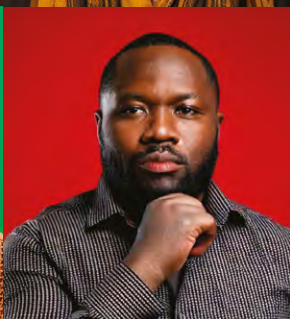




HEALTH & RIGHTS

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR
MIGRANTS IN FRANCE



 **AIDES**
MILITER · AGIR · TRANSFORMER
MEMBRE DE COALITION PLUS

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This guide was produced with input from migrant activists working with AIDES. It was decided that this guide should first be published in French, before being translated into English, in order to reach as many people as possible. Other versions may be published if possible. Accessible vocabulary has been used throughout the guide, rather than inclusive language, even though the latter is the norm at AIDES, to make the guide easier to read. Our goal is to make this information accessible to everyone.



INTRODUCTION

The right to health is fundamental and should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their origin, gender, sexual orientation, migration status or socio-economic situation. However, many migrants still face significant challenges in accessing healthcare. The migration journey itself, as well as language barriers, economic insecurity, stigmatization and a lack of appropriate, and easily accessible information, can increase vulnerability and prevent access to healthcare and services for the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. This, in turn, prevents people from enjoying good health.

This guide aims to inform and support you in accessing healthcare and your legal rights in France. It provides clear, accessible information on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, as well as details of the available resources.

AIDES is an association that combats HIV and viral hepatitis. It strives to eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote access to healthcare for all. AIDES supports people on their HIV/AIDS healthcare journey by offering information sessions and support groups. Our goal is to empower people to take control of their health and encourage them to take action for themselves and their communities.

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR
MIGRANTS IN FRANCE

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USEFUL INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



In France, the healthcare system provides medical treatment and health and sexuality counseling to everyone, including foreigners. Therefore, it is important to understand how the system works and where to go for help.

Even if you are in an irregular situation (no official papers), you are entitled to healthcare in France. This right is guaranteed by law. There are mechanisms and structures in place that can be accessed without fear of deportation. This section outlines the structures that provide free healthcare and information.

Some information to help you access food and accomodation

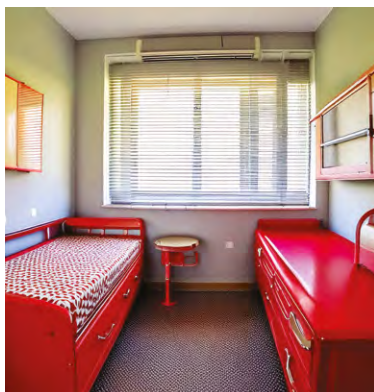
WHERE CAN YOU GET FREE OR LOW-COST FOOD?



In some areas, town halls and associations offer free or low-cost food assistance, such as hot meals or food distribution. They may also distribute sanitary products, clothing, blankets, and so on. For more information, visit your local town hall or the social services department (CCAS: Centre communal d'action sociale or CIAS: Centre intercommunal d'action sociale) closest to your home, or contact one of the following associations:

- www.restosducoeur.org/associationsdepartementales
- www.secourspopulaire.fr/secours-populaire
- www.croix-rouge.fr/Pres-de-chez-vous
- www.epiceries-solidaires.org
- www.secourscatholique.fr

WHERE CAN YOU FIND ACCOMMODATION, REST AND SUPPORT?



Emergency accommodation and night shelters

Some associations offer accommodation to people in precarious situations, for varying lengths of time.

For more information, call **115**.

Day centres

Several associations offer day centres where people can rest and access various types of assistance and services, depending on the location. These may include meals, washing machines, phone charging stations, Wi-Fi, advice and social support.

Social workers

Their role involves welcoming people, guiding them through various procedures and assisting them with accessing rights, healthcare and social housing.



Social centers

This is a facility where you can meet people and take part in social, family, educational and cultural activities, such as French lessons and art classes.

www.centres-sociaux.fr/reseau/#decouvrirreseau

Visit your local social centre or town hall to find all the addresses you need.

How can you access medical care?

USEFUL ADDRESSES FOR TREATMENT AND MEDICAL CARE

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Numbers to call in case of emergency

- 18** Fire Department (to report a dangerous or serious situation, such as an accident or fire)
- 15** Samu or Service d'aide médicale urgente (emergency medical service)
- 112** European emergency number
- 114** For deaf or hard of hearing people, or to alert the emergency services by text message
- 17** Police assistance in the event of an assault or to report a crime
- 115** Social emergency number for people without accommodation or victims of violence requiring emergency shelter



Hospital emergency departments

If you have a serious or urgent health problem, you can also go to the emergency department of any hospital. They are open 24 hours a day, every day.

If you do not have health insurance, it is advisable to ask to see a social worker at the hospital, as this will help you to avoid paying for the consultation, which costs €19.61.

FOR NON-URGENT CASES

The PASS

If you have a non-urgent health problem, the PASS (Permanence d'accès aux soins de santé hospitaliers) can provide you with permanent access to hospital healthcare, even if you don't have health insurance. This service is available at certain hospitals.

It allows you to consult a doctor, receive specific care (dressings, etc.), undergo additional tests (X-rays, blood tests, etc.) and obtain medication if necessary. Oral care is also available through the PASS for dental emergencies or infections. You can also consult a social worker, who can help you navigate healthcare procedures, including applying for state medical aid (Aide médicale d'État - AME) (see below).

INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN FRANCE

PERSON WITHOUT DOCUMENTS IN FRANCE

There are two schemes that provide free healthcare:

- **Access to emergency healthcare services (Dispositif de soins urgents et vitaux - DSUV)**

is intended for individuals who have resided in France for fewer than three months or are ineligible for state medical assistance. It provides urgent medical care in cases where an individual's or a future child's health would be endangered by a lack of treatment. This includes examinations during pregnancy and childbirth, voluntary termination of pregnancy (Interruption volontaire de grossesse - IVG), treatment for diseases such as tuberculosis or HIV, and care for minors.

- **State medical aid (Aide médicale de l'État - AME)**

is a social assistance benefit for is provided to foreign nationals without a residence permit who have been living in France for more than three months and have limited resources. It covers healthcare costs (doctor's visits, medication, tests, etc.). Applications for AME must be made to the CAM (Caisse d'assurance maladie/health insurance fund). AME is granted for one year and can be renewed with the CAM each year, provided the conditions are met.

A PASS social worker can help you claim these benefits. For further information, visit:

<https://www.ameli.fr/assure/droits-demarches/situations-particulieres/situation-irreguliere-ame>

LEGAL RESIDENTS IN FRANCE



French social security (or health insurance) covers some healthcare costs (doctor's appointments, medication, tests, hospital stays, etc.) and provides daily allowances for sick leave.

Coverage is provided for people who have been living in France for at least three months and who hold a residence permit (e.g. an asylum application, a certificate of extension of investigation/receipt, or a residence permit). However, it does not provide full reimbursement. It is therefore recommended that you purchase additional insurance at your own expense.

The supplementary health insurance scheme (Complémentaire santé solidaire – C2S) covers 100% of medical expenses for individuals with social security and a low income.

For more information, visit: <https://www.ameli.fr/assure/droits-demarches/difficultes-acces-droits-soins/complementaire-sante>

People on short-stay visas (less than three months) do not have access to social security, DSUV or AME. They must have their own insurance from their home country that covers medical and hospital expenses, including social assistance, for care received in France.

Useful information

Under French law, healthcare services are available to everyone, particularly those who are most disadvantaged. If you experience discrimination, you can report it to the Défenseur des droits by calling **09 69 39 00 00** from Monday to Friday (8:30 am–7:30 pm) or by sending an e-mail via the website: <https://www.defenseurdesdroits.fr/>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is a Carte vitale?

It is a green smart card bearing the cardholder's photograph and containing their health insurance information, including details of their coverage and dependants (spouse, children, etc.).



It enables you to use the 'third-party payment' system, whereby people with social security coverage do not have to pay certain healthcare costs up front to certain healthcare professionals (such as doctors and pharmacists) and only pay the amount not covered by social security for care and medication (i.e. the portion covered by supplementary health insurance).

What is a primary care physician and what is their role?

A primary care physician is a general practitioner who acts as your main doctor when you need medical care. They are the first doctor you see when you have a health problem. They provide better medical follow-up, recommend appropriate treatment and refer you to specialists when necessary, such as ophthalmologists, cardiologists and dermatologists. They also keep all your medical records in one place.

Useful information:

Patients may consult a doctor other than their primary care physician, but they will receive lower reimbursement from social security: 30% instead of the usual 70%.

However, you can be reimbursed at the usual rate if you consult another doctor or specialist directly in certain cases, such as in an emergency, when you are away from home (on holiday or travelling) or if your primary care physician is unavailable. The same applies to gynaecologists, ophthalmologists, dentists, stomatologists, psychiatrists and neuropsychiatrists for people aged 16 to 25.

What is a long-term condition (LTC)?

A long-term condition is an illness that requires prolonged monitoring and care lasting more than six months, involving expensive treatments. Examples include HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis. Having this status means that the health insurance system will cover 100% of these medical expenses for several years. Please consult your doctor for more information.



Useful information: Medical confidentiality

Healthcare professionals (doctors, psychologists, nurses, etc.) are bound by medical confidentiality. This means that they must not disclose a patient's medical condition, family situation or administrative details to social security or the prefecture. Failure to do so constitutes a breach of professional confidentiality and is punishable by law.

However, in order to ensure continuity of care and provide the best possible treatment, some healthcare professionals may need to share information about their patients. This is known as 'shared confidentiality'. You can object to this by informing your doctor.

Please note: Medical confidentiality also applies to all members of health associations or organizations, such as AIDES activists.

Useful information: Professional interpreting

Many healthcare organizations, including hospitals, health centres, vaccination centres, screening centres and associations such as AIDES, hire interpreters. This ensures that you can fully understand and be understood during administrative or healthcare procedures. Professional interpreters respect the confidentiality of conversations, enabling you to discuss your situation privately and to understand medical and social explanations. You can request an interpreter directly from the organization supporting you.

HEALTH



Tests and vaccinations



Medical tests can detect diseases and viruses before any signs or symptoms appear, enabling prompt treatment.

Various screening tests are available in France, including those for HIV and certain sexually transmitted infections (S.T.I.'s), hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis, colon cancer (from the age of 50), cervical cancer (in women from the age of 25) and breast cancer (in women from the age of 50), as well as diabetes and other conditions. The method used depends on the condition being screened for, and can include blood tests, pap smears, X-rays, biopsies, etc.

You can find out more about screening from a doctor or by visiting a health centre or a centre offering free information, screening and diagnosis (Centre gratuit d'information, de dépistage et de diagnostic - CeGIDD), or the PASS.

Vaccination can protect against certain diseases, such as hepatitis A and B and HsPV (human papillomavirus). An effective hepatitis B vaccine is available that can prevent the disease. It is important to get vaccinated as early as possible, with children starting at two months of age. Some vaccines provide lifelong protection, while others require booster shots.



WHERE CAN YOU GET VACCINATED?

Vaccinations can be obtained from a number of different locations, including maternal and child health centres (Protection maternelle et infantile - PMI), vaccination centres, free information, screening and diagnosis centres (CeGIDDs), a doctor's office, or a pharmacy. Some vaccines are mandatory in France, particularly for schoolchildren.

For more information: <https://vaccination-info-service.fr/>

Sexual health

There are various organizations where you can discuss your sexuality and receive support.

WHERE CAN YOU GO?

Sexual health centres, Family planning and education centres (Centre de planification et d'éducation familiale – CPEF) and Family planning units



These centres are free and open to everyone. They provide information on sexual health and offer gynaecological and contraceptive consultations. They also provide support for people seeking an abortion and offer screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (S.T.I.'s).

To find your nearest sexual health centre, call the free, anonymous number **0 800 08 11 11** from Monday to Saturday (9:00 am–8:00 pm) or visit

<https://ivg.gouv.fr/annuaire-des-centres-de-sante-sexuelle>

For more information on family planning, visit:

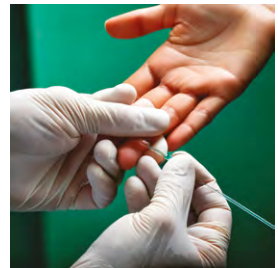
<https://www.planning-familial.org/fr>

Free information, screening and diagnosis centres (Centre gratuit d'information, de dépistage et de diagnostic – CeGIDD)

These free centres are open to everyone and offer S.T.I. and HIV/AIDS testing, specialist consultations (gynaecology and sexology) by appointment, vaccinations and access to HIV/AIDS prevention treatment (PrEP).

To find your nearest CeGIDD, visit:

<https://www.sida-info-service.org/annuaire/>



AIDES Association

AIDES is an association that fights against HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis.

Activists carry out prevention activities in the areas of sexual health and drug use, providing free and confidential access to single-use equipment such as condoms, gel and syringes. They also provide rapid diagnostic tests (TROD) for HIV, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis. They support people living with HIV in accessing treatment and applying for residence permits for medical care.

To find your nearest AIDES office, visit: <https://www.aides.org/le-reseau-aides>

GYNAECOLOGICAL CHECK-UPS

It is important to have regular gynaecological check-ups, regardless of your age, sexual orientation, or sexual activity. We recommend an annual consultation to discuss topics such as S.T.I.'s, contraception, pregnancy and parenthood, menopause, and menstrual cycle disorders. These consultations also allow for screening of cancers such as breast and uterine cancer.



EXCISION OR SEXUAL MUTILATION

The removal of the clitoris (excision) and other forms of sexual mutilation are illegal in France. These practices are punishable by law.

They can have dramatic short-, medium- and long-term consequences, including complications, death, risky childbirth for the mother and baby, pain, loss of sexual pleasure and increased vulnerability to S.T.I.'s. Despite this, it is possible to have a fulfilling sex life and become familiar with your body, particularly by talking to other women who have experienced similar issues. Reconstructive surgery is also an option and is covered by social security.

Hygiene

The vagina is a self-cleaning organ that does not require external assistance. Using products that have not been prescribed by a doctor can have disastrous consequences for your health, sexuality, and ability to procreate. These products destroy the vaginal flora that protects against sexually transmitted infections, thereby increasing the risk of HIV/AIDS. For more information: <https://ikambere.com/>

CONTRACEPTION

To help prevent an unwanted pregnancy, it is important to choose a method of birth control that suits your lifestyle, personal history and habits. Many methods of contraception are available, including condoms, the pill, the vaginal ring, the contraceptive patch and intrauterine devices (IUDs). General practitioners, gynaecologists and midwives can provide information on these methods, help you choose the right one and prescribe it for you at a pharmacy.

For more information:

<https://questionsexualite.fr/choisir-sa-contraception>

Emergency contraception

If you have had condomless intercourse or poorly protected sex, you can take emergency contraception, also known as the 'morning-after pill' or 'emergency contraceptive pill', to prevent pregnancy. It comes in tablet form and should be taken as soon as possible after intercourse, but no later than five days afterwards. It is available from pharmacies without a prescription, but you will have to pay for it. Alternatively, it is available free of charge at a sexual health centre or at a CeGIDD.

Useful information: Emergency contraception does not protect against HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted infections (S.T.I.'s). For HIV/AIDS, there is an emergency treatment called post-exposure prophylaxis treatment (PEP) (see page 27).

VOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

In France, a pregnant person who does not wish to continue with their pregnancy can terminate the pregnancy (IVG - Interruption volontaire de grossesse): this right is guaranteed by law.

Medical abortion is available up to the end of the seventh week of pregnancy and surgical abortion up to the end of the 14th week.

It is performed in a hospital or health centre by a doctor or midwife. The procedure is covered 100% by health insurance, including for those without insurance, through the emergency and vital care system (Dispositif de soins urgents et vitaux - DSUV).

For more information: <https://ivg.gouv.fr/annuaire-des-centres-de-sante-sexuelle>

Sexually transmitted infections (S.T.I.'s), hepatitis and HIV

S.T.I.'s

WHAT IS A SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION?

Sexually transmitted infections (S.T.I.'s) are infections that can be passed from one person to another during sexual intercourse. Examples include HIV, gonorrhoea, chlamydia and syphilis. Some S.T.I.'s can be easily transmitted through contact with the fingers, mouth, or by genital contact. The most common S.T.I.'s are human papillomavirus (HPV) and chlamydia.

A person can have an S.T.I. without showing any symptoms, unwittingly transmit it, and allow it to develop into more serious complications that are more difficult to treat, such as infertility or cancer.

However, there are simple steps you can take to avoid and prevent them from spreading:



1. Use a new condom every time you have sex, with every partner. Remember that male and female condoms are the only effective way to protect yourself against HIV/AIDS and other S.T.I.'s.



2. Have regular screenings based on your sexual activity. The earlier HIV/AIDS and S.T.I.'s are detected, the easier they are to treat.



3. Consider taking preventive treatment against HIV/AIDS (see the PrEP section page 25).



4. If you have an S.T.I., inform your partners so that they can get tested, seek treatment and avoid passing it on to others. There are tools available to help with this, such as this platform that sends anonymous text messages:

<https://longchamp.lespot.org/notifer-ses-partenaires/1>

There are vaccines that provide effective protection against certain S.T.I.'s, such as hepatitis B and human papillomavirus (HPV).

While undergoing treatment for an S.T.I., you should limit your sexual activity and inform your partners so they can be treated too.

Having had an S.T.I. does not mean you are immune, and treatment does not prevent reinfection!

To find out more about S.T.I.'s, visit <https://questionsexualite.fr/s-informer-sur-les-infections-et-les-maladies>

WHERE CAN YOU GET TESTED?

➔ **At any medical laboratory**

No prescription is required, and testing is available upon request and without an appointment for those covered by social security. The test is 100% covered by health insurance for people under 26 and for anyone particularly concerned about HIV.

A prescription from a doctor, midwife or gynaecologist will cover the cost of all tests.

➔ **At a CeGIDD or a health centre**

<https://www.sida-info-service.org/annuaire/>

➔ **At an AIDES association or other similar organization, by taking a rapid diagnostic test (Test rapide d'orientation diagnostique – TROD)**

This test detects HIV, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis. It involves taking a few drops of blood from the fingertip and provides results in under 30 minutes.

For more information, visit <https://www.aides.org/depistage-vih-sida>

➔ **You can also perform an HIV self-test**

These are available in pharmacies and online, or can be obtained free of charge from an AIDES association or similar organization.

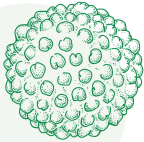
VIRAL HEPATITIS

Viral hepatitis is caused by a virus that affects the liver, causing inflammation. In some cases, hepatitis can heal spontaneously (without medication), but it can also develop into a chronic form that does not heal, which can worsen and result in cirrhosis or liver cancer.

Generally, hepatitis does not present any visible symptoms. It is possible to have hepatitis for a long time without knowing it and still feel healthy.

The only way to find out if you have viral hepatitis is to get tested. The earlier hepatitis is detected, the sooner treatment can begin, and the necessary steps can be taken to protect your family and those around you, particularly through vaccination.

CONTAMINATION, SCREENING AND TREATMENT FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS

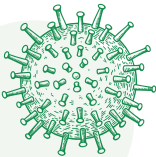


Hepatitis A (HAV)

Transmission: Through contact between the mouth and faecal matter, even residual (e.g. rimming)..

Screening: Through a blood test.

Treatment: There is no specific treatment for hepatitis A, but a vaccine is available. In most cases, hepatitis A heals on its own.



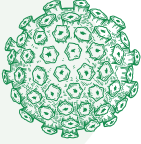
Hepatitis B (HBV)

Transmission: Through blood, unprotected sex, or from mother to child during pregnancy. It is possible, albeit quite rare, to become infected through saliva during a very long kiss. This is why it is important to:

- Get vaccinated, along with your family, friends, and sexual partners.
- Use a condom each time you have sexual intercourse and change it with each partner, to protect yourself from the virus.
- Carefully bandage any cuts or wounds.
- Avoid sharing personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, razors and nail scissors, as these may contain infected blood.

- Use disposable equipment when taking drugs.
- Get tested using a blood test or a TROD.

You can recover from hepatitis B and become immune to the virus. However, if hepatitis B does not clear up, it becomes chronic and requires treatment.



Hepatitis C (HCV)

Transmission: Only through contact with blood via mucous membranes (e.g. during sexual intercourse with bleeding or during menstruation, or through sharing equipment when injecting or snorting drugs, or during tattooing).

Screening: Through a blood test or a TROD.

Treatment: Treatment for hepatitis C cures more than 95% of cases. This involves taking antiviral drugs for several weeks. Having previously suffered from hepatitis C does not make you immune. While treatment can cure the disease, it does not prevent reinfection through risky behaviour.

HIV

WHAT IS HIV?

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIV AND AIDS?

HOW IS HIV TRANSMITTED?

Many people think that HIV and AIDS are the same thing. However, they are not.



HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)

This virus attacks the immune system.

It is transmitted through sexual contact (vaginal and anal penetration, and to a lesser extent, oral contact), blood (for example, by sharing needles when taking drugs), and from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding.

The bodily fluids that can transmit the virus are semen, pre-ejaculate, vaginal secretions, blood, and breast milk.

A person with HIV is said to be 'HIV positive'.

Without screening, diagnosis and treatment, HIV gradually worsens and

progresses to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). The body can no longer maintain sufficient immune defences, allowing other diseases, known as opportunistic infections, to develop and become fatal.

This is why it is important to get tested and start treatment as early as possible. Today, AIDS can be prevented. Although there is no cure, antiretroviral (ARV) treatments enable people to live normal, healthy lives and prevent transmission to sexual partners (see the TASP section on page 28).

HIV is transmissible, but not contagious like the flu. Contrary to some deeply rooted misconceptions, there is NO risk in sharing a glass, towel, kiss or cutlery with someone who is HIV positive. Mosquitoes and sweat do not transmit the virus either.

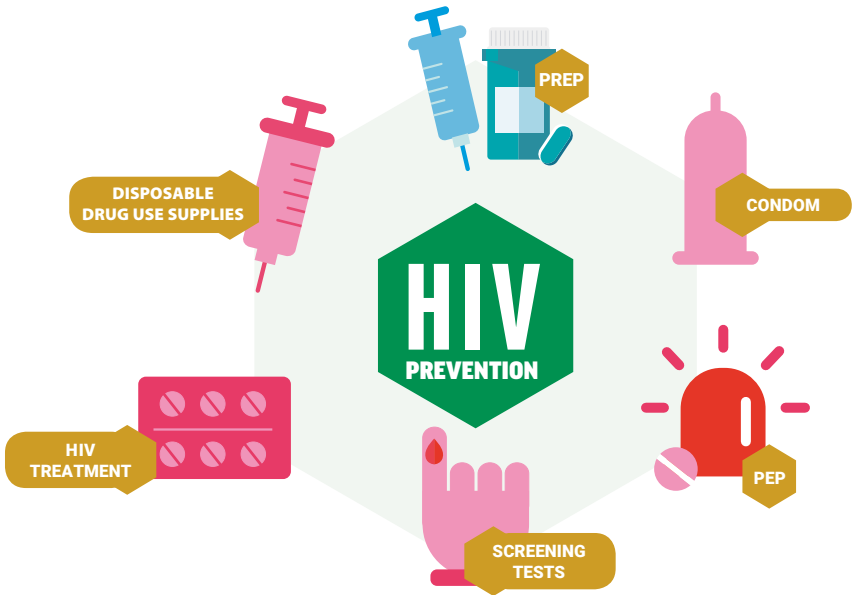
HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST HIV?



A variety of HIV prevention tools are available, which can be used alone or in combination.

This is known as diversified prevention.

Each HIV-positive individual must decide which method or methods of protection against HIV are right for them – it is a personal decision. The important thing is to find the prevention strategy that best suits you and contributes to your sexual fulfilment.



CONDOMS

Condoms can be either external or internal, and are effective in preventing both pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (S.T.I.'s). They are available free of charge from associations such as AIDES, some CeGIDDs and some family planning units, and can be obtained with a prescription from pharmacies. If you are allergic to latex, polyurethane condoms are also available.



USING DISPOSABLE EQUIPMENT WHEN CONSUMING DRUGS

France has a network of drop-in centres and support services for drug users. Known as CAARUD (Centres d'accueil et d'accompagnement à la réduction des risques pour usagers de drogues), these services operate in every department in the country. They provide assistance to individuals dealing with drug-related issues and help them mitigate the risks associated with drug use. This includes the distribution of single-use equipment and screening services.

For more information and to find the nearest centre, visit
<https://drogues-info-service.fr/Adresses-utiles>

PREP: A PROPHYLACTIC DRUG THAT PROTECTS AGAINST HIV

What is PrEP?

- Prophylaxis means preventing infection.
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) means that treatment must be started before and continued after possible contact with HIV.

PrEP is intended to protect people who are not HIV-positive against the virus. It involves taking preventive medication to avoid contracting HIV during sexual intercourse. This medication is available in several forms. A discussion with the doctor will help decide which form is best suited to the person's needs.

However, PrEP does not protect against other sexually transmitted infections (S.T.I.'s) such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and syphilis, nor against hepatitis A, B or C, or unwanted pregnancies. Taking PrEP also means joining a comprehensive sexual health programme involving vaccination against certain S.T.I.'s (hepatitis A and B and HPV [human papillomavirus]), regular S.T.I. screening and treatment, and contraception. This provides the best possible protection.

How can you access PrEP?

PrEP is a prescription-only medication that can be obtained from a pharmacy. You will need to consult a doctor to obtain a prescription.

This is possible:

- through your family doctor, a general practitioner, or a gynaecologist;
- during a specialized PrEP consultation at a CeGIDD. These centres are listed at <https://www.sida-info-service.org/annuaire/>

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is free in France, meaning it is fully covered by social security or state medical aid (Aide médicale de l'État – AME). Even if you do not have health insurance, you can still obtain PrEP free of charge at a CeGIDD or through the permanent access to healthcare scheme (Permanence d'accès aux soins de santé – PASS).

Whatever your situation, the easiest thing to do is to contact the AIDES association for support with this process. They can offer you kindness and support in complete confidentiality and without judgement. Activists will be able to share their experiences of PrEP with you. Visit their website at

<https://www.aides.org/le-reseau-aides>

REGULAR HIV SCREENING

Useful information: Although screening does not protect against HIV, regular testing enables you to know your status. If you are infected with HIV, testing facilitates early access to care and treatment, helping you to control the virus and stay healthy.



It is strongly advised that all individuals undergo an HIV test at least once in their lifetime. Depending on your sexual activity, you should be tested either annually or every three months.

There are several testing methods:

- blood test ;
- rapid diagnostic test (TroD) ;
- par self-test.

Where can you get an HIV test?

- ➔ In any medical laboratory without a prescription. Those covered by social security can get one upon request and without an appointment (the test is fully covered by the National Health Service).
- ➔ At a CeGIDD or a health centre: <https://www.sida-info-service.org/annuaire>
- ➔ At an AIDES association or other similar association by taking a TROD.
- ➔ You can also perform an HIV self-test. These can be purchased from pharmacies or online or obtained free of charge from AIDES or other association.

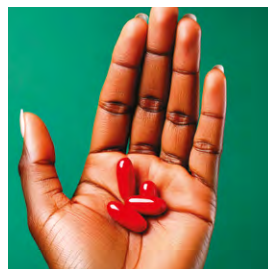
Please note: If the result of a TROD or a self-test is positive, it must be confirmed by a blood test.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ARE EXPOSED TO HIV?

Get post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), also known as emergency treatment.

What is PEP?

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP/ TPE in French) is a treatment that can be taken afterwards to prevent HIV infection in cases where a condom breaks or slips off, when it is not used, or if you are injured by an object contaminated with blood or semen, or if you share drug injection equipment. Some people also refer to it as 'emergency treatment' or 'prophylactic treatment'.



How do you take it?

PEP should be taken as soon as possible after exposure to risk, ideally within four hours and no later than 48 hours afterwards. The sooner it is taken, the more effective it is.

To prevent infection, PEP must be taken for 28 consecutive days. If you experience any side effects, your doctor may adjust your treatment. Therefore, it is important to report any side effects and not to stop taking the treatment without consulting a doctor first.

Where can you get PEP?

You can go to the hospital emergency department 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Depending on their opening hours, it is also possible and advisable to go to a CeGIDD (screening centre).

PEP (TPE) is 100% covered by the French health insurance system. Those without social security coverage (i.e. health insurance) can access it at a CeGIDD or via a permanent access to medical healthcare (PASS), which may cover the cost of treatment.

For more information, call Sida Info Service on **0 800 840 800** (a free, anonymous, 24/7 service) or contact an AIDES activist via the following link: <https://www.aides.org/le-reseau-aides>

LIVING WITH HIV



WHEN UNDERGOING TREATMENT, HIV-POSITIVE PEOPLE DO NOT TRANSMIT THE VIRUS

Tasp: Treatment as prevention



If someone has HIV, they can undergo a treatment called 'antiretroviral therapy'. This must be taken for life. This therapy controls the virus, maintains good health and prevents transmission.

Taking the treatment regularly as prescribed by a doctor ('adherence') makes the virus undetectable, leaving only an extremely small amount of HIV in the blood, semen or other bodily fluids – insufficient to cause infection.

This means that people can enjoy good health and a fulfilling sex life without fear of infecting their partner with HIV. People living with HIV who are receiving treatment can also have children safely.

Please note: HIV treatment does not cure the viral infection, as it is not currently possible to completely eliminate the virus. If a person stops taking their medication, the virus will start to multiply again and attack the immune system.

Where can you get TASP?

Following a positive HIV test result, either the CeGIDD doctor or your family doctor will refer you to an infectious disease specialist at a hospital.

AIDES supports people living with HIV throughout their journey, from testing and accessing treatment to applying for a residence permit for medical care.

For more information, please contact our activists at:

<https://www.aides.org/le-reseau-aides>



Some people rely on alternative healthcare systems and methods, such as homeopathy, acupuncture, herbal medicine, Chinese medicine, healers, spiritual healers, and traditional medicine. These methods cannot cure HIV. However, they can complement or support antiretroviral treatment, but should never replace it.

HIV CAN ONLY BE TREATED WITH ANTIRETROVIRAL MEDICATION.

Should you disclose your HIV status or not?

There is no obligation to disclose your HIV status.

If you have any questions, you can consult your doctor or talk to other people living with HIV through associations such as AIDES.

These associations set up support groups where people can talk and share their experiences of living with HIV or simply break out of isolation. They also provide resources, information, and psychological support.

Growing older with HIV

With the right support, it is possible to grow old with HIV without experiencing any particular complications, and to enjoy the same life expectancy as someone who is HIV negative.

However, some people may develop HIV-related diseases. In medical terms, these are called 'comorbidities'. These can result from an uncontrolled HIV infection, the prolonged use of outdated antiretroviral drugs, or lifestyle factors such as smoking, alcohol consumption, a sedentary lifestyle and poor dietary habits.

Since 1990, AIDES has published the magazine *Remaides* for people living with HIV and viral hepatitis.

To subscribe or view the magazine, visit: <https://www.aides.org/lesremaides>

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IN CASE OF VIOLENCE OR DISCRIMINATION

EMERGENCY NUMBER IN CASE OF ASSAULT

- **17** to notify the police or gendarmerie



SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Violences Femmes Info:**
3919 (free – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
- **SOS Viol: 0800 05 95 95**
(free and anonymous)



DISCRIMINATION

- **Sida info droit:** provides legal and social support to people living with HIV on issues such as social and employment rights, discrimination, insurance, refusal of care, and medical confidentiality.
Call **0 810 636 636** on Mondays (5:00 pm–9:00 pm) or Fridays (9:30 am–1:30 pm) or visit <https://droitsdesmalades.info/sidainfodroit/>



- **Actions Traitements helpline:** An association of accredited patients that supports people living with HIV and/or viral hepatitis.
Call **06 66 45 47 03** (WhatsApp number)

- **Ravad:** (Réseau d'assistance aux victimes d'agressions et de discriminations): A network providing assistance to victims of assault and discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and health status. Telephone: **06 17 55 17 55** - urgence@ravad.org
- **Ardhis:** (Association pour la reconnaissance des droits des personnes homosexuelles et trans à l'immigration et au séjour) An association for the recognition of the rights of homosexual and transgender people to immigration and residence. Telephone: **06 19 64 03 91** - contact@ardhis.org - www.ardhis.org

- **SOS Homophobie: 0 810 108 135**

IF YOU NEED PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

- Get medical and psychological support from the Committee for the health of exiles (**Comede** - Comité pour la santé des exilé(e)s). Call **01 45 21 38 93** from Monday to Wednesday (9:30 am-12:30 pm) or (2:30 pm-5:30 pm). On Thursdays, call between 2:30 pm and 5:30 pm

You can also make an appointment with a healthcare professional at a medical and psychological centre (Centre medico-psychologique - CMP), for support with psychological issues such as trauma, depression or anxiety. To find your nearest centre, visit:

<https://www.retab.fr/accueil/dispositifs.php>

- **National suicide prevention number:**
3114 (free - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

RIGHTS



PREAMBLE

If you are a foreign national wishing to remain in France without risking forced expulsion, you must legally acquire a residence permit.

There are several types of residence permit available, depending on your personal circumstances. The laws and rights relating to foreign nationals in France change regularly. Therefore, the information in this chapter may have already changed since this guide was published, or may change in the future.

To obtain the most up-to-date information, we recommend seeking assistance with your procedures in France and contacting associations specializing in immigration law, such as AIDES, COMEDE or CIMADE (see page 56 for a list of these associations).

Living in France with no legal status some useful information

Living in France without legal status exposes you to the risk of deportation.

However, even in this situation, a number of options remain available. People without legal status can benefit from France's state medical aid (Aide médicale de l'État - AME), which provides free or low-cost medical care. They may also be able to obtain a registered address, which would facilitate the opening of bank accounts and the completion of other administrative procedures, as well as providing reduced transport fares.

Safety precautions:

- It is advisable to travel with a valid ticket, keep your documents in a safe place and carry photocopies with you.
- Should you be arrested, it is essential to contact an association or legal consultant immediately for assistance, legal support, and advice on your situation and the possible alternatives. You may be issued with an obligation to leave French territory (Obligation de quitter le territoire français - OQTF).
- Administrative detention centre: You may also be placed in an administrative detention centre. These centres are where foreign nationals are held when the French authorities do not recognize their right to remain in the country and have decided to expel them. They are held there while arrangements are made for their travel to a country that will accept them, usually their home country. In this case, you have the right to request assistance from an association and to seek release.

If you are formally served with an OQTF, it may be valid for up to three years (see the section on OQTF on page 45).

If you are living in France illegally, it is essential to find out about your rights and prepare for checks or arrest, to ensure your safety and enable you to remain in the country.

**Risk of expulsion in irregular situations**

Since the Act of 28 January 2024, no categories of people are automatically protected against eviction, except for minors.

Different types of residence permit

There are several types of residence permit in France, which allow foreign nationals to legally reside in the country for a fixed period of time. The main types of residence permit are listed below:

- **'Private and family life'** residence permit, including the **'Sick foreign national'** residence permit;
- **'Employee'** or **'Temporary worker'** residence permit;
- **'Entrepreneur/Liberal Profession'** residence permit;
- **'Talent Passport'** residence permit;
- **'(Family) Talent Passport'** residence permit;
- **'Seasonal worker'** residence permit;
- **'ICT seconded employee'** residence permit;
- **'Visitor'** residence permit;
- **'Retired'** residence permit.

All the information and procedures you need, depending on your situation, are available at: <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N110>

Depending on your residence permit, you must either apply to your local prefecture or apply online via the digital administration for foreigners in France (Administration numérique des étrangers en France – ANEF) website: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

Permission to work: All residence permits allow you to work, except for the 'visitor' and 'retired' permits.

Useful information: The residence permit for foreign students and interns

To study in France as a foreign national, you must first apply for a long-stay visa that serves as a residence permit (visa long séjour valant titre de séjour – VLS-TS). This visa is stamped 'student' and is valid for between four months and one year. After one year, you can apply for either a temporary residence permit valid for one year or a multi-year residence permit valid for two to four years. For more information, visit: <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2231>

DURATION AND RENEWAL OF A RESIDENCE PERMIT

For initial applications, residence permits are generally valid for one year.

For renewal applications, the duration may be one year or more. This is known as a multi-year residence permit.

- The applicant must submit a new residence permit application no later than two months before the expiry date of the current permit. Renewal can also be processed on the ANEF website.
- The duration of second and subsequent residence permits can range from one to four years.
- The duration of the 'sick foreigner' residence permit mainly depends on the French Office for Immigration and Integration's (Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration – OFII) estimate of the duration of treatment in France.
- The prefecture will decide on the duration.



Useful information:

The decision to grant a multi-year residence permit is made by the prefecture as part of the renewal process. Therefore, there is no specific application form for individuals to complete.

The prefecture may refuse to renew a residence permit or withdraw it in any of the following situations:

- failure to comply with an obligation to leave the territory (OQTF);
- use of false documents;
- serious offences or crimes;
- acts of violence against elected officials, civil servants, or security officers.

Key points:

- Since the 28 February 2024 law came into effect, residence permits can be renewed a maximum of three times consecutively for the same reason, except for individuals exempt from signing a republican integration contract (e.g. those holding a residence permit for medical reasons). Therefore, you must plan ahead during the first three years to meet the conditions for obtaining a residence permit for another reason.
- Since the 28 January 2024 law came into effect, people applying for a residence permit must sign a contract committing them to respecting the principles of the Republic, including freedom of expression and conscience, gender equality, the Republic's motto and symbols, and respect for its territorial integrity as defined by its national borders. If they refuse or fail to comply with the contract, their residence permit may be refused or withdrawn.

Useful information: Family reunification

This allows you to bring your family (spouse and children, etc.) to live with you in France.

To apply, you must:

- have been living legally in France for at least 18 months with a residence permit;
- have stable and sufficient personal resources (except for recipients of family allowances and the adult disability allowance (Allocation adulte handicapé – AAH), which must be equal to at least the minimum wage (Salaire minimum de croissance – SMIC);
- be able to accommodate your family in a suitable home that meets minimum space requirements and specific criteria (decent housing and facilities).

For more information, visit:

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F11166>

'PRIVATE AND FAMILY LIFE RESIDENCE PERMITS' (VIE PRIVÉE ET FAMILIALE - VPF)

Among the various types of residence permit is the temporary residence permit (Carte de séjour temporaire – CST), stamped 'private and family life'.

You can be granted this permit for the following family or private reasons:

- you are the spouse of a French national;
- you are in a civil partnership with a French national;
- you are the parent of a French child;
- you belong to the family of a foreign national who is legally residing in France;
- you are a young adult who entered France through family reunification;
- you are a young foreign national who was born in France or entered the country as a minor;
- you are a recipient of industrial accident benefits in France;
- you are a sick foreign national;
- you have been a victim of a crime, such as domestic violence, threat of forced marriage, human trafficking, pimping or inhumane accommodation;
- you are involved in solidarity work in a community reception organization.
- for other humanitarian or exceptional reasons.

All the necessary information and procedures can be found at:

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2209>

Please note: Being married to or in a civil partnership with a French national, or being the parent of a French child, does not automatically qualify you for a 'private and family life' residence permit (VPF). You will need to provide proof of length of residence, stability and ties.

Focus on the 'private and family life' residence permit for 'sick foreign nationals'

This permit is often referred to as a 'residence permit for healthcare' or 'residence permit for medical reasons' and belongs to the 'private and family life' category of residence permits.

If you are a foreign national living in France and are seriously ill, you can apply for this residence permit to receive medical treatment.

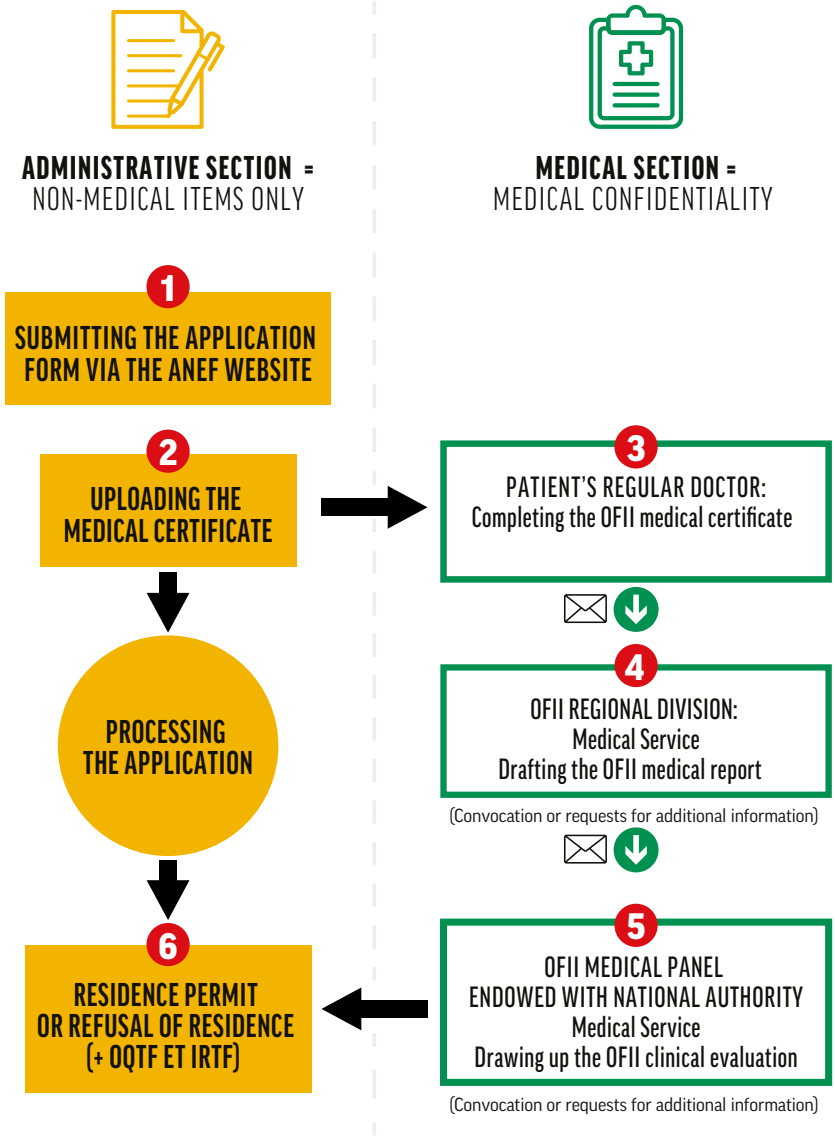
To be eligible for this residence permit, you must:

- ✔ be a foreign national (outside the Schengen area);
- ✔ have lived in France for at least one year;
- ✔ be at risk of very serious health consequences without medical care;
- ✔ be at risk of not having access to appropriate treatment in your home country;
- ✔ not pose a threat to public order.

Please, note: Being HIV positive and/or a carrier of hepatitis B or C does not automatically entitle you to a residence permit for medical treatment or its renewal.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR A 'SICK FOREIGN NATIONAL' RESIDENCE PERMIT

THE RESIDENCE PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS



1 **SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION ONLINE ON THE DIGITAL ADMINISTRATION FOR FOREIGNERS IN FRANCE (Administration numérique des étrangers en France – ANEF) WEBSITE**

<https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

If you encounter any difficulties, please call the Citizen contact centre on **0 806 001 620** or the Prefecture. You can also seek assistance from support groups or associations, such as AIDES.

The following documents must be provided:

- a full certified copy of your birth certificate;
- your passport (pages showing your personal details, expiry dates, entry stamps and visas);
- proof of address dated within the last six months (domicile certificate, etc.);
- an e-photo;
- a signed declaration confirming your commitment to respecting the principles of the Republic;
- a sworn statement of non-polygamy in France is required for married persons and nationals of countries that allow it., invoices, etc.);
- documents proving that you have been living in France for at least one year, such as a visa, certificate of extension of studies, receipt, certificate from an administrative or social organization or association, or bills.

2 **SEND YOUR MEDICAL CERTIFICATE**

Download the medical certificate from your ANEF personal account, print it out, complete it with your regular doctor and send it to the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII).

Your regular doctor must complete and sign the medical certificate within one month of it being made available in your personal account. For peace of mind, it is advisable to send the file by registered post with acknowledgement of receipt.

To ensure medical confidentiality, write 'Medical confidentiality' on the envelope before posting.

3 CLINICAL EVALUATION OF THE FRENCH IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION OFFICE (OFII) MEDICAL PANEL

Once the medical certificate has been sent, an OFII doctor will draw up a medical report.

To process the dossier, the OFII doctor may:

- request additional information from the primary care doctor and inform the applicant;
- formally summon the applicant for additional tests.

Additional information and test results must be provided **within fifteen days** of the request being made.

The medical panel will then write a clinical evaluation and forward it to the prefecture.

Useful information: During the residence permit application process, the prefecture must provide you with a certificate extending the investigation period (récépissé), which allows you to remain in the country legally.

This document is available to view online via your ANEF personal account.

It is valid for a maximum of three months. You must renew it until the prefecture makes its decision.

If the prefecture does not issue this certificate, you can email them. If you do not receive a response, you can appeal to the administrative court. In this case, you can seek assistance from an association or a legal expert.

4 DECISION BY THE PREFECTURE

The prefecture is free to decide whether to grant or deny a residence permit to 'sick foreigners', regardless of the OFII's opinion.

If your application is successful, the prefecture will issue either a temporary residence permit (valid for up to six months) if you applied within the first year of arriving in France, or a temporary residence card (valid for one year) if your first application was made after you resided in France for one year.

In practice, however, prefectures may continue to issue temporary residence permits even if you have been in France for more than one year. This practice is illegal. If this happens, it is important to seek assistance from an association or a lawyer.

If the application is rejected, this may be communicated in writing or implied by an absence of response from the administration after four months. You can then appeal to the administrative court (see the ‘What should you do if your application for a residence permit of any type is refused?’ section page 45).

The residence permit application process often takes several months. If the delay is excessive, applicants can contact the prefecture and seek assistance from an association or a lawyer to appeal to the administrative court and obtain a response.

For more information, visit

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F17164>

Useful information:

The AIDES association can cover 100% of the cost of a first application for a ‘sick foreigner’ residence permit for HIV and/or viral hepatitis B or C, or 50% of the cost of a renewal, upon presentation of a document from the prefecture indicating the amount of tax stamps required (e.g. an invitation by email or text message or a certificate of favourable decision).

Applicants are not required to inform the prefecture of any illnesses they may have. Only OFII doctors have access to this information. They are bound by medical confidentiality and cannot disclose the illness or the nature of the treatment to the immigration office, administrative officials, or even the prefect. The residence permit issued bears the words ‘private and family life’ (vie privée et familiale – VPF) and makes no reference to any illness or need for care.

A residence permit for medical treatment authorizes the holder to work.

Steps you could take after several years of legal residence in the country

APPLYING FOR A RESIDENT CARD

This card is granted to individuals who have been legally and continuously present in France for five years under certain residence permits, including the 'sick foreigner' residence permit.

It is automatically renewable unless the holder has been absent from French territory for more than three consecutive years (unless expressly approved by the relevant authority).

Applicants must be legally resident at the time of application.

The residence card entitles the holder to work.

However, the temporary residence card or residence card may not be renewed, or may even be withdrawn, if the conditions under which it was granted are no longer met (for example, in the event of a family breakdown or breach of public order).

APPLYING FOR FRENCH NATIONALITY

Foreign nationals may apply for French nationality by declaration if they are married to or related to a French national, or by naturalization under certain conditions.

For example, applicants must have a residence permit and have lived in France with their family on a regular and continuous basis for five years. This period may be reduced or waived in certain cases. Applicants must also be assimilated into French society, i.e. demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the French language and an understanding of the rights and responsibilities associated with French nationality. They must also prove that they are of 'good character', i.e. that they have no criminal convictions.

Applications are made to the prefecture of your place of residence and can take several months or even years to process.

For more information, visit

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F34717>



What should you do if you are refused any type of residence permit?

When the prefecture refuses an application, it issues a 'refusal of residence' decision. They may also issue an 'obligation to leave French territory' (OQTF), which may be accompanied by a 'ban on returning to French territory' (IRTF) and 'house arrest' (assignation à résidence – AAR).

You can challenge these decisions by lodging an appeal with the Administrative Court within 30 days of receiving notification of the decision. If the applicant has also been placed in administrative detention or detained at their place of residence, the time limit is 48 hours.

If the refusal decision relates to a dual application for asylum and a residence permit, the time limit for appealing is 15 days.

It is essential to seek the assistance of a lawyer specializing in immigration law to lodge an appeal and represent you in court. Applicants without financial resources can request legal aid, which will enable the state to pay for a lawyer. It is strongly recommended that you contact immigration lawyers directly and ask them to apply for legal aid on your behalf.



The court may uphold or overturn the decision and ask the prefecture to grant you a residence permit.

Useful information: An obligation to leave French territory (OQTF) is valid for a period of three years. During this period, you may be deported and returned to your country of origin at any time during a police check or arrest.

After three years, you can apply for a new residence permit. If your circumstances have changed, then you can apply for a residence permit earlier.

Asylum application

WHAT IS AN ASYLUM APPLICATION?

You can apply for asylum alongside a residence permit application.

This is possible if returning to their country would put a person's life in danger due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinions, or membership of a social group, such as women or LGBTQIA+ people.

In France, insults and discrimination based on sexual orientation are prohibited offences that are punishable by law. An individual may apply for asylum if they have been persecuted in their country of origin due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Useful information: Applying for asylum is a long and complicated process. It is important to gather evidence and seek assistance from organizations specializing in immigrants' rights.

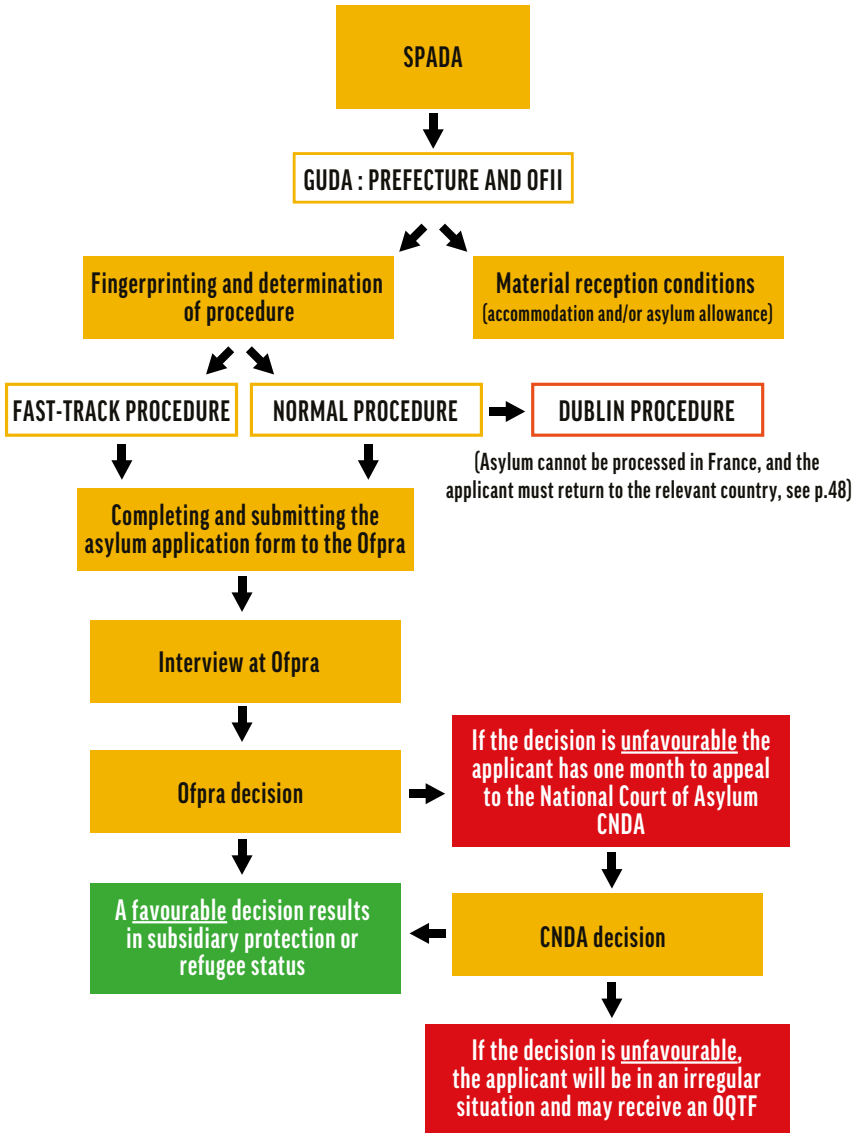
These may include: LGBTQIA+ associations, or organizations that specialize in helping asylum seekers to write their stories, find out about their rights, and navigate the procedure (see the Directory on page 53).

WHAT ARE THE PROCEDURAL STEPS FOR APPLYING FOR ASYLUM?

1 GOING TO A FIRST RECEPTION CENTRE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS (Structure de premier accueil pour demandeurs d'asile – SPADA)

To apply for asylum in France, you must go to a SPADA in the region where you wish to live. This allows you to pre-register your application and receive information about the asylum application process, as well as a summons for an interview at the single information point for asylum seekers (Guichet unique pour demandeurs d'asile – GUDA).

In Île-de-France, you need to make an appointment by calling **01 42 50 09 00** before visiting a SPADA.



2 GOING TO THE SINGLE INFORMATION POINT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS (Guichet unique pour demandeurs d’asile – GUDA)

Located in prefectures, the GUDA allows you to meet with officials from the prefecture and the French Office for Immigration and Integration (Office français de l’immigration et de l’intégration – OFII).

The prefecture is responsible for fingerprinting and determining the legal procedure to follow

- Normal procedure: The prefecture issues a ten-month asylum application certificate that can be renewed.
- Fast-track procedure: This applies if you have been in France for more than 90 days, if your country of nationality is considered safe, or if you are requesting a review. The prefecture will issue a six-month asylum application certificate that can be renewed.

In both cases, you can apply for asylum in France. To do so, you must complete and return a form from the French office for the protection of refugees and stateless persons (Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides – OFPRA) within 21 days. This form must be completed in French and detail the reasons for the application. It must also be accompanied by supporting documents. It is advisable to keep photocopies of all documents.

Specifically, in the case of the Dublin procedure, if an applicant has already had their fingerprints taken or applied for asylum in another European Union (EU) country, their asylum application cannot be processed in France. Instead, the asylum seeker must return to the relevant country. While awaiting the transfer of the person to the country responsible for their asylum application, the prefecture will first issue a one-month certificate, followed by a four-month certificate that can be renewed.

France has then six months from the day the responsible country accepts the transfer to complete the procedure. If an asylum seeker refuses to be transferred to the responsible country, they will no longer have an asylum application certificate and will be considered 'on the run'. They can then apply for asylum in France after 18 months, calculated from the day the responsible country accepted their transfer.

The French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII): provides material reception conditions for asylum seekers, including financial assistance in the form of the Asylum seeker allowance (Allocation pour demandeurs d'asile – ADA), as well as referral to accommodation in an Asylum seeker reception centre (Centre d'accueil pour demandeurs d'asile – CADA) or an Emergency asylum seeker accommodation centre (Hébergement d'urgence pour demandeurs

d'asile – HUDA), subject to certain conditions.

The ADA amount is higher if no accommodation is offered.

Some people may not be eligible for these conditions, for example, if they have submitted a request for review or have received the allowance for more than 90 days.

If applicants decline the proposed accommodation, they will lose their ADA.

Assistance may also be refused or withdrawn if applicants do not comply with certain obligations (e.g. travelling outside the region, failing to comply with the rules or providing false information).

Please note: The 28 January 2024 law provides for the gradual establishment of regional 'France Asile' centres, which will replace the GUDAs. These centres will handle registration, grant rights and process asylum applications.



Remember: Since 2019, asylum seekers with a serious illness must submit a dual 'asylum-residence permit' application within three months of registering their asylum application.

After this period, applicants may only submit a residence permit application for medical treatment in the event of 'new circumstances'.

3 REFERRAL TO AN ACCOMMODATION CENTRE OR A RECEPTION PLATFORM FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS (Plateforme d'accueil des demandeurs d'asile –PADA)

If no accommodation can be found through the OFII, the person will be referred to a reception platform for asylum seekers (PADA), which will help them complete their asylum application and carry out administrative procedures relating to health, transport and benefits. The PADA will also assign them a registered address where they can regularly receive mail.

4 INTERVIEW WITH THE FRENCH OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS (Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides – OFPRA)

During this interview, the applicant must explain in detail why they fear returning to their country. This step is crucial, so it is recommended that they seek advice from the SPADA or other associations to prepare for it.

5 OFPRA DECISION

- **If the OFPRA decision is favourable**, applicants may be granted either subsidiary protection (a four-year residence permit that can be renewed) or refugee status (a ten-year residence permit that can be renewed).

They must then visit the digital administration for foreigners in France (ANEF) website to obtain their residence permit.

- **If the decision is negative**, applicants have one month to appeal to the National court of asylum (Cour nationale du droit d'asile – CNDA).

To be represented by a state-funded lawyer, **you must request legal aid within fifteen days**. It is strongly recommended that you contact asylum law experts yourself and ask them to represent you 'with legal aid'.

A hearing will be held at the CNDA to review the application. The CNDA may overturn the OFPRA decision and grant subsidiary protection or refugee status. Alternatively, the CNDA may uphold the OFPRA decision, in which case the asylum application will be definitively rejected.

Access to healthcare:

Asylum seekers are entitled to social security, but must wait three months before they can benefit from it.

Right to work:

Asylum seekers are not eligible for work permits during the first six months following the registration of their application with OFPRA.

After six months, however, they can access the labour market while their application is being processed. Assuming they have already found a job, the

employer must request this work permit on their behalf.

6 BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Those granted international protection (whether refugees or recipients of subsidiary protection) may be eligible for social benefits from the Family Allowance Fund (Caisse d'allocations familiales - CAF), as well as employment and training opportunities.

They have the right to apply for family reunification, enabling them to bring their spouse and minor children to France.

Further information on asylum applications:

- <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2232>
- <https://www.ofpra.gouv.fr/dossier/demander-lasile>
- <https://www.titredesejour.fr/pada-plateforme-accueil-des-demandeurs-asile-annuaire/>
- <https://www.gisti.org/spip.php?article5117>

Useful information:

Disabled adult allowance (Allocation d'adulte handicapé - AAH)

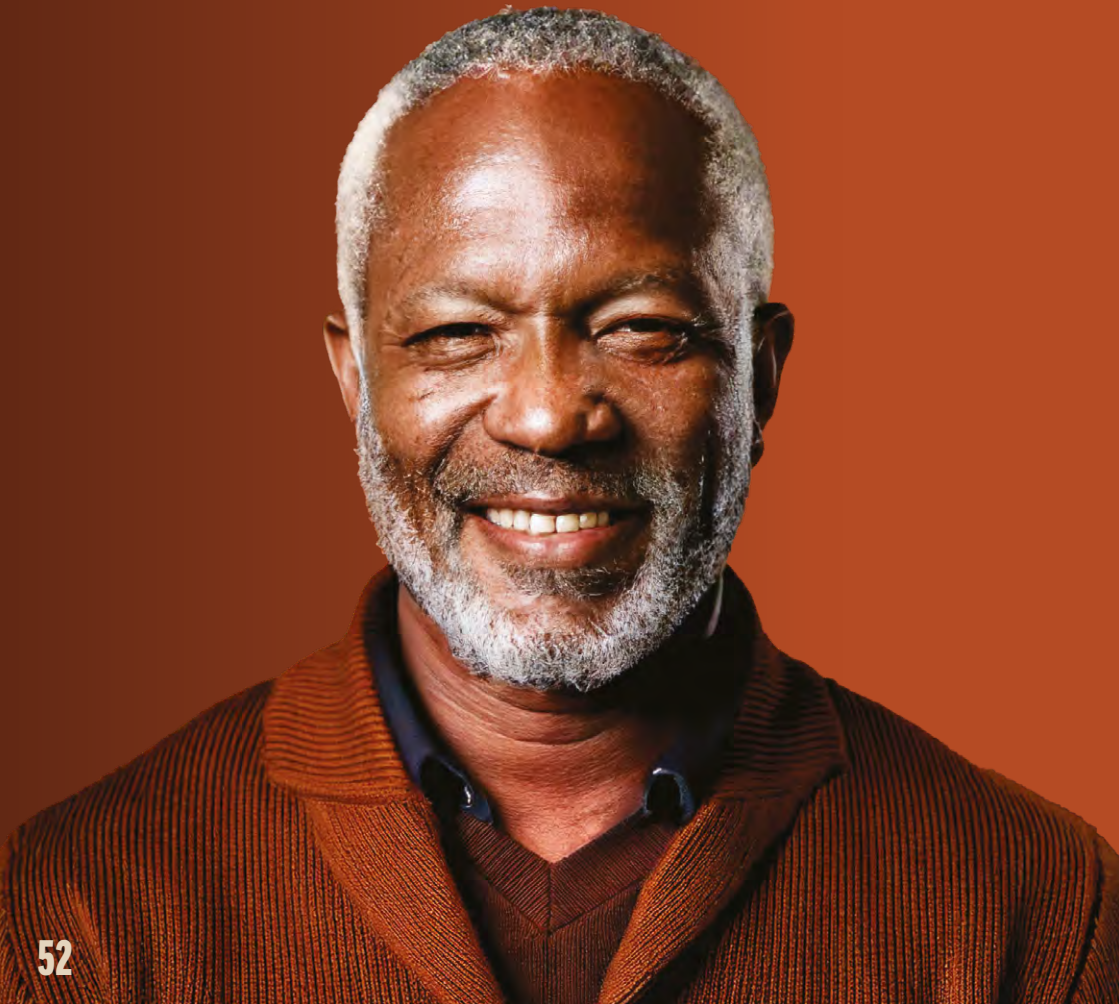
The AAH guarantees a minimum income to cover daily expenses for people with disabilities, including those with HIV. Any foreign national with legal status can apply for it if they meet the following conditions:

- ☑ They must be living in France and have temporary residence permit valid for at least one year or a residence card. Provisional residence permits do not qualify applicants for the AAH.
- ☑ They must also have a permanent disability of at least 50%, as assessed by the Departmental House for Disabled People (Maison départementale des personnes handicapées - MDPH).
- ☑ Applicants must also be over 20 years of age.
- ☑ They must also earn a low income (the amount set by the administration may change over time).

Further information can be found at: <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F12242>

DIRECTORY AND RESOURCE STRUCTURES

FOR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT



This list of sites, structures and associations is not exhaustive.

ASSOCIATION AIDES

To learn more about HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and S.T.I.'s, visit <https://www.aides.org/>

To find your nearest AIDES branch, visit <https://www.aides.org/le-reseau-aides>

OTHER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS FOR AFRO-CARIBBEAN MIGRANTS

Afrique avenir: An association that provides a space for African and Caribbean communities in France and Europe to exchange ideas and take action to promote social, health and cultural well-being. 39 bis Boulevard Barbès, Paris. For more information, call **01 42 77 41 31** or visit <https://www.afriqueavenir.fr/>

Programmes run by the association include Afrique Arc-en-Ciel (a programme created by Afrique Avenir to combat discrimination relating to health, sexual orientation, gender, racism and xenophobia), the Nguya programme and the Zone d'actions communautaires (ZAC) programme.

Association Marie-Madeleine: Based in Versailles, this association provides prevention services and support to people living with serious and chronic conditions, such as HIV. For more information, call **09 51 63 39 37** or **06 67 77 62 40**, or visit <https://www.marie-madeleine.asso.fr/>

BAMESSO et ses amis: This association fights HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and STIs in France and Africa. For more information, call **07 54 16 97 88**

DA TI SENI: Based in Lyon, this association provides HIV prevention services and support for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa. For more information, visit <https://datiseni.org/>

Espoir: Based in Ile-de-France, this association provides HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and STI prevention services, particularly for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa.

For more information, call **01 69 78 20 13** or **06 27 42 96 06** or visit <https://espoir-asso.fr/>

Ikambere: Also based in Ile-de-France, this association supports women living in precarious situations and with chronic illnesses (e.g. HIV, diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure), helping them to become independent.

For more information, call **01 48 20 82 60** or visit <https://ikambere.com/>

Association des usagers de la Plateforme d'accueil des demandeurs d'asile (AUP/ADA) [Association of users of the reception platform for asylum seekers]: Based in Marseille, it was created by asylum seekers to promote mutual aid and provide legal assistance, and access to accommodation and food.

<https://radar.squat.net/fr/marseille/association-des-usagers-de-la-pada-aup>

Association 'Refuge Migrant.es LGBT' (RML): Based in Marseille, it was created by LGBT migrants to provide support to migrants seeking asylum. For more information, call **06 05 66 77 70** (WhatsApp number)

HEALTH RESOURCE STRUCTURES AND ORGANIZATIONS

SEXUAL HEALTH

- <https://www.sexualites-info-sante.fr/sexualites-sons-en-parler/>
- <https://www.onsexprime.fr/>
- <https://questionsexualite.fr/choisir-sa-contraception>
- <https://questionsexualite.fr/choisir-sa-contraception/l-interruption-volontaire-de-grossesse/tout-savoir-sur-l-interruption-volontaire-de-grossesse-ivg>
- <https://ivg.gouv.fr/ressources-et-sites-utiles-sur-l-ivg-et-la-sante-sexuelle> (*guides sur l'avortement en plusieurs langues*)

Family planning: <https://ivg-contraception-sexualites.org/> ou **0 800 08 11 11**
<https://www.planning-familial.org/fr>

To find a sexual health centre, visit:

<https://ivg.gouv.fr/annuaire-des-centres-de-sante-sexuelle>

Association Les Orchidées Rouges, They support women who have been victims of female genital mutilation. <https://lesorchideesrouges.org/>

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIS), HIV AND VIRAL HEPATITIS

To find a centre offering STI prevention and support services, including HIV testing, PrEP and treatment, refer to the following websites:

- <https://www.sida-info-service.org/annuaire/>
- <https://www.aides.org/>
- <https://www.parissanssida.fr/>
- <https://www.sida-info-service.org/>
- <https://droitsdesmalades.info/sidainfodroit/>

For more information on PrEP:

- www.aides.org
- Sida Info Service: **0 800 840 800** ou <https://www.sida-info-service.org/>
- <https://www.sexosafe.fr/>: Santé publique France runs this website, which is the go-to reference point for the prevention of HIV/AIDS among men who have sex with men.
- <https://www.hepatites-info-service.org/>

Access to healthcare:

- Assurance maladie website : <https://www.ameli.fr/>
- Find a healthcare professional or healthcare facility: <https://annuaire.sante.ameli.fr/>

RESOURCE STRUCTURES AND SITES FOR ACCESSING RIGHTS AND RESIDENCE PERMITS

GETTING INFORMED AND INITIATING PROCEDURES

Depending on your situation, visit the **website of the relevant government department** for step-by-step instructions on what to do: <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N19804> (an audio version is available by selecting the text).

To apply for a residence permit, visit the digital administration for foreigners in France - **ANEF** (Administration numérique des étrangers en France) **website** at: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

RESOURCE SITES FOR ACCESSING RIGHTS FOR FOREIGNERS

Amnesty international: Human rights organization providing assistance in accessing rights and legal aid.

To find your nearest office, visit <https://www.amnesty.fr/pres-de-chez-vous>

Dom'Asile: A general information platform dedicated to exiled people in France <https://domasile.info/fr/>

France terre d'asile: An association that supports asylum seekers throughout the process of obtaining refugee status in France. To find the nearest action groups and establishments, visit <https://www.france-terre-asile.org/france-terre-d-asile/les-etablissements>

Médecins du Monde: A national organization working to guarantee universal and sustainable access to healthcare. To find local programmes, visit <https://www.medecinsdumonde.org/nous-rencontrer/>

Observatoire du droit à la santé des étrangers (ODSE): A network of associations that defend the 'right to health' of foreign nationals: <https://www.odse.eu.org/>

Réfugiés.info: A collaborative information portal that provides refugees in France with simple, translated information: <https://refugies.info/fr>

Watizat: An association campaigning for access to information for exiled people in France. It provides multilingual information guides on the cities of Paris, Lyon, Toulouse, Nantes and the Oise department: <https://watizat.org/>

SEEKING ASSISTANCE IN ACCESSING YOUR RIGHTS

Act UP-Paris: A social rights help desk operating at 8 Rue des Dunes, 75019 Paris, every Wednesday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, offering advice on the right to stay, asylum applications and access to rights. More information can be found at <https://www.actupparis.org/>

Act UP Sud-Ouest: Based in Toulouse, this association defends the rights of migrants and carries out prevention, awareness-raising and support activities to combat discrimination: <https://actupsudouest.org/>

AIDES: They provide assistance with procedures and payment of tax stamps for residence permits granted for medical treatment. To find your nearest AIDES office, visit <https://www.aides.org/le-reseau-aides>

Association France Solidarité: This Toulouse-based association provides support to help migrants access their rights, as well as social and administrative assistance tailored to their needs:
<https://francesolidarite31.wordpress.com/>

ASTI Bordeaux: This solidarity association supports all immigrants by helping them access their rights, find accommodation and learn French. Call **05 56 92 65 98** or visit <https://www.astibordeaux.fr/>

La Cimade: This association welcomes, guides and defends foreigners. To find your nearest office, visit <https://www.lacimade.org/en-region/>

Comede (Comité pour la santé des exilés): This organization promotes the health of exiles and defends their rights: <https://www.comede.org/>

- A hotline offering social and legal assistance is available on **01 45 21 63 12** from Monday to Friday, (9:30 am–12:30 pm), and on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (2:30 pm–5:30 pm).
- A hotline offering medical and psychological assistance is available on **01 45 21 38 93**. This is open from Monday to Wednesday (9:30 am–12:30 pm) and (2:30 pm–5:30 pm), and on Thursday (2:30 pm–5:30 pm).

Défenseur des droits: 09 69 39 00 00 (du lundi au vendredi - 8h30-19h30)
<https://www.defenseurdesdroits.fr/>

Gisti: This immigrant information and support group fights for equal access to rights and citizenship, regardless of nationality, and for freedom of movement:
<https://www.gisti.org/>

Call GISTI's legal hotline on **01 84 60 90 26**. It is available from Monday to Friday (3:00 pm–6:00 pm) and on Wednesdays and Fridays (10:00 am–12:00 pm).

GISTI's legal advice covers various aspects of immigration law, such as visas, the right to stay, asylum, nationality, deportation and social rights. They also provide information on the means and tools available to assert these rights.

Le Girofard Bordeaux: This LGBTQIA+ centre provides support to people seeking asylum in France on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Call **05 64 72 14 94** or visit <https://www.le-girofard.org/>

Contact the **French League for Human Rights** by phone on **01 56 55 51 00** or by email at ldh@ldh-France.org

LGBTQIA+ RESOURCE STRUCTURES

- <https://www.aides.org/le-reseau-aides>
- <https://www.acceptess-t.com/>
- <https://ardhis.org/>
- <https://chrysalide-asso.fr/>
- <https://federation-lgbti.org/membres/>
- <https://outrants.org/>
- <https://ravad.org/>
- <https://www.sos-homophobie.org/>
- <https://wikitrans.co/>

RESOURCE STRUCTURES FOR SEX WORKERS

Directory for sex workers produced by Vers Paris sans sida and the Fédération Parapluie Rouge

For each town, it lists the facilities available to meet health, access to rights and community support needs:

<https://www.parissanssida.fr/mes-contacts-utiles-en-france>

Médecins du Monde's Jasmine programme

This programme combats violence against sex workers in the course of their work. It is a resource site for finding out about your rights, contacting an organization or reporting a client.

<https://projet-jasmine.org/>

Syndicat du travail sexuel (STRASS)

A sex workers' union fighting for the rights of sex workers. Legal assistance is available every Thursday by calling **07 60 42 51 80** (2:00 pm–6:00 pm).

<https://strass-syndicat.org/>

INDEX

- AAH:** Allocation adulte handicapé (Adult disability allowance)
- Ada:** Allocation pour demandeurs d'asile (Asylum application allowance)
- AIDS:** Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
- ALD:** Affection longue durée (Long-term condition)
- AME:** Aide médicale de l'État (State medical aid)
- APS:** Autorisation provisoire de séjour (Temporary residence permit)
- ARV:** Antiretroviral
- Cada:** Centre d'accueil des demandeurs d'asile (Reception centre for asylum seekers)
- Cegidd :** Centre gratuit d'information, de dépistage et de diagnostic (Free information, screening and diagnosis centre)
- Guda:** Guichet unique pour demandeurs d'asile (Single information point for asylum seekers)
- HAV/HBV/HCV:** Type A, B or C viral hepatitis
- HIV:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- HPV:** Human papillomavirus
- Huda:** Hébergement d'urgence pour demandeurs d'asile (Emergency accommodation for asylum seekers)
- MDPH:** Maison départementale des personnes handicapées (Departmental home disabled people)
- Ofii:** Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration (French office for immigration and integration)
- Ofpra:** Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides (French office for the protection of refugees and stateless persons)
- OQTF:** Obligation de quitter le territoire français (Obligation to leave French territory)
- Pada:** Plateforme d'accueil des demandeurs d'asile (Reception platform for asylum seekers)
- PASS:** Permanence d'accès aux soins de santé (Permanent access to medical healthcare)
- PEP:** Post-exposure prophylaxis (TPE - Traitement post-exposition)
- Prep :** Prophylaxie préexposition (Pre-exposure prophylaxis)
- Smic:** Salaire minimum interprofessionnelle de croissance (Minimum growth wage)
- Spada:** Structure de premier accueil pour demandeurs d'asile (First reception centre for asylum seekers)
- STI's:** Sexually transmitted infection
- Tasp:** Treatment as prevention

WELCOME TO AIDES

AIDES IS AN ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO FIGHTING HIV AND VIRAL HEPATITIS

IT IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES:

- welcoming and supporting everyone, regardless of their lifestyle choices or practices;
- respecting people's privacy and guaranteeing confidentiality;
- working together to improve everyone's health;
- providing information to enable people to take charge of their own health and take action for themselves and their communities;
- fighting against all forms of discrimination to ensure access to healthcare for all.

WORKING TOGETHER IN OUR COMMUNITIES

AIDES works with anyone who wants to take action to:

- carry out prevention activities in neighbourhoods, markets, and at community events in partnership with other organizations;
- provide information on HIV/AIDS in shelters, accommodation centres and CADAs and SPADAs;
- provide training and support services for organizations created by African communities in France that want to implement HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives;
- provide comprehensive health support, including access to healthcare and rights;
- collective initiatives (discussion groups, social events, etc.).

AIDES works with and for migrants every day to enable everyone to access healthcare and rights in France.

YOU can get involved too!



www.aides.org/publication/guide-sante-droits-migrants



The association operates in all major towns and in most departments:

<https://www.aides.org/le-reseau-aides>