The French Office for the Immigration and the Integration (OFII) and the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) signed on 25 November 2026 a cooperation charter with the aim to improve the protection and support provided to asylum seekers who are victims of sexual or gender-based violence or human trafficking. The agreement was developed in collaboration with the General Directorate for Foreigners in France from the Ministry of the Interior, civil society organisation Amicale du Nid and the UNHCR.

This charter establishes enhanced cooperation between the OFII and the OFPRA around four priorities:

1. Earlier identification of vulnerabilities

2. Facilitate information sharing

3. Tailor responses to each person’s needs,

4. Support asylum seekers who are victims of violence or trafficking throughout their journey

The OFII will notify the OFPRA of vulnerabilities identified during the process at the GUDA, where the application is registered, at initial reception centres (SPADA). OFPRA will inform the OFII of any vulnerabilities identified during the review of the asylum application, when such vulnerabilities require adjustments to reception conditions.

This exchange of information will take place with the consent of the individuals concerned and in accordance with the confidentiality of personal information.

After a referral from OFPRA, the OFII commits to assessing, within a maximum of 72 hours, whether the individual is eligible for material reception conditions (housing and financial assistance) and the possibilities for restoring their rights (when such assistance had been suspended or denied).

Victims, depending on their situation and the availability of spaces, might be referred to specialised housing. For safety reasons, a relocation far from the perpetrator of violence or exploitation may also be considered.

The national reception system currently has 350 spaces for women who are victims of violence and/or human trafficking. By early 2027, an additional 50 specialized places will be added, bringing the total to 400. The system also has 246 places for vulnerable LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers.

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Beyond providing housing, there will be support services enabling those affected to receive assistance tailored to their needs, particularly in criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings.

The cooperation also covers the conditions under which asylum applications are reviewed and OFPRA deploying specially trained staff, adapting the conditions of the in-person interview and taking vulnerabilities into account when setting processing deadlines, in accordance with the regulatory framework.

To support the implementation of these commitments, the two institutions will organise information exchange sessions for their staff at least once a year. A review of the charter will also be conducted at least every two years.

Source(s)

- French Office for the Immigration and the Integration | Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration (26 November, 2026), Violences et traite : une coopération renforcée pour mieux protéger les demandeurs d’asile [GBV and human trafficking: closer cooperation to better protect asylum seekers], https://www.ofii.fr/violences-et-traite-une-cooperation-renforcee-pour-mieux-proteger-les-demandeurs-dasile/

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