



FEMMES FOR FREEDOM

Foundation Femmes for Freedom advocates for all girls and women who experience the serious consequences of gender inequalities within marriage, sexual repression and economic abuse. Equal rights for men and women is our goal: in law and in practice.

Femmes for Freedom has realized an impressive track record through:

1. **Grassroots with an unstoppable growth.** Femmes for Freedom is carried by and for women who know what they're fighting for.
2. **Professionalism with heart and soul.** Femmes for Freedom's expertise is with the signaling of problems in society and translating them into effective legislation, policy and assistance, based on its own research in the Netherlands and abroad.
3. **Communital and political change.** Femmes for Freedom has a direct legal, societal, cultural and political impact. Politicians and policy-makers developed new policies in response to our suggestions: social and legal scientists base new investigation on topics put on the agenda by Femmes for Freedom.

Sustainable impact

Femmes for Freedom's work has led to new legislation, assistance and policy to aid girls and women. This impacts the lives of many women and cannot be expressed in words and figures. For a small selection of our impact, check the backside of this flyer.

Impact on legislation and policy:

- **2010 - now:** Fighting for the recognition of marital captivity in the Netherlands and abroad
- **2012:** The expansion of the Dutch law against forced marriage with the inclusion of marital captivity, making the Netherlands the first country in the world to criminalize marital captivity.
- **2020:** New medical guidelines for professionals regarding hymen reconstructions
- **2020:** Political motion for a ban on hymen reconstructions was accepted in Dutch parliament
- **2020:** Political motion regarding the legal recognition of marital exploitation, domestic servitude and forced isolation was accepted in Dutch parliament
- **2021:** Bill regarding combating of marital captivity in civil law was passed in Dutch parliament and is under governmental consideration

Impact on policy and assistance

- **2021 - now:** More attention for the education and training of professionals in how to handle and solve marital captivity
- **2016:** Set-up of consular assistance to victims of forced marriage and abandonment: offering security measures abroad, a plane ticket back and shelter in the Netherlands
- **2016:** Recognition of poverty as a consequence of living in a women's shelter by the National Ombudsman.
- **2021:** Establishment of the Centre for Domestic Violence in Rotterdam as a consequence of Femmes for Freedom's lobby and campaigns for a domestic violence centre in Rotterdam
- **2021:** Inclusion of recovery surgery after female genital mutilation in Dutch health insurance. By example of the UK and USA, there is now also more attention for potential victims of FGM at airports, in order to enhance prevention

International cooperation

- **2013:** Putting marital captivity on the United Nations agenda at the CSW57
- **2016:** Recognition of marital captivity by the CEDAW Committee
- **2018:** Set-up of the action plan against marital captivity by European Parliament party Renew Europe
- **2021:** Submitting an amendment to the French parliament by the RSDE in order to realize the criminalization of marital captivity, by adding it to the Loi Separatisme.
- **2021:** After our lobby at the European Parliament, Parliamentarian Samira Rafaela submitted questions to the European Commission regarding marital captivity.

What can I, or what can my organisation, do?

The challenges that women's emancipation face are universal. Cooperation on the national and international level is essential. Do you want to exchange views about partnerships, lectures, workshops, research, or obtain practical advice for your organisation or government? Contact info@femmesforfreedom.com