9. Meederchershaus

Centre d'accueil urgent pour jeunes filles en situation de crise psychosocial aiguë AUSCPA (12-21 ans)
Femmes en Détresse a.s.b.l.

10. Noémi a.s.b.l.

Centre d'Accueil pour femmes en détresse avec ou sans enfants
Noémi a.s.b.l.

Most respectfully,



Patryk P. RYBIŃSKI

President

FAD - Fathers Against Discrimination a.s.b.l.

