



Fédération Syndicale des Familles Monoparentales

A LA RENCONTRE DES FAMILLES MONOPARENTALES

CSF - Confédération Syndicale des Familles

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What is a single-parent family?

It is a family with a single parent (mostly the mother) providing accommodation and support for one or more unmarried children.

The term "single-parent family" remains, however, ambiguous as it refers to two situations: the separated couple with children **and the** single parent with children



Number of single-parent families

Single-parent families with at least one child under 18 :

1990 = 1.17 million

1999 = 1.5 million

2005 = 1.76 million

2011 = 1.9 million

2020 = 2 million





Children in single-parent families



In 2018, 4 million children live with one parent

INSEE



Gender of parents in single-parent families

Among single-parent families, the number of fathers is :



■ 2020 : 18%



Greater role and place of fathers

Fathers occasionally or regularly house their child more than in the past

25% of children in single-parent families see their father at least once a week



Insee



Inequality to the detriment of the father... and the child!

1 in 3 children of separated parents do not see their father again after two or three years

(CNAF - *Vies de famille*, January 2005)



Single parent families below the poverty line

55% of single parent families are on low incomes^[1].



^[1]The low income threshold according to the CNAF is €621.38, and corresponds to a monthly disposable income of

per consumption unit



Single-parent families and precariousness

- Lone parents" are more exposed than others to precariousness: everything depends on one parent.
- 41% of underage children live below the poverty line compared to 21% of all children,
- 77% of children are poor compared to 23% of other children.
- Sources: INSEE



Children living with their father are less likely to be poor than those living with their mother

The poverty line for a single person in 2022 is €918



Maximum amounts of the increased RSA

(Revenu de Solidarité Active with an increase
for single parents) for single persons in
2022

739,04 € for a pregnant woman without
children 985,38 € for a single parent with 1
child € 1 231,77 € for a single parent with 2
children

Single parents with 3 children



Number of single-parent families receiving RSA

In 2020, the following are concerned by the increased RSA

- 590,100 single-parent households headed by women.

Against

- 155,300 single-parent households headed by a man



Number of single-parent families receiving CAF benefits

2 million, out of 13.5 million recipients



Number of single-parent families receiving CAF benefits

It should be remembered that a majority of single-parent families have only one child and since family allowances are paid from the ^{second} child onwards, many of them are not entitled to them.



Worsened economic situation

"The precariousness of single-parent families is increasing faster than their number"[\[1\]](#).

"The unemployment rate for single mothers is 23% compared to 15% for mothers in couples"[\[2\]](#).

"One in five single-parent families receives child support payments

"Nearly one third of lone parents receive a social minimum"[\[3\]](#).

[\[1\]](#) *Actualité Sociale Hebdomadaire*, 21 January 2005, n°2391

[\[2\]](#) *Employment survey*, INSEE, 2002



Risks of stigmatisation

"Although single-parent families have a poverty risk that is about two and a half times higher than for all households, this risk is not linked to single parenthood itself but to the accumulation of factors of precariousness"^[1]

^[1]F. MILEWSKI, S. DAUPHIN, N. KESTEMAN, M.T. LETABLIER, D. MEDA, 2005



Over-representation of single-parent families in ZUS (sensitive urban zone)

In the ZUS, 30% of families with children under 25 are single-parent families, compared to 17% nationally
Mothers in these families tend to be younger and unemployed



Sociological developments



Single parenthood is much more a result of separation or divorce than it was in the 1970s





Sociological developments

In the 1960s, most women heads of household were widows

In 1962, **55%** of single parents were widowed

In 2005, less than **10%** of them were



Links with family and relatives

"Relationships with family and relatives are generally ambivalent: single parents insist on the importance of the family as moral and emotional support but suffer the consequences in terms of control, normativity, particularly for some Mediterranean and African cultures. Hence the need for social policy to provide support outside the family. [1]"

[1] F. MILEWSKI, S. DAUPHIN, N. KESTEMAN, M.T. LETABLIER, D. MEDA, 2005



GIPA (guarantee against unpaid maintenance)

This new scheme for single parents :

- Creates a minimum support⁴ of €104.75 per month per child as of 01/04/2016
- Improves the recovery of unpaid maintenance by the ex-spouse through the direct intervention of the Funds. In particular, it can recover up to 24 months of unpaid arrears, compared to six months previously.
- Introduces a differential ESA in the case of a pension 104.75
- Maintains payment of the ASF for 6 months in the event of resumption of married life



ARIPA (collection agency, of intermediation of maintenance)

This new scheme for single parents :

- ARIPA acts on behalf of the creditor parent to recover unpaid maintenance and ASF (family support allowance) amounts paid in advance,
- In order to obtain the ASF, creditor parents must apply for it by filling in a form available on their CAF website



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The Federation's first steps

In 1963, under the impetus of the CSF, the first commissions of women heads of household were created. Initially set up in Paris, these commissions were established in several large cities in France.

These commissions have the particularity of bringing together widowed, divorced and single mothers.

Their aim was to improve and assert the rights of their families because, at that time, they were legally excluded from any institutional representation of the interests of families before the public authorities, since Article ¹ of the Family Code only admitted families united by marriage and, moreover, was based on the concept of "paternal power".



...The Federation's first steps

In 1967, in order to federate these commissions, which were becoming more and more numerous, the Federation of Women Heads of Families (FFCF) was created.

A few years later, it became the Fédération Syndicale of Women Heads of Families (FSFCF).

In 1982, the Federation changed its name, taking note of the obsolescence of the notion of the head of the family since the 1970 law on parental authority. The Fédération Syndicale des Femmes Chefs de Famille became the Fédération Syndicale des Familles Monoparentales, a name it has retained to this day, despite the evolution of certain local associations which have added "and recomposed" to their name.



The actions in dates

- **1971:** FFCF General Assembly focuses on the demand for the right to social security
- **1972:** Paule Grall, the Federation's first president, challenged the UNAF General Assembly on Article 1 of the Family Code, which defined the family around its "chief"



The FSFM in dates

- **1975:** this article is repealed, parents raising their children alone are recognised as a family in their own right
- **1975:** the FFCF works on divorce reform: creation of a procedure by mutual consent



The FSFM in dates

- **1979:** project for a fund for the collection of maintenance payments
- **November 1987:** 20 years of the federation - The federation appreciates the law on parental authority because it recognises the rights of unmarried parents.



The FSFM in dates

- **1989:** the GA dealt with trade union action with the CSF to combat illiteracy
- **1995:** the orientation report gives more space to non-residential parents, family mediation, the right to quality housing, professional integration through adapted training and early childhood care
- **November 2000:** Colloquium on co-parenting



The FSFM in dates

- **October 2004:** the FSFM Board now meets at the same time as the sector The CSF's "family, social protection, taxation" programme. To work on common issues
- **November 2008:** "Couple in crisis... a weakened family" conference at the National Assembly
- **May 2009:** CSF congress in Lyon. Change of the CSF statutes for better recognition of federations?



Specific recurring difficulties...

- Material difficulties combined with emotional insecurity, access to housing and then maintaining it, childcare facilities, a budget on the edge of the poverty line or even below it...
- Employment is essential to ensure stability. Often, they have stopped working to look after their child and find it difficult to find a full-time permanent position...
- But also, guilt and the negative view of others...



Profile of a single mother head of household

- A woman of all ages who has children of all ages to care for on a daily basis. A woman who assumes all positions of responsibility. A woman who has material and financial difficulties and who suffers from her precariousness. A woman who feels isolated and has many questions about her role as a parent. But a woman who assumes and is responsible.



Expectations...

- The need to talk, to feel listened to and to be accompanied, often just before a separation or divorce, or to ask for advice on family law (procedures, alimony, custody and accommodation rights, benefits), but also a need to recreate a link, to be able to exchange without being judged...



Expectations...

- But also a need to participate in convivial meetings, moments of reflection with no judgement as a principle...
- The aim of the discussion groups set up is to listen to and find solutions for the parent, to give him or her back their place, to regain confidence...



Demands... Access to employment, integration

- Access to social housing for RSA
- Support towards integration for RSA recipients and the possibility of receiving training leading to employment
- The non-inclusion of maintenance payments and family allowances in the composition of the RSA. Alimony and family allowances must be completely disconnected from the RSA in order to preserve the value of their destination
- A social environment (childcare, free transport, etc.) for any single parent returning to training or employment



Demands: Family allowances

- Family allowance from the first child.
- Cumulation of the PAJE (benefit for the reception of young children, made up of 4 aids) and the API (Allocation de parent isolé) or the specific amount for single families of the RSA.
- The non-inclusion of maintenance payments in the calculation of resources for the granting of family benefits.
- Revaluation of the ASF (family support allowance, which replaces the non-payment of maintenance), even if it must remain an allowance that can be recovered from each parent.



Demands... Early childhood

- The development of more accessible childcare facilities adapted to lifestyles
- priority for children from single-parent families in the structures that concern them (sport, culture, leisure, holidays, canteen, etc.), especially when the parent is on minimum social benefits or unemployed.
- a real choice in childcare:
development
- The development of structures (bridging classes) for children aged 2 to 3 years, taken care of by the national education system (free of charge).



Demands... Right to energy

Establishment of a genuine right to energy for all on the model for other basic rights.

This includes :

- a reform of tariff first necessity tariff (TPN) allowing a real reduction in energy costs;
- its extension to all suppliers to allow access to all consumers.



Demands... domestic violence

- Create a specific reception unit in police stations for complaints of violence, in an isolated place with people trained to receive them.
- Review the Temporary Interruption of Work which is becoming random as a criterion of validity of a complaint of violence, in this context of psychological and physical weaknesses reinforced by a feeling of shame
- Require immediate criminal sanction against the person against whom a complaint is made
- To open emergency reception facilities adapted to family life, in partnership with associations and institutions, enabling them to apply for housing in the public or private sector.



Findings...

Instability, anxiety and fragility:

- Single parents fear the slightest accident in life that could destabilise them again. The children are therefore immersed in this climate of uncertainty and anxiety. Not to mention the recent social climate.



Findings...

- At the same time, some parents who have not come to terms with the couple they formed continue to settle their accounts with the ex-spouse by, for example, blocking access rights on grounds that are not always justified, by regularly criticising the other parent, and by continuing to oppose each other on educational issues relating to the children.
- The blocking of access rights when one or other of the parents has custody (mainly the mother) is one of the main factors leading to a weakening of the parent/child and, more importantly, father/child relationship.



Findings...

Financial insecurity and family anxiety :

- Change in custody arrangements because the newcomer wants to create a "beautiful blended family" and forgets that custody arrangements should be discussed in a mutually beneficial way (consequence on maintenance payments).





Findings...

- Unreflected demand for the consequences of alternating custody, sometimes to simply make the maintenance payments disappear. Personal belongings are therefore bought in duplicate for the children to remain with the custodial parent each time.



Findings...

Precariousness, instability, anxiety and fatigue are the daily lot of single-parent families, regardless of their income and their integration into society. These fragilities also have an impact on the health of these families. Medical deserts in some areas and mobility problems make it all the more difficult for single-parent families to access health care, including sometimes for their children.



The number of single-parent families has continued to rise. They are particularly at risk of poverty as 41% of children living with a lone parent are poor, compared to 21% of all children. They are particularly exposed to the risk of insecurity, since 41% of children living with a single parent are poor, compared with 21% of all children. Finally, they are at the heart of gender equality issues, since in 80% of cases, the lone parent is a woman.



Findings...

It is for all these reasons that, at the instigation of the President of the Republic, support for single-parent families was a priority in the previous five-year term and is even more so in the current one.



Findings...

Indeed, the previous mandate saw the completion of major advances in their favour: an increase in 30% of aid for individual childcare, encouragement for the development of work-oriented crèches, which enable more mothers to find long-term employment, and securing the income of single mothers through the public maintenance service.



...Findings

Because between 30 and 40% of maintenance payments are unpaid, many single mothers live with a real sword of Damocles hanging over their heads and feel a major social injustice on a daily basis. The public service for maintenance payments is intended to change this situation: not only by correcting unpaid payments as quickly as possible, but above all by preventing them, thanks to the Caisse d'allocations familiales, which acts as an intermediary between the two parents and can immediately take steps to recover the maintenance in the event of difficulties.



...Findings

Today, more than 136,000 applications for financial intermediation have been received since October 2020. From 1 January 2023, this system will be implemented automatically for all separations, unless both parents object, as soon as a maintenance allowance is fixed.

In accordance with the presidential commitment to support these single mothers, the community's support for these single parents will be continued and increased from this autumn by increasing the family support allowance (ASF) by 50%.



...Findings

The ASF is an essential aid for the most fragile families because it corresponds to the minimum maintenance allowance. However, the amount is lower than the average maintenance allowance (170 euros), which leads to an increase in social inequalities between these families, often these women, and the rest of the population.



...Findings

This is why 900 million euros will now be invested each year to increase the amount of this benefit, which affects 1.313 million children and 815,000 households, from 123 euros to 184 euros per child per month. This supplement to the ASF will not be taken into account when calculating the active solidarity income and the activity allowance, so that the increase is not neutralised by a symmetrical reduction in these allowances. The measure will apply from the ASF due in November 2022, and will make it possible to reduce the poverty rate of single-parent families by 2.2 points, and thus to combat a precariousness that affects the vast majority of women.



...Findings

Two other projects that are particularly likely to make life easier for single mothers will also be implemented in the near future, namely the public childcare service and the extension of childcare assistance until the start of secondary school. These two developments will be important for gender equality, as they will offer appropriate solutions (e.g. atypical working hours) that will make it easier for these single mothers to work.

They will also allow for a better organisation of family life, easier access to the labour market, as well as the release of time for rest and respite.



...Findings

Finally, the "prevention" aspect of family support policies should be strengthened, particularly the prevention of intra-family conflicts and breakdowns in family ties. This is a matter of interest to children, to parents - particularly women - and to the community as a whole.



Thank you for your attention