



## Zero tolerance for gender-based and sexual

violence To sign:

<https://forms.gle/5mBturr6gDdumbY67>

MeToo, NousToutes, BalanceTonPorc: we have all seen or participated in freeing the voices of victims of sexual and gender-based violence. This surge has not been denied until now: far from the "daily denunciation" decried by the President of the Republic, in November 2017, we are facing the pressing need for the victims to change sides in their shame.

Let shame change sides, therefore, let it enclose the aggressors in the burning weight of memory and the aggressions committed. Let it also attack all the partisans of the culture of silence and taboo. Sexual and gender-based violence exists, it is no longer silenced. It must be denounced in order to be eradicated. And the words of the victims must be taken into account.

Our party is not free of aggressors and victims. Our loyalty naturally goes to the latter. It is above all for them, and to make our party a structure that guarantees the security and integrity of all our activists, that we must act against sexual and gender-based violence. A political party is a human community, and the Socialist Party promotes the individual emancipation of all people, including women. It is in this sense that it is feminist, that it defends equality between women and men and the rule of law.

Absolute respect for people in all human relations, whatever their nature.  
As "Socialists therefore feminists", we militate against sexism as a system  
of oppression, domination and constraint of the masculine over the feminine; breeding ground  
for patriarchal violence and prison of women's possibilities.

We reiterate our support for the international, national and local associations fighting against  
this violence and accompanying the victims, whose dedication and involvement we salute at  
all times. Viols Femmes Informations, AVFT, Mouvement du Nid, Amicale du Nid, Femmes  
Solidaires, CIDFF network, 3919-Fédération nationale solidarité femmes... you will always  
find the Socialist Party at your side.

In this regard, we firmly denounce the risk of privatization currently incurred by the 3919 call  
platform: the government plans to ensure the extension of its hours to 24 hours a day by  
means of a call for tenders, and not within the framework of the multi-year agreement of  
objectives and means. Traditionally, however, calls for tenders are not favorable to feminist  
associations: and for good reason, they do not exist to be profitable, but rather to  
accompany women victims towards the end of the spiral of violence that they suffer and as  
part of their reconstruction efforts! It is inconceivable that the passage to 24 hours of 3919  
would be made without the trained, specialized and feminist listeners who are currently  
saving hundreds of women.

## **I. Socialist, therefore feminist: for a Socialist Party ethic on the prevention of sexist and sexual violence**

Beyond the laws, the Socialist Party must impose on itself a requirement of ethics, promote solidarity behavior, and remain uncompromising with regard to sexist behavior and sexual violence, whether or not these are punishable by law. For while it is the duty of justice to legally qualify the facts, our socialist ethics consider that any situation that creates suffering deserves to be listened to, that any inappropriate behavior among comrades deserves to be banned and remains the business of the entire party and that, therefore, listening and raising alerts must be protected by our instances.

This is why our party has established a network of referents against gender-based and sexual violence, trained to listen to victims and to guide them; and with the capacity to report internally and, if necessary, to the competent judicial authorities the violence reported to them. This network will only be operational if it is known.

We demand :

- That training on the reality of mechanisms of male domination and the identification of sexual and gender-based violence be deployed in all socialist party federations and made compulsory, especially for parliamentarians and party cadres. Male violence proliferates when it is not identified and denounced as such: it is up to us to cut them off through our collective action.
- That the information about the referents against gender and sexual violence be disseminated in every newsletter of the Socialist Party, and in the programs, whether virtual or not, of all the party's events.
- That the protection of the presumed victims and the word of the victims be guaranteed: as soon as an act is reported, the authorities must take ad hoc protective measures within 3 working days following the report. When a comrade is indicted for gender-based and sexual violence, suspension measures must be put in place in order to combine respect for the presumption of innocence and the protection of activists.
- That conviction for harassment and/or violence against women leads to exclusionary measures.
- That no whistleblower be subject to a disguised sanction or exclusion from the list of candidates.

## **II. Make the fight against violence against women a priority**

In order to combat the culture of rape, we need to make a shift towards the **culture of consent**. The principle of "no means no" cannot suffice to apprehend rape: there is no rape if there is consent, and consent can be withdrawn at any time. Sweden introduced "negligent rape" for cases where someone should have been aware of the risk that the other person would not voluntarily participate in the sexual act, because in 7 out of 10 cases of rape, the victims are paralyzed by fear - astonished, they cannot resist.

In France, rape is defined as "any act of sexual penetration, of whatever nature, committed [...] by violence, coercion, threat or surprise": it is therefore the behavior of the perpetrator that is judged. In practice, the testimonies and suffering of the victims are too often relativized and the complaints are either dismissed or the crimes committed are de-qualified as misdemeanors. We want to **put an end to the criminalization of crimes**, provided for by the law of March 9, 2004: rape is a crime, and to label it as a misdemeanor is to discredit the victims and deny their rights; to establish a justice system that is not for everyone and to maintain impunity for sexual violence.

Given the massive nature of sexual violence committed during childhood, the debate about an age threshold for non-consent also deserves to be (re)opened. The culture of consent is above all one in which the inalienable integrity of the bodies of children and adolescents is respected. It is by protecting our children that we will enable them to be adults capable of fighting against the culture of rape.

### **Child witness = child victim**

**4 million children witness domestic violence in France.** However, 60% of children exposed to domestic violence show symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Let's be clear: a violent husband or partner is a bad parent, a dangerous father for the child. Since the Pradié law, femicide automatically leads to the suspension of parental authority and the criminal judge can, when convicting the spouse for violence, partially or totally withdraw parental authority from him/her (previously only against the family court judge). The judge should have to justify the non-withdrawal of parental authority in the event of a conviction for intra-family violence, in the best interests of the child, and guarantee a protective framework essential to the implementation of access rights.

### **Domestic violence: a billion, if not nothing**

During the health and economic crisis the country went through, the State spent one billion euros per day to finance short-time work. While this was obviously necessary, it puts into perspective all the "there is no magic money" formulas. One billion is what the associations, the High Council for Equality between Women and Men and the Women's Foundation consider necessary for a real inter-ministerial reform against violence against women, independently of the budget allocated to the Ministry of Women's Rights.

We need this billion to **protect pregnant women from domestic violence**. 3 to 8% of pregnant women would suffer domestic violence and 40% of domestic violence would begin during pregnancy. At the maternity hospital in Nanterre, the medical profession estimates that one woman in four would be a victim of domestic violence. According to Mathilde Delepine, from the Saint-Denis Women's House, the child would be perceived as a threat, because it calls into question the aggressors' hold on women who would refuse what they "tolerated" before: "A spouse does not become violent just because his wife is pregnant. There was already control, devaluation, isolation. But under the guise of humor and jealousy, women do not necessarily see it as violence". We must be careful not to forget these 3 to 8% of women, not to leave them "confined" with their executioner when they are most vulnerable. How can this be done? In

setting up training for midwives, obstetrician-gynecologists, etc., so that these women can be taken care of at the first signs.

We need this billion to ensure the **sustainability of the measures put in place within the framework of containment**, in particular in order to diversify reporting systems and enable the perpetrators of violence to be removed from their homes. This has led to the creation of 90 reception points run by specialized associations in shopping centers and hypermarkets, as well as an alert system in pharmacies, 20,000 additional nights in hotels have also been financed and new places at the ASE have been opened for emergency childcare. These additional measures have been highlighted by the confinement but we know that telecommuting is set to grow. Victims of domestic violence will therefore be more and more regularly locked up with their aggressor.

We need this billion for the **reception of victims of domestic violence**. No denial of complaints can be tolerated, no violence must be killed. It is therefore important to develop a culture of victim protection in police stations, in companies, in families and in the entire penal chain. As soon as spousal violence is reported, one and only one referent welcomes the victim, accompanies him/her to file a complaint, to the UMJs for medical findings, in the legal and administrative procedures, etc. This is what is practiced in England and allows the victim to have only one person to call as soon as he or she has a doubt, needs help, etc.

We need this billion to **stop the commodification of women's bodies, whether in prostitution, pornography or surrogate motherhood**. The purchase of sexual services is violence, and as long as women's bodies are sold, there will be no equality between women and men. It should not be forgotten that the average age of entry into prostitution worldwide is 14 years old and that in France 95% of the people in prostitution are foreigners. We, socialists, brought this fight to France with the law of April 2016 and we want to bring it to the international level with feminist movements around the world. However, the extinction of prostitution is not proclaimed - it is built, by law, but also by actions of accompaniment and prevention, which must be financed. Finally, on Saturday, October 17, 2020 in Paris, for the first time, four men were indicted for rape, aggravated pimping, aggravated human trafficking in the production of pornographic videos. It is time to tackle the impunity of the "porn" industry, which offers a dehumanizing and degrading image of women; rapes, including on young minors, filmed online. Pimping and human trafficking networks must be sanctioned and their websites closed down.

### **III. Always think of our proposals through the prism of violence against women.**

With each proposal that our party makes, it must ask itself these simple questions: "can this measure negatively impact women? If so, how can it be remedied?".

Ratified in 2014 by France, the **Istanbul Convention includes economic violence in the definition of domestic violence**. It is estimated that 20% of

victims of domestic violence calling 3919 would also be victims of economic violence. These are well known, denounced by many trade unions and feminist associations, and demonstrated by numerous reports. In 2016, in the 5th plan to combat violence against women, Action 26 planned to integrate economic violence into violence against women and provided for the organization of an interministerial roundtable for 2017. In 2018, the HCE, in its evaluation report of the same 5th plan, deplored the fact that there were "no funds available and no means / levers to conduct such a study, especially if it concerns the field of housing". Finally, in November 2019, the GREVIO in its evaluation of France on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention stresses the need "to establish legal mechanisms to protect women from economic violence." Unfortunately, the draft law resulting from the Grenelle does not address the issue.

Let's take the example of **mandatory paternity leave**. The Socialist Party is in favor of it because, in the extreme majority of cases, paternity leave will allow mothers to reduce their domestic work, and in the case of baby blues, they will be better supported. It could even have a positive impact on their careers since, in the case of compulsory leave of equal duration, an employer would no longer favor a man in his thirties to the detriment of a woman of the same age on the pretext that she could soon go on maternity leave.

**In this year 2020, marked by the death of Gisèle Halimi, we call on all Socialist Party activists to join us in the fight against gender-based and sexual violence**, wherever they are, to come and demonstrate with us every year on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to commit themselves within the party, through their vigilance or by giving their time and energy to the victims. We call on every Socialist elected representative to commit themselves, whether at the local, national, European or international level, to the fight against gender-based and sexual violence. This is the sine qua non condition for the emancipation of women, for the respect of their dignity and their rights, for equality between women and men, which are at the heart of our socialist project.

Cécilia Gondard, National Secretary (FFE), Laure Botella (95), Yseline Fourtic-Dutarde (94), Amély Hebel (75), Nawel Oumer, CN (75), Laurence Rossignol, former Minister for Women's Rights and Senator (60), Malika Bonnot Federal Secretary (69), Claudine Lepage, Senator (FFE), Geneviève Couraud, CN (13), Maud Olivier, referent.e and former Member of Parliament (91), Morgane Caradec (91), Véronique Ezratty (92), Zefi Dimadama, Vice-President of PSE Women and spokesperson for PASOK, Béatrice Hakni-Robin, Federal Secretary (35), Dorine Bregman (75), Isabelle Dahan, 1st Deputy Federal (92), Christelle Charrier, referent.e (86), Claire Donzel, referent.e (74), Jacqueline Devier, referent.e (06), Catherine Smadja Froguel (FFE), Dominique Ramuscello (81), Dieynaba Diop, SN Véronique Barreau (84), Frédéric Orain (41), Thomas Vigot (93), Samira Laal, SNA Handicap (62), Fatima Yadani, Deputy National Secretary (75), SNA federations (75), Sandrine Dubos, SF Women's Rights (24), Emma Rafowicz (75), Pascale Bousquet-Pitt, Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux (33), Jean-Pierre Genin (74), Solange Meynier, Florence Aston, Pauline Joubert (75), Nathalie Riquier (75), Sandrine Runel (69), Charlotte Seutin, Caroline Vauchère (31), Frédérique Berthereau.