



**MARVOW 2.0**

Coordinated Multi-Agency Response  
to Violence against Older Women

# Policy Recommendations

## FRANCE



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Deliverable 4.2: MARVOW 2.0 Policy Recommendations

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# Recommendations.

## 1. National

Background: For the moment, sexism and ageism are considered separately and don't benefit from any common policy. Because violence against older women has not yet been documented nor addressed by the French authorities, there is a gap in means and solutions for identifying, understanding and putting an end to these situations.

### At government level

A dedicated interministerial committee should be put in place with representatives of the Department of Autonomy and Disabilities at the Ministry of Health<sup>1</sup>, the Ministry for Equal Rights<sup>2</sup>, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice. The committee will meet regularly and conduct auditions from experts such as women's organizations, social workers, specialized helpers, nurses and doctors. The committee will draft recommendations for a concrete and budgeted implementation at national and at regional level.

It could base its agenda and methodology on the national project on domestic violence, known as the Grenelle des violences conjugales (2019-2022), but on a smaller scale. It would fill in the gaps of the Grenelle which did not at the time identify specific issues related to older women.

### Data

In order to set up and monitor appropriate policies, there is an urgent need for accurate specific data on all matters related to older women victims of violence. Little is known on this topic but older women do represent the second category in victims of femicides. It could be part of the attributions of the Interministerial Committee.

## 2. Regional

### Prevention

As the MARVOW2.0 project has put forward, trainings will enhance multi-agency cooperation. At Regional level, this means that specific trainings will be organized for professionals who have already had trainings on Violence against women. The new topic of Older women will thus be addressed in a dedicated session.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministère délégué en charge de l'Autonomie et du Handicap, au sein du Ministère du Travail, de la Santé, des Solidarités et des Familles.

<sup>2</sup> Ministère chargé de l'Égalité entre les Femmes et les Hommes et de la Lutte contre les discriminations.

### Information

General information must be made available to older women (*i.e.* not exclusively online), in order to provide help and advice but also to raise their own awareness on matters they might not fully grasp (such as financial abuse, lack of appropriate medical care).

### Specialised services

France should increase the number of specialised services for older women victims of violence, everywhere in the country (in particular, in remote areas). Women need to have access to services that are easy to find and easy to access.

## 3. Local

### COFIL VIF

At local level (*département*) the COFIL VIF (*Comité de pilotage des violences intrafamiliales*) will set up a working group dedicated to Violence against older women. It will bring together actors from women's organisations, police and justice, who have had a specific training.

### CLAV

The CLAV, the *Comité local d'aide aux victimes* is under the responsibility of the Judiciary and works in close connection with the local Women's organisations. It will incorporate to its Agenda the specific topic of Older women victims of violence. This means that the situations will benefit from a multi-agency cooperation which is already in place locally. For the older women, this will mean better access to Protection measures and a closer monitoring of their case. The CLAV being at a very local level, they will also be able to address specific issues such as the role of carers, if applicable.

### Local Observatories

The main institutions in charge of Violence against women, *i.e.*, the *Observatoires départementaux contre les violences faites aux femmes* will play a key role in implementing awareness and efficiency. They will gather local data, interview local experts and organise the trainings and the multi-agency meetings. They will also plan communications aimed at the general public.

### Housing

There is a need to make lodgings available to older women who are leaving a situation of violence. Negotiations should start with social services and local housing organisations, in particular those providing flats with easy access and use, *i.e.* adapted to old age or restricted mobility.

## 4. General

A 25<sup>th</sup> of November campaign aimed at relatives, neighbours and friends of older women could carry information about how to understand situations that sometimes don't seem to clearly fall under "violence". It could focus on the risks and emphasise how to offer help, or a moment to listen and see how to improve the situation. This action will be financed by public funding, *i.e.* from the government or through local Regions/municipalities.

### MARVOW 2 highlight 1.

Set up a multi-agency working group at Ministry level through an interministerial committee that would reflect on Violence against Women AND old age.

### MARVOW 2 highlight.

Give regional level the financial means to provide specific help to older women within the multi-agency system already in place.