

The Formentera Office of Social Welfare has put together an informational brochure to prevent gender violence and provide support for victims on Formentera. The brochure is a tool developed by the Women's Information and Assistance Service (Servei d'Informació i Atenció a la Dona, SIID) and has been published in eight different languages: Catalan, Spanish, English, French, Italian, German, Arabic and Romanian. A total of 2,000 copies have been printed in Catalan, 2,000 in Spanish and 1,000 in each of the other languages. The brochures are available at the municipal library, Espai Dones, the hospital, OVAC, Antoni Blanc sports centre, Formentera Local Police, Civil Guard, tourist information points, Justice of the Peace, Employment Service of the Balearic Islands (SOIB) and more.

Rafael Ramírez, Councillor of Social Welfare, said the reissue was about "publicising the municipal service for the maximum number of women, regardless of country of origin", and insisted eliminating language barriers had been a key concern: "This is about preventing gender violence among as many women as possible".

Apart from basic information on what SIID is and what it does, the brochure asks a series of questions to highlight situations which female victims of gender-based violence may face.

Has your partner done any of the following?

- -Check your cell phone, WhatsApp, email or social media?
- -Continually call or text you to find out where you are?
- -Refuse to let you see certain friends?
- -Prevent you from seeing family?
- -Prefer you not study or work?
- -Criticise how you dress or your appearance?
- -Talk badly to or insult you?
- -Try to make you feel guilty? Tell you that you are to blame for everything?
- -Threaten to harm your family or take your children?
- -Humiliate or discount you in front of others?
- -Throw or break objects when you are upset?

- -Threaten to hit you?
- -Physically assault you?
- -Force you to have sex or make you do things you don't feel like doing?
- -Finally, are you afraid of him and afraid of how he might react?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, it is possible that you are experiencing gender-based violence.

The Formentera SIID is a targetted counselling service, with a programme of comprehensive care for gender violence victims. It offers a space of confidentiality, active listening, respect and empathy as well as support in the form of social care, specific psychological care for victims and children and legal advice throughout the process of integral recovery.

In addition, the SIID is in constant coordination with various government agencies to improve comprehensive care for women.

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