

Dear Berliners, dear Sir and Madam,

On 17 February 2014 our outpatient Clinic for the Protection against Violence began its work thanks to the financial support from the Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection. More than 1,000 people who were affected turned to us during the first two years. This clearly showed the need for our clinic in Berlin.

We were able to extend our service offer for you substantially thanks to the support provided by the Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection, the Senate Department for Health, the Senate Department for Labour, Integration and Women, the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Science and the MPs of the Berlin Parliament and the employees of the parliamentary groups. We would like to express our sincere thanks to them for this support!

The Clinic for the Protection against Violence wishes to support you as well as possible through our work.

If you want to support our project you can learn more about our donation account [here](#).

Prof. Dr. Michael Tsokos & Dr. Saskia Etzold &

the team of the clinic for the protection against violence

## Clinic for the Protection against Violence

Charité considers domestic violence, sexualised violence, interpersonal violence and child abuse as widespread problems involving serious and mostly long-lasting health consequences.

The underlying idea of our institution was to create a low-threshold offer for victims of violence to have injuries suffered by them forensically examined and documented. This is also possible without involving the police and free of charge.

We provide forensic examination and counselling after:

- Domestic violence in couple relationships
- Injuries from interpersonal assaults
- Sexualised violence (healthcare is provided in the Charité rescue centres)
- Experience of violence on duty / at work
- Child abuse (contact only possible via institutional organisations)

## Contact

Telephone consultation hours: Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 3 pm.

Examinations: Monday to Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

**phone: +49 30 450 570 270**

**It is absolutely necessary to make an appointment for the forensic examination and documentation.**

## **Physical violence**

### **First things first:**

If you are acutely injured please contact your doctor or a rescue centre as fast as possible because we do not treat injuries.

We will agree everything we do with you and will not do anything without your express permission.

The staff of the Clinic for the Protection against Violence is bound to secrecy, also towards the police, the public prosecutor and the courts. It is up to you to decide whether, when and how you want to use the documentation.

We will pick you up at the entrance door at the agreed time. We will provide for a secure atmosphere in a protected room for the forensic examination, documentation and photo documentation of consequences of injuries received.

The documentation does not mean that you have to file charges. Rather, it is possible to archive the documentation in our clinic so that you can also decide whether to report to the police later. It is also possible to use the documentation, for example, in civil proceedings.

We can offer counselling to people affected by domestic violence at the Clinic for the Protection against Violence, if they wish, in partnership with the Berlin Initiative against Violence to Women and Victim Aid.

### **If you are an in-patient in a hospital, are staying in a women's shelter / a refuge or have been injured on duty / at work:**

If you are unable to come to us, we can see you in hospital, in the women's shelter / a refuge or at your workplace to carry out the forensic documentation. Please call and make an appointment with us or ask the medical staff to make an appointment for you.

## **Sexualised violence**

### **Do you want to file charges?**

Report to the nearest police station immediately!

If you have filed charges with the police, the securing of evidence can take place within the first 72 hours after the offence 24/7 at the Charité rescue centres.

Examinations are carried out Monday to Friday from 8 am to 6 pm by a forensic specialist of the Clinic for the Protection against Violence in partnership with the gynaecological / surgical department. Outside these hours examinations are only carried out by the staff of the gynaecological / surgical department.

### **From 1 July 2016**

#### **If you do not want to report to the police yet:**

In this case it is possible to conduct confidential securing of evidence (securing of evidence without reporting to the police) after sexualised violence during the first 72 hours after the offence at the rescue centres of the Charité Monday to Friday from 8 am to 6 pm. It is absolutely necessary to make an appointment with us (phone: +49 30 450 570 270) and to bring your health insurance card and your identity card / passport or another piece of identification.

We store DNA traces for one year. You may file charges within this period and the police can collect the traces from our clinic.

The evidence is disposed of after one year without further notice.

Aid for people affected from physical violence:

## **Have you experienced physical violence?**

### **First things first:**

If you are acutely injured please contact your doctor or a rescue centre as fast as possible because we do not treat injuries.

### **What do we offer?**

We set up a free forensic documentation of your injuries. This is court-proof if you decide to initiate criminal proceedings later. We will agree everything we do with you and we will not do anything without your express permission. We are bound to secrecy also towards the police and the courts.

### **What do you have to do?**

Please make an appointment with us at: **+49 30 450 570 270**

Please bring:

Your identity card / passport or another piece of identification.

Medical reports which are related to the current act of violence.

The reference number if you have already reported the act of violence to the police.

It is up to you to decide whether, when and how you want to use the documentation!