

GUIDE FOR THE PREVENTION OF & ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING A SEXUAL ASSAULT



UNIVERSIDAD
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OLAVIDE**
SEVILLA



Office for Gender Equality
Vicerector of Culture & Social Participation





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RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT AN ASSAULT

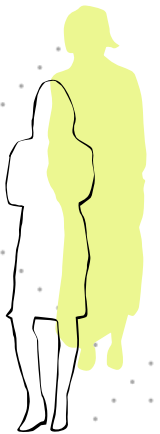
REDUCE the risks of becoming a victim by using a buddy system and avoiding alcohol and drugs.

REACT IF YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE. Trust your own judgment. Only you know if something makes you anxious, bothers you or makes you feel awkward. The decision is **YOURS**.

IT IS YOUR BODY, YOU DECIDE. Remember your right to say "NO"; nobody can force you or make you do something that you do not want to do.

DO NOT BE AFRAID. Do not let anyone scare you, walk with certainty. The more insecure you feel, the more vulnerable they will see you. Be assertive.

AVOID TOXIC RELATIONSHIPS. If someone really loves you, they will treat you with respect and will not force you or threaten you.



Do not become the attacker :

NO is NO. The absence of a YES is also a NO. Each person has the right to decide what they do or do not want. You cannot decide for them.

A drunk person **CANNOT** give consent. Drugs and alcohol **NEVER** justify an assault.

Insisting is not the correct option. If the person has not given consent, although you do not like it, respect their decision and do not invade their space.

HELP EACH OTHER. ACT AGAINST THE ATTACKERS. Everyone should be able to freely enjoy the daytime, the night, parties, the streets.

How to handle a possible sexual assault

If you are the victim:

Faced with a situation of aggression, shout FIRE to attract people's attention.

If a situation makes you feel uncomfortable and you do not like it, it does not matter if it is someone you know: Let them know it **BOTHERS YOU**. Reacting in this way may feel awkward but passivity may be incorrectly interpreted as permission so be direct and firm.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. It is not your fault. If you are assaulted or feel uncomfortable, tell someone what is happening. Look for help and rely on your friends and family.

Remember that your eyes, voice and body are tools to confront attackers.

Faced with a situation of aggression, shout FIRE to attract people's attention.

If you witness a possible aggression:

If you feel that someone is in danger of a possible aggression, **GO** to them. Ask them if they are all right and offer your help.

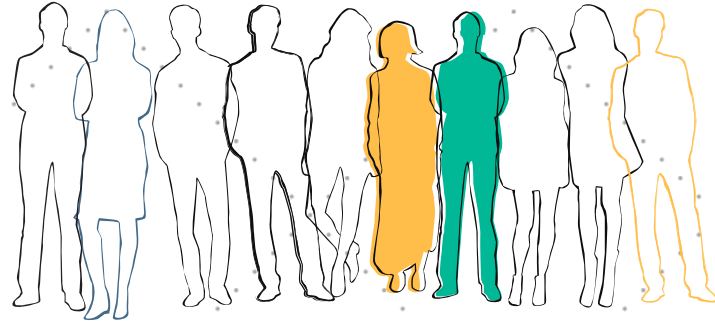
Let the attacker know that you are uncomfortable with the situation, that you do not find it funny or normal.

Do not engage in jokes or sexist behavior. Do not feed the rape culture.

Do not blame the victim: Condemn the attacker.

Do not remain on the sidelines, act and report.

What to do if you are the victim of sexual assault



1

Do not wash yourself or change your clothes.

2

Call someone you trust to go with you. You can also call the 24-hour women's helpline 900 200 999, where specially trained people will assist you. Ask to be put in contact with the "Servicio de Atención Inmediata a Mujeres Víctimas de Agresiones Sexuales" (Immediate Attention for Women Victims of Sexual Assault). This service puts at your disposal a multidisciplinary team that can help you in both your psychosocial and legal process, and accompany you to report the crime if you decide to do so.

3

Go immediately to **the emergency room of the Virgen del Rocío o Macarena hospital** (or the nearest hospital or health center if you are outside Seville). Private and subsidized hospitals will also help you. A medical practitioner will examine you, perform a gynecological exam, evaluate your emotional state, take samples of your blood, saliva, vaginal fluid, semen if an ejaculation took place, etc. for later analysis. They will also determine if you have sustained any injuries.

4

If you believe you had a drug put in your drink, ask to be tested. Although certain types of drugs remain in your system for up to 72 hours, some disappear within 12 hours.

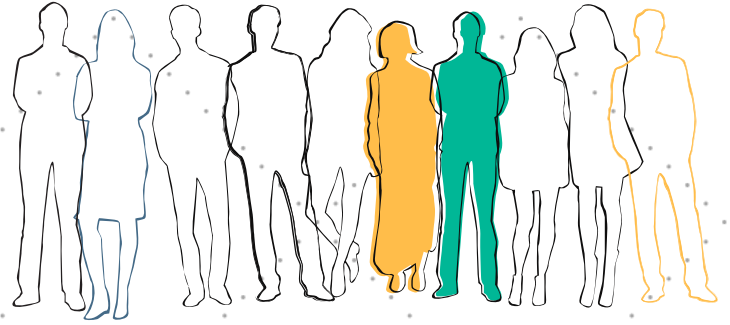
5

If there is a **risk of pregnancy**, the gynecologist will inform you of the types of treatments available to avoid a possible pregnancy (e.g. the morning after pill which is 95% effective if taken within 24 hours and 89% effective if taken within 72 hours). She/he should also inform you of STD testing and possible further medical check-ups and where they will take place, whether in the hospital or at a health center.

More info.

5

What to do if you are the victim of sexual assault



6

The health center or hospital should give you a copy of the medical report so you can include it if you decide to file a police report. Although protocol requires the hospital to inform the police of sexual assault cases, the victim is the only one who can press charges. The medical exam is important as it will preserve evidence of the crime.

7

Take photos of the injuries. This will be useful in the case of a trial as you will be able to provide photos of what the injuries looked like the days following the assault.

8

To file a police report, **go to the nearest national police (Policía Nacional) or Guardia civil station.** You might feel stunned or confused following the assault, perhaps having someone you confide in to accompany you will help you feel more at ease. **Respond slowly to the questions they ask you** so that all the facts are clearly and adequately stated in the report. Tell them all types of details, thoughts and feelings, not just the facts of the assault itself. Due to the requirements of the investigation, the person who records the report is obliged to ask you a series of questions some of which can be difficult or uncomfortable. The person asking the questions should explain the reason for the questions and why it is necessary to respond. **Read the final report carefully, make sure there are no mistakes and only sign it when you feel it states correctly** what you want it to state. You will be given a copy.

9

After filing the report, **you will be contacted** by AMUVI, an organisation specialising in the care of people who have suffered sexual aggressions. They will accompany you in your psychosocial and legal process.

Remember that you can go to the **Office for Gender Equality**, where we will accompany you throughout the process. All information will be considered confidential and no one will force you to make any decision you do not want to make.

Office for
Gender
Equality

violenciagenero@upo.es

Building 7, ground floor,
office number 12



FAQ ABOUT FILING A POLICE REPORT

Who can file a police report

The report should be filed by the victim if she/he is of legal age or by their legal guardian.

Although it's best to file a police report as soon as possible, in order to avoid the extinction of criminal responsibility of the perpetrator of these crimes, you must do so within a specified timeframe (statute of limitations), which, depending on the penalty, in certain crimes cannot be more than three years. This time is calculated from the day the assault occurred. If the victim is under age, the time starts counting on the day the victim turns 18.

How do you prove the crime

Crimes against sexual freedom take place in hiding, especially chosen by the attacker. Despite this fact, you should still report it even if you don't have proof. The victim's testimony, together with the assessment of the circumstances under which the crime occurred could be enough to nullify the presumption of innocence of the attacker. The medical report from the hospital is also important evidence.

How long do you have to file a police report

The most important thing is not to feel ashamed, we are here to help you.

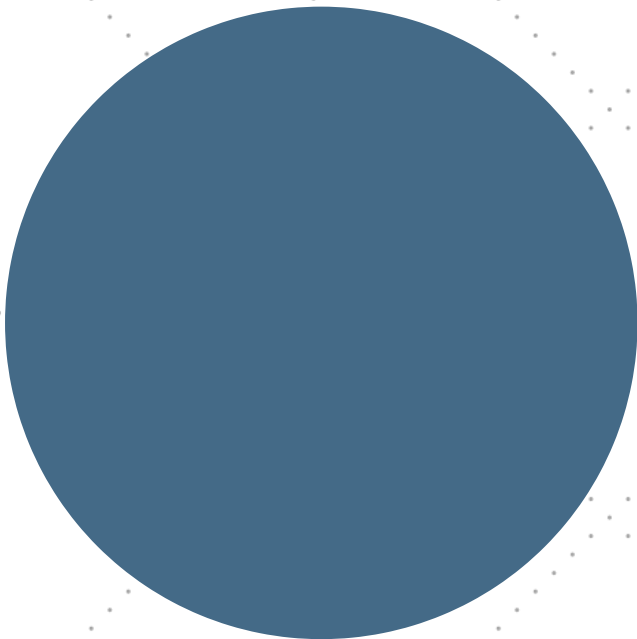
Because reporting the assault is an important step in overcoming the horrible experience. You are also acting in solidarity with other victims because you are helping to prevent the attacker from going unpunished. Defending your freedom and that of others, it is a right as well as an obligation. Filing a police report will help create a more just and free society.

Why you should file a police report



There are many justifications you will see regarding assaults

But the only cause is clear:
THE ATTACKER



- 0% Alcohol
- 0% Empty streets
- 0% Your clothes
- 100% The attacker



Addresses & telephone numbers of interest

Public hospitals in Sevilla

Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocío

Av. Manuel Siurot, S/n
41013 Sevilla

Hospital Universitario Virgen Macarena

Calle Dr. Fedriani, 3
41009 Sevilla

You can also go to a health center or a private and/or subsidized hospital.

Emergency numbers

Women's helpline
900 200 999

Ask to be transferred to the "*Servicio de Atención Inmediata a Mujeres Víctimas de Agresiones Sexuales*" (Immediate Attention for Women Victims of Sexual Assault)

Emergency telephone number
112

Police **112**

Civil Guard **062**

Hotline for gender-based violence **016**

UPO CAMPUS Resources

Office for Gender Equality

Vicerector of Culture and Social Participation

Universidad Pablo de Olavide de Sevilla
Building 7, ground floor, office number 12
Telephone: 954 97 73 09 // 954 97 73 51

 oficinaparalaigualdad@upo.es

Campus Security

In front of the metro station there is a surveillance booth to which you can go.

Telephone: 954 97 81 08 // 954 978 164