“La Tresse”, born after 6 years of clinical observations, support and care for mothers and children who are victims of domestic violence, is a project designed to heal the mother-child bond.

Every week, mothers and their children aged 0 to 6 are invited to come and meet, bond and separate around games, listening and talking. This space is led by a psychologist and a young child educator, who encourage exchanges between mothers and their children.

“La Tresse” also offers individual meetings for single mothers, mothers with their children or teenagers, or for children or teenagers alone. These meetings aim to set up an educational or psychological follow-up, and are proposed by a psychologist or a young child educator.

Most of the women received at Solidarité femmes 13 suffer from multiple vulnerabilities due to the violence they have faced, but also from isolation and a devaluation of themselves and, by extension, of their role as mothers. However, for some of them, it is this role that has led them to come to the association: the children can then be a “lever” to come and ask for help.

These mothers are often caught between two contradictory movements: the need to protect their children and the fear of breaking up the family, hence the need to provide caring and adapted spaces.

Children, as a result of exposure to violence, face serious consequences for their physical and psychological health. Being a victim of violence encourages the internalisation of the victim’s situation, and can lead the child to replay the family context once in adulthood, by entering into risky situations, developing addictions, or reproducing the mechanism of domestic violence.

“Children who hear or witness violence between their parents (or in which at least one parent is involved) are always victims, directly or indirectly.”

Solidarité Femmes National Federation

How to refer a family to "La Tresse"?

You are a professional in contact with mothers who are victims of domestic violence, and would like to refer them to a place dedicated to the bond between them and their children?

The mother-child bonding space is open every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 in our office at 146, rue Paradis in Marseille. The space is dedicated to mothers and their children aged 0 to 6*. These group sessions are led by a psychologist and a young child educator, and are limited to 5 children per session.

To access the individual meetings, you must first meet with one of our social workers by contacting our standard (04 91 24 61 50), who will then refer you to “La Tresse”. The number of places is limited but there are still slots available!

*If an elder child is part of the siblings, he/she is welcome, if the child is older than 6 years, please mention it when making the appointment

A space designed for professionals

In addition to the spaces dedicated to mothers and their children, “La Tresse” also aims to raise awareness among professionals about the impact of domestic violence on children.

At their request, professionals can be coached in identifying and preventing the risks of mistreatment, as well as in their professional posture when in contact with children, teenagers or their mothers who are victims of violence.

In 2022, La Tresse received:

- 19 mother-child bonding sessions
- 73 different mothers
- 80 children from 0 to 6 years old
- 39 children from 7 to 16 years old
- And 16 meetings with professionals

Solidarité femmes National Federation

LA TRESSE

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