Sexist and sexual violence: how to respond and whom to inform

6 things to remember!

www.univ-lille.fr/egalitefemmeshommes
First of all:

- In the event of an emergency and/or danger, dial 17 (Police) or 15 (ambulance) immediately.

- Move them away from their attacker.
- Do not leave the victim alone.
- If possible, invite them to sit down in a calm location, drink something without alcohol or eat something. Avoid coffee (which can increase anxiety) and preferably choose something sweet (unless medical advice to the contrary).
- Do not allow the victim to leave on their own or without first ensuring they will be accompanied by someone dependable, or if that’s not possible in a taxi.

1 Make sure the victim is safe

2 Isolate their attacker

- If on campus (during class, at the library, etc.): look for the instructions to follow in the event of an emergency, which can be found at all locations on University premises. You can also ask for help from a teaching or administrative staff member, the reception desk or security.

- Whatever the location (University or off campus), contact security or go to the reception desk.

- If the incident occurred on the premises of a traineeship that is part of your university education, inform the victim that you intend to report the incident so their testimony can be recorded, and send a single email to inform the following parties:
  - The head of the victim’s department,
  - The CEVIHS: contact-harcèlement-sexuel@univ-lille.fr
  - The Maison de la Médiation: maison-mediation@univ-lille.fr
  - The Vice-President responsible for gender equality (Sandrine Rousseau at the time of writing): sandrine.rousseau@univ-lille.fr

3 Listen to and show solidarity with the victim

- This must remain confidential. For example, do not share their story with your classmates.

- The first time the victim confides in somebody is often the most important: if they feel judged or if their version of events is challenged, they may no longer dare to speak out.

- Let them tell their story without interruption, encouraging them to continue if they wish. Pay attention to the victim’s emotions, and not only the technical details.
4 Use positive phrases when talking to the victim

- «I believe you.»
- «You’re not responsible for what’s happened to you.»
- «It’s normal for you to react like this.»
- «That person didn’t have the right to do this.»
- «The law doesn’t allow anyone to do this.»
- «I’ll help you, you’re not alone.»

DO NOT use any phrases that might make the victim feel guilty, take away from their sense of legitimacy or prevent them from talking: «if I were you, I would have...», «what were you wearing?», «had you been drinking?», «were you in the bedroom?», etc.

5 Inform the victim what steps they can take

- Contact points at the University:
  - For information, to find out about your rights and get advice free of charge, contact the Maison de la Médiation: +33 (0)3 62 26 91 16 or maison-mediation@univ-lille.fr
  - To report sexual harassment or an assault, contact the CEVIHS (CEllule de Veille et d’Informations sur le Harcèlement Sexuel) and the Mission Égalité: contact-harcelement-sexuel@univ-lille.fr; mission-egalite@univ-lille.fr
  - To alert the University authorities and have them intervene directly: trigger the “signalement” (report) mechanism using the online form on the webpage of the Maison de la Médiation via your intranet (requires authentication) or by scanning this QR code.
  - For a medical consultation, contact a health centre (SUMPPS):
    +33 (0)3 62 26 93 00, Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5pm without interruption (except in the event of closures when teaching is interrupted).
    - Cité Scientifique: Avenue Poincaré (near building M1).
    - Moulins / Ronchin: 125 boulevard d’Alsace, Lille.
    - Pont-de-Bois: Maison de l’étudiant, building A, entrance A8, Rue du barreau, Villeneuve d’Ascq.

- If the victim is unable to attend their traineeship or an exam, encourage them to go and see their GP, if possible accompanied by someone they trust. They can also go to the hospital for a forensic medical analysis. This is an opportunity to explain their situation and perhaps request a certificate of absence (for a traineeship) or a statement from a healthcare professional (for an exam). They can also visit the forensic medical department at the Lille regional hospital: www.chu-lille.fr/services/medecine-legale

- Provide the victim with a copy of the pamphlet produced by the Maison de la Médiation (which contains all the contact points within the University), as well as the list of national and local contact points, available on the intranet or by scanning this QR code:
If there has been a physical assault, in order to preserve the evidence, and if possible for the victim, advise them not to wash their body or clean their clothes.

If possible, together with the victim, accumulate any evidence in case the victim and/or the authorities might need it: messages, screenshots, record the date and time, emotions felt, etc.

Once you return home, if you can, as a witness put into writing what you saw and/or heard, what the victim told you, the names or descriptions of those present, etc. If the victim decides to file a complaint, this may be useful.

The Forensic medical department of Lille regional hospital, which has put in place a comprehensive service for victims to consult a doctor and file a complaint at the same time:
Hôpital Salengro, Avenue du Professeur Émile Laine, 59037 Lille
+33 (0)3 20 44 66 46 (8:30am to 4:30pm)
Metro line 1, stop CHU-Eurasanté
www.chu-lille.fr/services/medecine-legale

At a gendarmerie or police station. Either of these authorities can register your complaint. If the area you live in has both, go to the police station, as in any case the gendarmerie will transfer your complaint to the police. If there is only a gendarmerie where you live, they will be responsible for your case.
- NB: the police and gendarmerie are required to record your complaint (Article 15-3, paragraph 1 of the French Criminal procedure code).

Contact the authorities via instant messaging:
www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1526

If necessary, the public prosecutor can record your complaint directly:
www.service-public.fr/simulateur/calcul/Porter_plainte

What next?

- If you learn of the incident at a later stage (even after a long period), inform the University by writing to the CEVIHS (CELLule de Veille et d’Informations sur le Harcèlement Sexuel) and the Mission Egalité:
  contact-harcèlement-sexuel@univ-lille.fr; mission-egalite@univ-lille.fr
  or via the mechanism for the prevention of abusive behaviour: “mediation” section of the staff and student intranet.

- As a witness, if in the days that follow you don’t feel well, if you find yourself often thinking about the incident, contact the SUMPPS (health centre) at the University or a doctor for your own benefit. Witnesses or people who listen to stories of violence can suffer from vicarious trauma (experiencing symptoms similar to those of the victim).

If you wish to suggest an improvement or update to the information in this document, please write to mission-egalite@univ-lille.fr