



Sexist & Sexual **VIOLENCE**

What to do. Who to tell.

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Things to know

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First things first :

In the event of an emergency and/or danger (for the victim or yourself), immediately call :

17 (police)

15 (ambulance)

112 (in Europe)

114 (emergency calls and SMS messaging for the deaf and hearing-impaired or anyone who cannot speak)

If you know the alleged perpetrator, you can let someone from the outside intervene if possible.

1 - Consent, conflict, violence : what do these terms mean ?

Consent

► Consent is a key notion in avoiding situations of violence. Several criteria must be taken into account to determine if consent has been given :

- Consent must be given **freely and in an informed** manner. This means each individual must be able to **clearly** express their agreement without any pressure, manipulation or blackmail. Sentences like « we haven't done it in ages », « I really want to », « I'd enjoy it », « don't you love me anymore ? » can be ways of putting pressure on a partner.
- Consent must be **enthusiastic**, meaning there should be no doubt for either partner. If doubt creeps in, consent can become uncertain.
- Consent must be **specific** for every act : holding hands, kissing or anything else.
- Consent **can be withdrawn at any time**, even if there has already been intimacy between the partners.
- The partners must be **aware of the risks and consequences** linked to sexual activity (STDs, pregnancy, etc.).
- It is important to emphasise that the **capacity for discernment of someone under the influence of alcohol or drugs is diminished**, and so too is their capacity to give consent (see box inset on aggravating circumstances p. 13).

Conflict and violence

► A **conflict** is a dispute between two people. Although it can be brutal and traumatising, it is sometimes possible to overcome it with mediation, discussion, etc.

When there is **violence**, the actions can be described in criminal terms (crime, misdemeanour, etc.).

► Assault is a form of **violence**, that can be physical, administrative, verbal, psychological, etc., and which tends to create an imbalance in the power and scope for action of the parties, whereby one of them establishes and maintains a position of domination over the other.

2 - Dealing with a victim :

A. Initial reflexes

► If the incident has just occurred, **don't leave the victim alone and if possible move them away from their aggressor.**

► Try to find a **calm place**. Offer the victim an **alcohol-free** or something to eat, **preferable** something sweet (**unless medical advice to the contrary**).

► You can ask the victim **what they need** : phone a loved one, fresh air, a chair, etc.

► Don't allow the victim to leave on their own or without ensuring they will be accompanied by someone **trustworthy** (alternatively in a taxi).

► Wherever you are (at the university or off campus), **contact security or go to reception**. If on campus, look for the general emergency guidelines posted in all university premises. You can also ask a member of university staff for help.

You might want to show a victim your support in a physical way. While this may do a lot of good to some victims, others can on the contrary – in particular just after an act of physical violence or if they are in a state of shock (unable to move, speak, etc.) – experience your physical contact as a form of violence. However, you can **tell the victim** that you would like to take their hand or give them a hug and **ask if they're ok with that**. This will also show them that you respect the need for their **consent**.

B. How to show support

► The first time the victim confides in someone is often the **most important** : if they feel judged, if their words are doubted, they **may never dare speak out again**.

► You can **support and listen** to the victim

if they **want to confide** in someone and if **you feel up to it**. This will help make them feel like an agent with decision-making capacity. You must be aware that it might be an ordeal for them to tell somebody what they experienced.

► Let them tell their story **without interrupting**, encouraging them to continue if they want to. Ask **how they feel**. Listen to their emotions and not only the technical details, first of all because **emotions** can be proof of the victim's state and secondly because it's essential for their **resilience**, i.e. their capacity to feel better.

► To do this, use **expressions of trust and support** like : « I believe you » ; « You're not responsible for what's happened » ; « It's never the victim's fault » ; « It's normal for you to react the way you did » ; « That person didn't have the right to do that » ; « I can help you if you like » ; « You're not alone » ; « The law prohibits and sanctions these acts ».

► **Don't question what the victim says**, don't pass **judgement**. Don't use sentences **that might make the victim feel guilty**, prevent them from feeling legitimate or confiding in someone. Don't say : « In your position, I would have... » ; « What were you wearing ? » ; « Had you been drinking ? » ; « Are you sure ? » ; « You were in the bedroom ? » ; « Just move on ».

► Respect their **confidentiality**. Don't share their story with anyone (classmates for example).

The law severely sanctions people who commit acts of violence under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

This is an **aggravating circumstance**.

See box page 13.

3 - Ambient harassment, hazing, online violence, drugging : zero tolerance !

In the life of a student, the first three months at university are considered the « red zone » when it comes to sexual violence. It is during the initial phases of their new life as a young adult that statistically the prevalence of sexist and sexual violence is highest. Of course, this does not mean that violence cannot occur at another time. Among the different manifestations of this violence, we propose to focus on important and recurring issues in higher education and research

A. Ambient harassment

The term ambient harassment is used to describe **comments and behaviours which intentionally or otherwise isolate, discredit, humiliate or worsen the health** (physical or mental), working conditions, study conditions and/or life of one or more people. Posting material in shared spaces (classroom, association premises, etc.) can also be a form of ambient harassment. This kind of harassment is different to « direct harassment » because it does not necessarily target anyone in particular, but rather a set or group of people based on certain criteria, whether real or assumed. For example, while mockery, jokes or insults that are sexist, homophobic, transphobic, etc., do not target anyone

in particular, they are a form of ambient harassment because they are a breach of people's integrity. Since 2022, the notion of sexual harassment has been expanded to include situations and group dynamics in collective life. This means ambient harassment can now constitute sexual harassment and is therefore punishable with **two years' imprisonment and a fine of €30,000**.

B. Hazing

Hazing is a misdemeanour and, in the most serious cases, can even be a crime (rape, oral-genital acts under constraint, etc.).

It involves making someone suffer or commit **humiliating or degrading** acts, such as making them consume **excessive** amounts of alcohol **even if they have consented**. French legislation stipulates that hazing occurs during an event or gathering in a school or university context or a sporting or socio-educational environment. Outside of these cases, such acts are still sanctioned under criminal law.

Hazing is **punishable with 6 months' imprisonment and a €7500 fine**. These sanctions are doubled if the victim is a vulnerable person (pregnant, disabled, sick or otherwise in a position of vulnerability). Where there are acts of violence, threats or sexual offences, these are misdemeanours punishable with fines or imprisonment of up to 10 years.

Anyone who did not directly cause harm but created or helped create the situation that allowed the harm to be caused or did not take any steps to prevent it are also criminally liable.

Hazing can lead to criminal prosecution before a correctional court or higher criminal court, including for minors, as well as those responsible if they knew about what happened but did not intervene.

What to do if you are a victim or witness of hazing

To bring an end to what's happening as quickly as possible, inform your department so that the president's office can take disciplinary measures against the people who took part in the hazing or encouraged it.

To do this, contact the mediation centre (**Maison de la Médiation**) :

Tél. : 03 62 26 91 16 / maison-mediation@univ-lille.fr / 42 rue Paul Duez, Lille

File a complaint at a police station or gendarmerie (see p. 17), or bring the case directly to the public prosecutor (by registered letter with notification of receipt sent to the Tribunal Judiciaire in the **jurisdiction where the offence occurred**) :

https://www.service-public.fr/simulateur/calcul/Porter_plainte

If you find it difficult to file a complaint or feel you are not properly dealt with by the police services or gendarmerie, you can bring your case to the defender of rights :

<https://www.defenseurdesdroits.fr/controler-le-respect-de-la-deontologie-par-les-professionnels-de-la-securite-195>

Education code, art. L.712-2 (responsibility of university presidents), amended by law no. 2017-86 of 27 January 2017 - art. 1777, art. 225-16-1: combating hazing.

« Any distinction made between persons because they suffered or refused to suffer acts of hazing or witnessed such acts constitutes an act of discrimination ».

Law of 27 January 2017, art. 2025-1-2
Protection for victims, witnesses and those who refused to be subjected to hazing.

To receive support from the **University student health service (SSE)** :
contact 03 62 26 93 00 or sse@univ-lille.fr



To ensure protection and/or disciplinary procedures are put in place quickly, it is advised to file complaints via the University's President office :
presidence@univ-lille.fr or signalement@univ-lille.fr



C. Online violence

Online violence refers to acts of **violence using digital technology** defined by the Penal code. These can take the form of harassment, intimidation and all kinds of constraint and coercion : **rumours, insults, threats, account hacking, usurping identity, unwanted and/or repeated solicitation, sending messages or media content of a sexual nature** (for example : sexist or sexual violence, « revenge porn », exposure to violent content),

posting media content (photos, videos, texts, etc.) **without consent, webcam blackmail, etc.**

Cyber harassment is the term for when tools are used to harass one or more people. **Whatever form it takes** (psychological, school bullying, sexual or ambient), **it is a misdemeanour.**

Both victims and witnesses can :

► **immediately** take screenshots and **store** them as evidence

► if necessary, visit the dedicated web page by scanning this QR code or ask for advice via the ministry's helpline at **3018** (7 days a week, 9am to 11pm) or online service :
<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A17444>

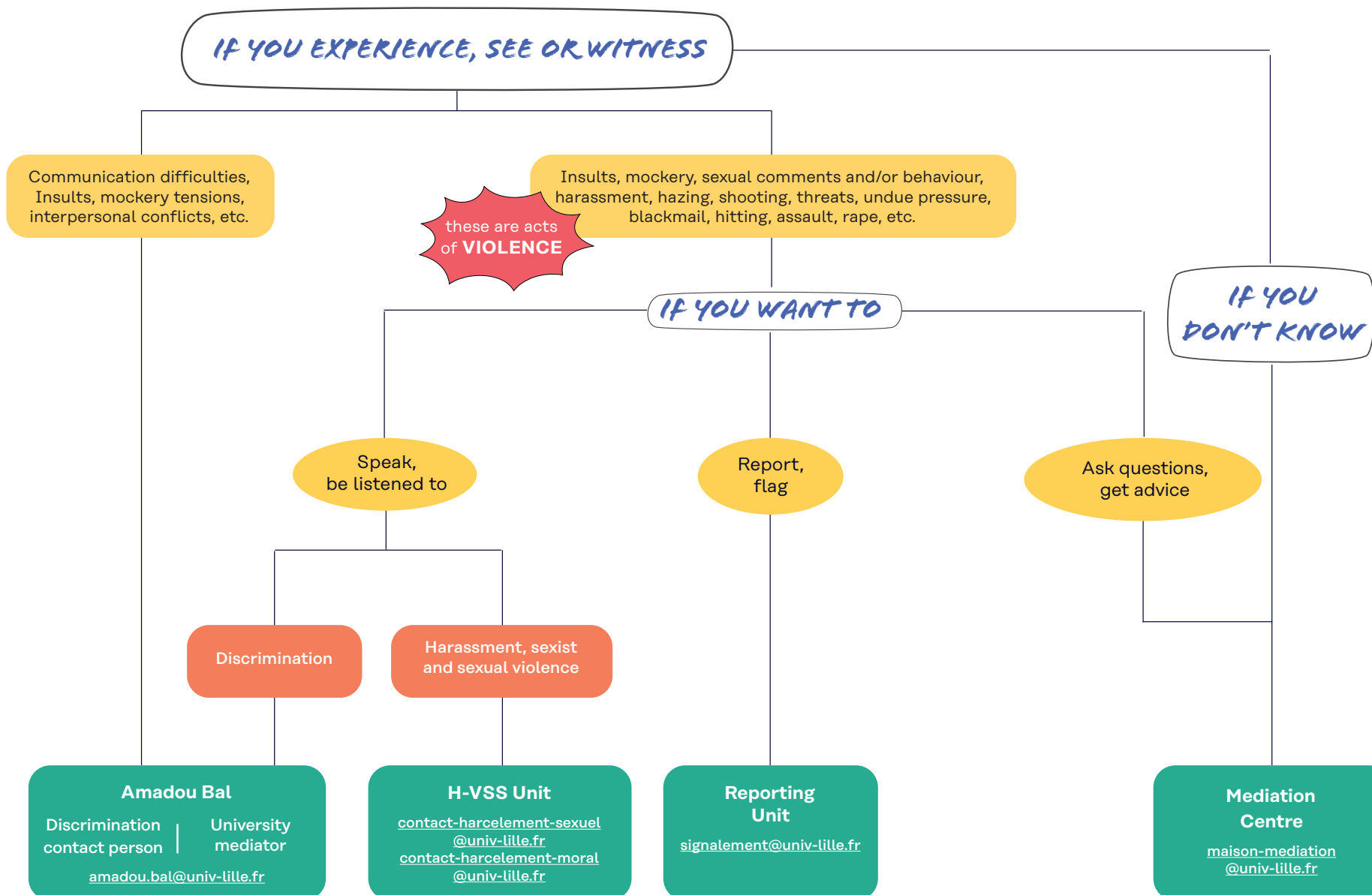


► report what happened via PHAROS :
<https://www.internet-signalement.gouv.fr/PharosS1>



Important : anyone who misuses the governmental website to make false claims is liable for prosecution. (If necessary, consult the « Questions & answers » section before reporting anything).

What to do. Who to tell.



D. Drug-facilitated sexual assaults

French law differentiates between « **chemical submission** » and « **chemical vulnerability** » when dealing with drug-facilitated sexual assaults. The former is the **administration, without the victim's knowledge or by constraint** (pressure, threats, hazing, etc.), of psychoactive substances like **alcohol, drugs or medication intravenously or by ingestion**. Remember : the injection is not always felt. **The effects can vary** as they depend on the substance and dose. The victim often feels dizzy, experiences hot flushes, memory loss, nausea, behavioural changes, etc.

This does not only happen at parties, but also in private spaces, work environments, etc.

Chemical vulnerability is the term used for **voluntary consumption of psychoactive substances** (medication, alcohol, drugs, etc.) that result in a state of fragility which is then exploited by one or more people to commit misdemeanours or crimes, for example using a person's state of inebriation after consuming alcohol to encourage or force them to engage in risky, humiliating, denigrating or degrading behaviour, or perform sexual acts. This constitutes an aggravating circumstance.

Certain substances can only be detected for a period of 12 hours.

Victims are therefore strongly advised to report what happened to the authorities **as quickly as possible**.

Also for the victim's health, particularly if an injection is suspected, **medical treatment within 48 hours is strongly recommended** (especially to avoid the risk of HIV and hepatitis B).

Chemical submission is often referred to in the media, which might give the impression that all forms of consumption is necessarily dangerous. Many people report feeling **increasingly fearful** and even **limiting their social outings**.

The solution is not to make this subject a taboo, especially because it is so important to keep people informed and raise awareness. On the contrary, legitimising fear rather than mocking it is a way to address people's concerns.

If you or someone you know is worried or has questions about the consumption of psychoactive substances (alcohol, drugs, tobacco), we encourage you not to keep it to yourself.

Get in touch with the University student health service (SSE - see box p. 9).

What you need to know about aggravating circumstances :

There are aggravating circumstances when the judge feels there are aspects that make the offence more serious, harmful and impactful.

They result in a **heavier sentence for the accused if found guilty**.

In some cases, they can **extend the statute of limitations**, which is the period in which the victim can have their complaint investigated by the judicial authorities.

Aggravating circumstances include when the victim is a minor, unconscious, under the influence of psychoactive substances or disabled, and when the alleged perpetrator has links to the victim : partner, workplace superior, manager (research, internship, holiday camp, etc.).

Whatever the aggravating circumstances, it is the perpetrator who bears the burden. For example, **if they themselves are under the influence of alcohol or narcotics**, this is also an aggravating circumstance, including in cases of rape or sexual assault. Furthermore, if a substance has been administered **without the victim's knowledge**, this is an **additional** aggravating circumstance (Penal code, art. 222-24, 222-28 and 222-30). Case law shows that if a victim of rape was in a state of inebriation, this constitutes an aggravating circumstance due to their vulnerability (Court of Cassation, Criminal Chamber, 18 December 1991).

4 - Internal and external procedures - Useful contacts

The victim can consider **two different procedures** : **criminal** and/or **internally at the university**. The two procedures are **distinct** but can **complement** one another.

Criminal procedure :

you can request a **judicial investigation** : this might lead to a conviction and therefore **sanctions outside the university** (imprisonment, fine, obligation to seek treatment, etc.).

Internal procedure :

you can request an inquiry **within the university** : this might lead to **injunctive relief of a temporary nature** (suspension, ban on returning to campus, etc.) and/or **disciplinary sanctions** (warning, revocation, temporary or definitive expulsion - Education code).

If a link is established between the institution and the alleged perpetrator of violence, the institution can in some cases face disciplinary procedures, **even if the acts were committed outside the university** (for example during a social event, at an internship location, etc.).

Timeframes and statute of limitation

A criminal procedure (before a court) can be initiated within the following durations from the date of the last alleged act :

- 1 year for insults, defamation, incitement to anti-LGBT hatred,
- 6 years for harassment, discrimination and violence,
- 20 years for crimes (for example : rape, violence causing death unintentionally),
- 30 years for rape committed against a minor.

Note : universities have 3 years to initiate a procedure **against staff members from the time they are informed of what happened**.

General code of civil service : art. L532-2.

Contacts at the university

The Listening, monitoring & information unit for sexual harassment (CEVIHS)

allows victims to be listened to, supported and/or accompanied in cases of sexist and sexual violence (sexual harassment, assault, rape) :
contact-harcelement-sexuel@univ-lille.fr

The mediation centre (Maison de la Médiation)

can answer your questions and provide free information about your rights : maison-mediation@univ-lille.fr



03 62 26 91 16 - 42 rue Paul Duez, Lille

Walk-in hours on site.

<https://ent.univ-lille.fr/etu/vie-pratique/mediation>

You can report an incident to the university

by completing the dedicated form :
signalement@univ-lille.fr



International mobility

During stays abroad (on ERASMUS or any other type of exchange programme), the University of Lille is committed to supporting its community in facing any difficulties encountered. Victims can also contact the international mobility department to find out about their rights, specific regulations in the host country and even repatriation procedures :
international@univ-lille.fr.

Pursuant to the decree of 13 March 2020, **all French universities** must have a reporting mechanism in place.

You can consult the full range of mechanisms by flashing this QR code :

<https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/violences-sexistes-et-sexuelles-95919>



Examples of protective measures

During the investigation (internal or criminal), the university can put in place **injunctive relief measures to protect the complainant**.

For example : change the tutorial group of the alleged perpetrator so that the complainant doesn't have to cross paths with them anymore ; give responsibility for an internship, dissertation or thesis to another staff member, etc.

► If the events occurred **on the premises of your internship, work-study programme, professional contract, etc.** : the agreement signed between your institution (in this case the University of Lille) and the host organisation (business or other institution) **obliges the latter to protect you** (for example, no longer allowing the aggressor to work alongside the victim).

The host organisation must therefore take **all necessary steps to bring an end to the violence, prioritising the victim's situation** over that of the alleged perpetrator.

► If management in the host organisation don't respond, the university has an **obligation to intervene to ensure your rights are respected** : you can write to your tutor, for example, or contact the mediation centre (maison-mediation@univ-lille.fr) which will make sure the proper procedures are followed, and perhaps put in place protective measures. For example : authorise the student to stay away from the host organisation, find another way for the thesis defence to be held, ensure there is no negative impact on grades, etc.

► If the victim is **unable to attend an exam (continuous assessment, midterms) or go to their internship or work contract premises**, they can consult a doctor to explain their situation and perhaps obtain a **work leave certificate** (internship, work-study programme, vocational degree programme), **statement** from a health professional (for a midterm exam), or **temporary work incapacity** (ITT).

► All of these documents can be used to justify their absence or secure a modified study or exam timetable (additional time, separate exam halls, etc.) but can also be used in support of a case before the courts.

Medical visits at the University



If you're a **student**, the **student health service** (SSE) offers free medical and/or psychological consultations :
contact 03 62 26 93 00 or sse@univ-lille.fr



If you're a **member of staff**, during the week contact the **workplace doctor** :
medecinepreventionagentsudl@univ-lille.fr
03 62 26 91 95 / 03 62 26 91 07 (Head office)
03 20 43 67 97 / 03 20 43 65 51 (Cit  Scientifique)
03 20 41 61 18 (Pont de Bois)

File a complaint

► **At a gendarmerie or police station** : if the city you're in has both, go to the police station because the gendarmerie will have to transfer your complaint there in any case, which will slow things down. If there is only a gendarmerie, it will handle your case.

► NB : law enforcement officials are **required to register your complaint**. If they refuse, cite the Code of criminal procedure : art. 15-3, para. 1.

- All complaints filed in a police station or gendarmerie must be taken at that time and in that place and cannot be postponed to another date or transferred to another location (Art. 15-3 Code of criminal procedure).
- If necessary, the defender of rights (DDD) can also help.

The DDD runs regular **consultations free of charge** around the country :

<https://www.antidiscriminations.fr/>

- You can also send your complaint to the public prosecutor (by registered letter with notification of receipt) :
https://www.service-public.fr/simulateur/calcul/Porter_plainte

- It is also possible to contact the authorities directly via instant messaging :
<https://www.masecurite.interieur.gouv.fr/fr>
<https://www.internet-signalement.gouv.fr/>

NB : transferring the complaint directly to the University will speed up the internal procedures and measures taken (see p. 14).

Forensic medical unit

The forensic medical unit at Lille university hospital (CHU) caters for victims of physical, domestic, family or sexual violence. It will draw up a medical report as part of the judicial procedure.

In the case of sexual violence, you **must first have filed a complaint before making an appointment**.

Phone 03 20 44 66 46 (Mon-Fri, 8:30am - 4:30pm) or make an appointment via the CHU website or Doctolib. It is best to phone to find out how to proceed.

Hôpital Salengro
1st floor - entrance 5
Avenue du Professeur Emile Laine
59037 Lille (Metro line 1 : stop CHU - Eurasanté)

Get support and advice outside the university :

3919 (24/7) : free helpline for witnesses or victims of violence. This number will **never** appear on your telephone statements (but will continue to be visible in the phone's call log so be sure to delete it from your recent calls if necessary).

En avant toutes **Free chat service** (mon - thur, from 10am till midnight ; fri and sat from 10am to 9pm) : <https://enavanttoutes.fr/>

Cnaé **National coordination for student support**
0 800 737 800 : free and confidential helpline and support for students in difficulty.
The CNAÉ also has a team of listeners trained specifically to speak to victims and who can, if you wish, help you to draft a report of what happened for your university.

CLASCHEs **Anti-sexist group combating sexual harassment in higher education and research** : <https://clasches.fr>

AVFT **European association combating violence against women in the workplace** : <https://www.avft.org>

5 - Wich documents should be kept for an inquiry ?

The victim and witnesses can **gather evidence** : messages, screenshots, audio content, emails, medical certificates indicating physical or psychological symptoms, prescriptions, work leave certificates, etc.

If there is a suspicion that the victim was drugged, the drink consumed or glasses which contained it should be kept in a **cool place** as this **increases the chances** of detecting substances (see page 12).

If you wish to file a complaint immediately, it is best **not to wash your clothes or yourself to preserve the evidence**.

The victim and witnesses can write up an **account of the circumstances** each one saw and/or heard : date, time, location, names and surnames of those present, physical description (body shape, clothing, etc.), writing words uttered in inverted commas, recording emotions felt, reactions of the victim or others, etc.

The « **Mémo de vie** » platform allows you to store documents **securely** on a server that can be **accessed from anywhere** : <https://memo-de-vie.org/>

The role of witnesses

► Important : witnesses can back up a complaint of report by drawing up a **sworn statement of what they know** of witnessed first-hand.

In this document, witnesses can indicate, if applicable, any deterioration in the physical and/or psychological state of the victim.

► As a direct witness, you mustn't place yourself in danger. **React any way you can and adapt your response to each situation** : ask a third party for help, report what happened, provide help, etc.

► **If you feel bad after the incident, if you find yourself thinking often about it, this could be signs of vicarious trauma** : it is common for witnesses or anyone who listens to accounts of violence to feel symptoms similar to those of the victim. If necessary, you can contact a doctor : your GP, the student help service (SSE) or workplace doctor (for staff members).

MAIN CONTACTS

Unit for harassment, sexist & sexual violence (H-VSS)

contact-harcelement-sexuel@univ-lille.fr

Mediation centre (Maison de la Médiation - Université de Lille)

maison-mediation@univ-lille.fr

Cnaé - National coordination for student support

0 800 737 800

Free and confidential (10am - 9pm midweek / 10am - 2pm on Saturdays)

cnaes@enseignementsup.gouv.fr

Free helpline for witnesses and victims of violence

3919 (24/7)

Ministry helpline for cases of (online and offline) harassment

3018

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A17444>

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