

# GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

**Any form of sexual misconduct, assault or harassment is never okay.**

If you think you have been the target of sexual misconduct, assault or harassment, it may be hard to know what to do or how to feel. What happened was not your fault. What you do next is your choice.

This guidance is a resource to help make informed decisions about next steps and the support available.

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# THINK

## **Are you in immediate danger?**

**If you are in immediate danger or seriously injured, you can contact the emergency services on 999 (or 112 from a mobile phone).**

Find a safe space. If an incident has just happened, try and find somewhere you feel safe.

[If you need to find a safe space, see the contact details and other information about Health and Emergency services near you.](#)

If the Incident you are reporting has just happened and you are on campus please immediately **call Campus Security on 3333 or 01227 823333**



# REPORT

There are a number of ways that you can report if this is what you choose to do.

## REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY

You are able to make a formal report to the University via the Student Conduct and Complaints Office. You will find further information here about how to submit a complaint and next steps. The Specialist Wellbeing Adviser is also able to talk you through the process without pressure or judgement, so you are able to decide if this is the route you wish to take.

Further details can be found on the [Student Conduct and Complaints page](#).

## REPORT VIA REPORT+ SUPPORT

We have also developed an online reporting tool called Report and Support which empowers students to record details of incidents such as sexual misconduct and assault, harassment (non-sexual), hate incidents, assault, bullying and discrimination.

Reporting via Report and Support will ensure that you gain access to the support that is available to you in the aftermath of an incident.

Report and Support gives you the option to record an incident and give your name, so that you can be contacted by specialist support. Or you can choose to remain anonymous. Providing anonymous information still helps us to continue making progress in ensuring our University is the safest it can be.

This will not instigate any part of a formal process or complaint. If you chose to be named in the report the Specialist Wellbeing Adviser (Sexual Assault/Harassment) will contact you to discuss your options for reporting formally. [Further details can be found on the Report and Support webpage](#).

# REPORT

## REPORT TO THE POLICE

If you do decide to report the assault to the police, and it is not an immediate emergency, call 101.

A member of staff can support you through this if you wish them to. Please see above about how to contact someone for support from the University. Please be assured that the reporting process will be taken at your own pace and your involvement in it is voluntary throughout. You can discuss your reporting options with both the Specialist Wellbeing Adviser (Sexual Assault/ Harassment) and/or Sexual Assault Responders (SARs).

[Kent Police have information on their website about reporting sexual assaults.](#) If you decide to report, the police will support and guide you through the process and will assign a specialist from their [Sexual Offences Investigation Team](#). If forensic evidence is required and has not already been collected, then the Police may accompany you to [Kent and Medway Sexual Assault Referral Centre \(SARC\) at Maidstone.](#)

It is important for you to know that the University will respect your decision about whether or not you wish to report the incident to the Police. The only exception to this will be if it is considered that there is a substantial risk to you or to members of the University community.



# SUPPORT

You are able to access support from the University 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you would like to speak to someone about the incident you can contact any of the following services:

## SUPPORT DURING OFFICE HOURS

- ◆ **Specialist Wellbeing Adviser (Sexual Assault/ Harassment)**

A specialist member of staff who is able to provide practical support and advice to anyone who reports an incident (support available at both Medway and Canterbury). You can book an appointment with the Specialist Wellbeing Adviser (Sexual Assault/Harassment) by **emailing [KentSSW@kent.ac.uk](mailto:KentSSW@kent.ac.uk)**, or by **calling 01227 82 3158 from Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm.**

## SUPPORT OUT OF HOURS

- ◆ **Sexual Assault Responders**

If you would like to speak to someone and it is out of hours (5pm to 9am weekdays, and all day at weekends/bank holidays), **support from a Sexual Assault Responder (SAR) can be accessed via Campus Security.** You can access support through campus Security 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Canterbury (located next to Nursing Services) and Medway Campus Security (located in the Medway Building) on 3333 or 01227 823333.

Sexual Assault Responders are trained members of staff who support and advise students who report incidents outside of normal office hours. They **offer support, advice and information in a safe and confidential space (on campus) about what next steps are available.** Any student, regardless of gender, gender identity or sexuality, can access a Sexual Assault Responder. Sexual Assault Responders also work in conjunction with the Specialist Wellbeing Adviser (Sexual Assault/Harassment).

# SUPPORT

## Harassment Contacts

If you are experiencing harassment (including bullying, discrimination, or sexual harassment) and wish to seek further support, you can make use of the [Harassment Contacts](#), who are a group of individual members of staff, specially trained to provide advice and support within the University.

## Domestic Violence

If you think you are (or someone you know is) in an abusive relationship, you can **go to a One Stop Shop** at [Rising Sun Domestic Violence and Abuse Service](#), or with the **University's Specialist Wellbeing Adviser** by emailing [KentSSW@kent.ac.uk](mailto:KentSSW@kent.ac.uk) or by calling 01227 82 3158 from Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm.

## Self-Referral to a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

If you do not want to involve the police or the University you can seek external support from, [Beech House Kent and Medway Sexual Assault and Referral Centre \(SARC\)](#) who accept self-referrals. **If you need to attend the SARC, a specialist member of University staff can accompany you and the University will pay for any travel costs.**

They offer a number of services including: crisis support, medical examinations and counselling referrals. A full medical examination usually takes around 3 hours depending on circumstances. They can also hold any forensic evidence gathered for up to two years should you decide to report to the police at a later date. You do not have to have a medical examination, and you can have a discussion with them about the support you need, and what you do not agree to.

## Medical Support

If you think you require medical assistance following an incident, you are able to access [Health Service Information](#). **Accessing medical support would be dealt with confidentially in accordance with the NHS Code of Practice and would not be shared with the University.** You can also [view the process of getting medical support as a visual guide](#).

# TIMEFRAMES



**Deciding whether to report the incident to the police can be difficult.**

If you have recently been assaulted, and decide to report the incident, **try not to drink, eat, wash, smoke, brush your teeth, go to the toilet or change your clothes.** Also try to keep any condoms, bedding or clothing in separate, clean plastic bags. This will all help to preserve any forensic evidence. There is useful information on the [Rape Crisis website](#) about how you can preserve any evidence.

If you choose to access the specialist staff at the university, we will never make assumptions about what you want to do and will respect any decision that you make. The only exception to this will be if it is considered that there is an ongoing risk to you or to members of the University Community. If this is the case, you will be informed of the next steps and how information regarding the incident may be shared with appropriate members of University staff.

You do not need to report the incident to the University or police immediately, but please note the following important time limits:

- If you suspect you were given any type of drug, it is best to be tested within 24 hours.
- If you are thinking of having a forensic medical examination, try to go to the SARC or police as soon as you can and within 72 hours if possible.
- If you need emergency contraception, the medication should be started within 72 hours. Information about accessing a nurse can be found on the [Health Services page](#).
- If you think you may need HIV prophylaxis, the medication should be started within 72 hours.



# CONFIDENTIALITY

**Your confidentiality will be respected, and information will not be shared beyond the relevant staff (detailed below) without your consent unless you or others are at significant risk.** We do not report incidents to the police without the consent of the reporting person unless you or others are at significant risk.

If Campus Security have been informed of an incident, then the Specialist Wellbeing Adviser (Sexual Assault/Harassment) will automatically be informed. The Specialist Wellbeing Adviser (Sexual Assault/Harassment) will contact you to help you receive any information or support you need.

Anonymous reports to the University, including those via Report and Support, will not instigate any part of an investigation process.



# EXTERNAL SUPPORT

As well as our Specialist Wellbeing Adviser (Sexual Assault/ Harassment), we can provide information on many external organizations to support survivors.

## Support for Rape, Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

### **Beech House, Sexual Assault Referral Centre**

At the SARC, individuals will be offered support and guidance, a medical assessment and treatment, a forensic examination, and the opportunity of aftercare referrals for support services.

Telephone: 01622 726461

Email: [bh.admin@nhs.net](mailto:bh.admin@nhs.net)

[Beech House Webpage](#)

### **Family Matters**

Family Matters provide Independent Sexual Violence Adviser service where information, help and support can be provided even if you have not reported to the police. Assistance is offered to help you through the criminal justice system, from reporting to police through to trial.

Telephone: 01474 536661 and select, option two for the ISVA office

Email: [isva@familymattersuk.org](mailto:isva@familymattersuk.org)

[Family Matters Webpage](#)

### **East Kent Rape Crisis Centre**

Crisis Helpline: 0800 4582818, 18:30 to 21:30 Monday-Friday.

Sexual Violence Advisory Service: If you are undecided about reporting, you can speak to a member of our Sexual Violence Advisory team, who will be able to answer more specific questions for you. Contact

[advice@ekrcc.org.uk](mailto:advice@ekrcc.org.uk)

Specialist student Independent Sexual Violence Adviser service for specific practical and emotional support. Call 01227 826 900 or email [isva@ekrcc.org.uk](mailto:isva@ekrcc.org.uk)

Counselling: 01227 451753. Referrals can be taken Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00.

[East Kent Rape Crisis Centre Webpage](#)

### **The Survivors Trust**

Offers resources and links to services, as well as guidance for those supporting survivors.

[The Survivors Trust Webpage](#)

### **National Ugly Mugs**

National organization offering access to justice and protection for sex workers.

Telephone: 0161 629 9861

Email: [admin@uglymugs.org](mailto:admin@uglymugs.org)

[National Ugly Mugs Webpage](#)



# EXTERNAL SUPPORT

## Support for Image-Based Sexual Abuse

### **Revenge Porn Helpline**

Offers confidential advice and support to individuals who have had intimate photos and/or video shared online or offline.

Email: [help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk](mailto:help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk) Telephone: 0345 6000 459

[Revenge Porn Helpline Webpage](#)

### **SPITE**

Free legal advice to victims-survivors of revenge porn.

[SPITE Webpage](#)

## Support for Domestic Abuse

### **National Domestic Violence**

Provides support, help and information to women subjected to domestic violence.

Helpline: 0808 2000 247

### **Refuge**

Offers support to women subjected to different forms of gender-based violence, including access to a refuge or 'safe house' for women and children escaping domestic abuse.

[Refuge Webpage](#)

### **Rising Sun Domestic Violence and Abuse Service**

Rising Sun Domestic Violence & Abuse Service supports women and children affected by domestic abuse in Canterbury and East Kent. We support our users through every step of removing abuse from their lives and improving their safety.

[Rising Sun Domestic Violence and Abuse Service Webpage](#)

## Support for Stalking

### **National Stalking Helpline**

Offers information, advice and guidance to individuals subjected to stalking

Telephone: 0808 802 0300

[National Stalking Helpline Webpage](#)

### **Protection Against Stalking**

Kent based support for victims of stalking and harassment, through provision of information, advice, risk identification and safety planning.

Email: [support@protectionagainststalking.org](mailto:support@protectionagainststalking.org)

[Protection Against Stalking Webpage](#)



## **Support for Men**

### **SurvivorsUK**

Online support for men subjected to sexual violence. They run a Helpline Web Chat from Monday-Friday 10.30am-9.00pm, and on the weekends Saturday-Sunday 10.00am- 6.00pm.

Telephone: 02035983898 (Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.00pm)

[SurvivorsUK Webpage](#)

### **Men's Advice Line**

Helpline for men who have experienced domestic abuse.

Telephone: 0808 8010327

[Men's Advice Line Webpage](#)

## **Support for Individuals with Disabilities**

### **Respond**

National charity working with people with learning disabilities subjected to abuse or violence, which offers a range of evidence- based trauma, informed services for young people and adults.

Telephone: 020 7383 0700

Email: [admin@respond.org.uk](mailto:admin@respond.org.uk)

[Respond Webpage](#)

### **DeafHope from SignHealth**

Offers practical and emotional support to Deaf people subjected to domestic abuse.

Text: 07966 976749

Telephone: 020 3947 2600

Email: [info@signhealth.org.uk](mailto:info@signhealth.org.uk)

[DeafHope Webpage](#)

## **Support for LGBTQ+ People**

### **Galop National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline**

Emotional and practical support for LGBTQ+ people experiencing domestic abuse.

Telephone: 0800 999 5428

[Galop National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline Webpage](#)

### **Galop Sexual Assault Casework and Support Service**

Advice and support for LGBTQ+ people who have experienced sexual violence.

Telephone: 020 7704 2040

[Galop Sexual Assault Casework and Support Service Webpage](#)

## **Trans Survivors Switchboard**

Support to Trans people, including non- binary and questioning people, who have experienced sexual violence.

Telephone: 01273 204050

[Trans Survivors Switchboard Webpage](#)

## **Culturally Specific Services**

### **Ashiana Network**

Refuge, counselling and advice for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women and girls (14+) who have experienced domestic abuse.

Telephone: 020 8539 0427

[Ashiana Network Webpage](#)

### **Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)**

Offers advice to women subjected to 'honour' based violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and domestic abuse in Farsi, Kurdish, Arabic, Dari, Pashto, Turkish and English.

Telephone: 0207 920 6460 (Mon to Fri 9.30- 5.30pm)

Out-of-hours emergencies: 07846 275246

(Kurdish / Arabic/English) and 07846 310157 (Farsi / Dari / English)

[IKWRO Webpage](#)

### **Jewish Women's Aid**

Offers support to Jewish women and girls subjected to domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 801 0500

Sexual Violence Support Line: 0808 8010656

[Jewish Women's Aid Webpage](#)

### **Karma Nirvana**

Offers support to victim-survivors of 'honour' based abuse and forced marriage.

Telephone: 0800 5999 247 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

[Karma Nirvana Webpage](#)

### **Latin American Women's Aid**

Offers support and advice to Latin American and other Black and Minority Ethnic women (including Trans-women) subjected to gender-based violence in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Telephone: 0753 442 4826 (Spanish and

English 9:30am-5:30pm) and 0730 830 5295 (Portuguese and English 2pm- 5:30pm)

[Latin American Women's Aid Webpage](#)

### **Muslim Women's Network Helpline**

Specialist faith and culturally sensitive helpline offering information, support and guidance for those suffering from, or at risk of, abuse.

Telephone: 07415 206936 or 0800 999

5786

Email: [info@mwnhelpline.co.uk](mailto:info@mwnhelpline.co.uk)

[Muslim Women's Network Webpage](#)

### **Southall Black Sisters**

Offers information, advice advocacy and

practical help to Black (Asian and African- Caribbean) women subjected to gender- based violence in English, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati and Urdu and can arrange interpretation in Somali and other languages.

Telephone: 0208 571 9595 (Mon-Fri 9:00am-5:00pm)

[Southall Black Sisters Webpage](#)