



Conjugal Violence and Individuals Without Status

A violent partner may take advantage of the precariousness of their spouse's immigration status to increase their control over them and take all of their freedom away.

For example, a partner may threaten to withdraw the pending sponsorship application to maintain control over their spouse.

This conjugal violence context may result in women hesitating to leave a violent partner out of fear of losing their immigration status or not being able to work to provide for themselves.

Programs and resources exist to allow non-status individuals to break the cycle of violence and regain control over their lives without compromising their ability to live in Canada.

Immigration Options



Non-status individuals who live in Canada and whose immigration application depends on a violent partner can submit an accelerated, fee-exempt application, to obtain a **temporary resident permit** for themselves and their children.

This permit gives access to temporary resident status, a work permit and health care coverage.

There is also an accelerated process for **permanent resident applications** on “humanitarian and compassionate grounds” in cases of family violence.



GOOD TO KNOW

Victims of family violence are not required to testify against their abuser to obtain immigration status.

However, it is important to describe and document the violent situation in the application.



Women's shelters can help women who are victims of conjugal violence with their immigration procedures, even if they are not being housed there.



It is recommended to get advice from a **lawyer** or a **legal resource centre** before making an application.

To find out more about immigration status measures, [visit this page](#)



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Resources



If they are victims of criminal acts in a conjugal violence situation (e.g. forcible confinement, intimidation, armed assault, etc.), non-status individuals can apply confidentially to the IVAC for **compensation** and can receive free **psychosocial and legal follow-up services** at Crime Victims Assistance Centres (CAVAC).



SOS Violence conjugale

Phone: 1-800-363-9010
SMS: 438-601-1211



Shelters for women who are victims of conjugal violence

Available 24/7

- Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale
maisons-femmes.qc.ca
- Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes
fmhf.ca



Boussole juridique (free or low-cost legal resources directory)

boussolejuridique.ca



Juripop (free legal helpline for victims of conjugal violence)

1-855-587-4767



Crime Victims Assistance Centre

cavac.qc.ca



Doctors of the World (free, confidential health care)

doctorsoftheworld.ca

Regroupement des maisons pour
femmes victimes de violence conjugale

maisons-femmes.qc.ca

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