

REMEMBER

SGBV is NOT your fault!

Worldwide many women, men, girls and boys experience physical or sexual abuse or other forms of SGBV in their lifetime. Anyone can become a victim of sexual and gender-based violence.

You are NOT alone! Help is available!

There are people who can help you, such as doctors, police officers, and social workers. If you have experienced or are experiencing SGBV, tell someone you trust or contact the organizations listed above.

HELP others stay safe as well!

If someone who has experienced or is experiencing SGBV reaches out to you, listen to them and remind them that SGBV is not their fault and that they are not alone. Tell them that help is available and encourage them to seek assistance. If they agree you can contact the organizations listed above together.

Share the leaflet and the video so that it reaches more people!



<https://youtu.be/KsIE6Q7hXe8>



ABOUT US

The PROTECT project aims to strengthen national support services for victims of sexual and gender-based violence. PROTECT also aims to make these services available to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, be they children or adults and including people identifying as LGBTI.

<https://eea.iom.int/PROTECT-project>



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Information on

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



IN ITALY EVERY person has the same rights, no matter their age, sex, language, religion, nationality, etc.

You have a **RIGHT** to enjoy a life free of any form of violence. If someone hurts you or threatens to hurt you or someone you know, remember that you have a right to receive help and protection.

You are not alone. **HELP** is available.

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

What is SGBV?

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV) is any act which is perpetrated **WITHOUT A PERSON'S CONSENT**, based on **GENDER NORMS AND UNEQUAL POWER RELATIONS**. It includes acts that cause or may cause physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering.



What is the difference between sex, gender and gender identity?

A person's **SEX** corresponds to the biological characteristics assigned at birth, which define that person as female or male, while **GENDER** refers to the behaviours and attributes which are socially constructed and assigned to a person according to their biological sex, i.e. being female or male (how they should dress and present themselves, what their roles and responsibilities should be, etc.).

A person's **GENDER IDENTITY** refers to each person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with the sex assigned at birth, including the personal sense of the body (which may involve, if freely chosen, modification of bodily appearance or function by medical, surgical or other means) and other expressions of gender, including dress, speech and mannerisms.

What types of SGBV exist?

There are many forms of SGBV. Sexual violence is amongst the most commonly reported types.



- **SEXUAL VIOLENCE** includes rape/attempted rape, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and sexual harassment, among others. These can take many forms such as unwanted touching of body, injury to private parts, unwanted sexual comments, being forced to have sex with someone, being forced to watch sexual acts, being forced to be naked. Sexual violence is **NOT ABOUT HAVING SEX**. It is about violence, exploitation, and abuse of power and/or control.
- **OTHER EXAMPLES OF SGBV** include: threats, insults, beatings; being forced to marry or to have/not to have an abortion; being forced to work without pay or against your will; being harassed (with looks, words, acts); being transported from your country to Italy using threats or force or other forms of coercion, or in exchange for money, sex, labour.

What is sexual consent?

SEXUAL CONSENT is to agree to engage in sexual activity. Sexual activity without consent is considered sexual violence. Consent should always be: (1) explicit and informed; (2) freely given; (3) freely accepted; and (4) it can be withdrawn at any time.

Consent cannot be given by a person who is drunk or drugged or by someone else on your behalf. There are cases when consent might not be possible due to physical or intellectual disabilities. Remember: you can always change your mind, even if you previously agreed to a sexual activity.

The age of sexual consent is how old a person needs to be to legally consent to sexual activity. According to Italian law, the age of consent is generally 14 years old.

To whom can SGBV happen?

SGBV can happen to ANYONE and is NEVER the victim's fault. Women and men, girls and boys, adults and children, elderly people and people identifying as LGBTI can all become victims of SGBV. SGBV is NEVER justifiable.

Who can perpetrate SGBV?

ANYONE can perpetrate acts of SGBV. The perpetrator can be someone you know, such as a family member, a friend or a romantic partner, or a complete stranger.

Where can SGBV happen?

SGBV can happen ANYWHERE: in your home country, during your journey to another country, and in the country you are currently living in. It can happen in public places and private homes, at work, in detention centres and prisons, during random stops and at checkpoints.

Is SGBV my fault?

SGBV is NEVER the victim's fault. Gender norms and unequal power relations are the root causes of SGBV. The perpetrator is the only person to blame.

What if I did not fight back?

It is very common not to fight back during an assault because you may panic and feel hopeless or trapped and you don't know what to do to get out of the situation. This does not mean that you consented to the violence. Any response to the violence, including being aroused during the attack, does not change your sexuality and it does not mean that you enjoyed it or wanted it.

What if I am asked for sex in exchange for money, help or other goods?

Nobody has the right to force you to have sex or to get you to agree to have sex in exchange for something you may need or want. If someone force you to have sex in exchange for money, help or other goods, this is sexual exploitation and a form of violence. In Italy, if you are under 18, it is always a crime if someone offers you money, help, or other goods in exchange for sex.

What are the consequences of SGBV?

SGBV can have both physical and emotional consequences. Physically, SGBV can cause bodily harm, pain, and infections, among others. Women and girls can become pregnant without wanting to and also men and boys can be physically hurt. The emotional consequences of SGBV can include trauma, nightmares, insomnia, headaches, and many different feelings such as anger, shame, sadness, guilt, and fear. All feelings are valid. In Italy there are professional and confidential services to support victims. You are NOT alone.



REMEMBER

ANYONE can become a victim of SGBV

SGBV is NEVER the victim's fault

SGBV is always UNACCEPTABLE

You can ask for HELP



AVAILABLE SERVICES

What can I do if I or someone I know experience or witness SGBV?

If you experience, witness, or suspect SGBV you can tell a family member, a relative or another adult you trust.

You are NOT alone.

You can always ask for help to the staff of the reception centre where you live and to your guardian.

There are also other people who can help you in a confidential way, such as teachers, social workers, police officers, doctors. In addition, you can contact migrant and refugee organizations, women's organizations and ANTI-VIOLENCE CENTRES (CAV).

You can call the telephone number 112 to contact emergency services:

CARABINIERI (MILITARY POLICE)
POLIZIA DI STATO (STATE POLICE)
PRONTO SOCCORSO (FIRST AID)

The call and the services are free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

You can also

Call the **NATIONAL HOTLINE AGAINST TRAFFICKING:**
800 290 290.

The toll-free number is anonymous and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

The operators provide information and support in 13 different languages. Anybody can turn to it: potential victims of trafficking or exploitation, but also private citizens, law enforcement agencies, representatives of public or private bodies, and members of professional associations who become aware of cases of exploitation and abuse and wish to report or have information on these issues.

Call the **NATIONAL HELPLINE ON VIOLENCE AND STALKING:**
1522.

The number is free of charge and active 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year.

Here you can find more information, in English, French, Spanish and Arabic, about the Hotline above:
www.1522.eu

Call the **NATIONAL HELPLINE FOR CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY:**
114.

In case of sexual abuse, domestic violence or severe state of neglect. The number is free of charge and active 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year.

Call the hotline for Children and Adolescents, provided by the **ASSOCIATION "TELEFONO AZZURRO":**
1.96.96.

It's a toll-free and 24 hours a day service.

More information about the service is provided here:
www.english.azzurro.it

Call the **NATIONAL HELPLINE FOR VICTIMS OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM):**
800 300 558

The number is free of charge and active from Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Go to **WWW.COMECITROVI.WOMEN.IT** and find the Anti-Violence Centre (CAV) closest to you on the map.