

Paris suburb offers menstrual leave in first for France

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A Paris suburb on Monday became the first municipality in France to allow women leave if they suffer from conditions linked to their menstrual cycles including period pain and endometriosis.

The municipality of Saint-Ouen, north of the capital, will allow women working for the [local authorities](#) to take up to two days off per month under the experimental scheme.

"Of the 2,000 people who work for the municipality, 60 percent are women. While talking with these employees I realized that half of them were suffering in silence. It was a subject put aside, if not taboo," said the Socialist Party mayor of Saint-Ouen Karim Bouamrane.

"Strong decisions had to be made to help them. I am proud that Saint-Ouen has blazed the trail nationally for concrete progress for women's rights," he said.

Staff will just need a medical certificate confirming their condition to take two days off.

Bouamrane has sent a letter to President Emmanuel Macron calling for the right to period leave to be enshrined in French law.

The move comes after Spanish lawmakers in February gave final approval to a law granting paid [medical leave](#) to women suffering severe [period pain](#), becoming the first European country to advance such legislation.

Menstrual leave is currently offered only in a small number of countries across the globe, among them Japan, Indonesia and Zambia.

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