SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT
Swansea University enforces a zero-tolerance approach when addressing sexual violence.

Sexual violence is the general term used to describe any kind of unwanted sexual act or activity, including rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and many others. Swansea University has support mechanisms in place to support you should you have been a victim of or affected by sexual violence.

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you are in immediate danger then please call 999.

If you are on Campus you can also contact Campus Security Services during office hours - by dialling 333 from any internal telephone or by using our SafeZone app.

Outside office hours, or from a mobile phone - by calling the University Switchboard on (01792) 205678 or by using SafeZone.

DISCLOSING AN ASSAULT

We understand that the decision to report sexual assault is personal. Regardless of whether the assault was current, recent or historical, it is important that you are comfortable with the next steps.

Below is a list of some of the options available to you in reporting an incident, whether via the university, police, or other external agencies.

WHERE TO START

Tell yourself: Sometimes the first person survivors need to disclose to is themselves. Too often survivors can internalize messages that it wasn’t “so bad” or was somehow their fault.
**Share with someone you trust:** This is never easy but consider sharing with a friend, an academic mentor or your residences life assistant if you live on-campus. Let them know what you need.

**Seek medical care:** Even if there are no obvious injuries or you don’t want to report the assault to the police, it is important to seek medical attention if the assault just happened. We can help you with that, directing you to the local Sexual Assault Response Centre (SARC).

**Connect with support** Contact the Wellbeing Service within Student Services or the Advice and Support Centre within the Student Union at Swansea University. We are here to listen to you, and will help you access resources and make an informed decision about the next steps - if and when you choose to.

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**Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Contact Information**

You can contact the Wellbeing Service for advice and guidance by:

**Phone:** 01792 29 5592  
**Email:** wellbeing@swansea.ac.uk  
**Location:** Talbot Building 941. Walk through the front entrance of Faraday and continue until you enter Talbot. At the end of the corridor turn right to locate Wellbeing Services. If you are unsure, ask at the Student Union reception as you enter Faraday.

**OR**

The Advice and Support Centre at the Student Union  
**Phone:** 01792 29 5821  
**Email:** advice@swansea-union.co.uk

Or come in to chat to us:  
**Singleton:** Ground floor of Fulton House, just behind Costcutter  
**Bay:** 1st floor of the Students' Union building, just ask at the ground floor reception
HOW CAN THE WELLBEING SERVICE AND ADVICE AND SUPPORT CENTRE HELP?
You have access to our support regardless of whether the sexual violence happened on- or off-campus, or if you were subjected to sexual violence before you came to Swansea. With your consent, we can help you with:

- Referrals to counselling and medical services
- Academic and accommodation adjustments
- Understanding the reporting options available to you
- Navigating systems and resources within the university and the community

People react and deal with sexual violence in many different ways. Any way you choose to proceed will be fully respected. We will support you on whatever path works best for you. We will handle your disclosure with confidentiality and will respect any decisions you make—we are here to listen and support you.

We have put together some information about your options and the next steps to take below.

WHAT TO DO NEXT
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EVENT
If you feel like you or someone else may still be at risk call:

On campus security: 333 from your room phone or (01792) 205678

Police: 999

If you are injured or need medical assistance, call 999 for an ambulance or Security 333 from your room phone or (01792) 205678.

If you are not at risk find somewhere safe and warm and call somebody you trust to support you. If you are in halls of residence this could be your RSA if you do not want to contact friends or family.
Although it may be discomforting to do so, if you have experienced sexual assault it is really important that you preserve any evidence which may help the police in the enquiries.

To preserve evidence until the police have arrived try not to:

- Use the toilet or discard underwear or sanitary products
- Wash, shower, bathe or shave
- Wash your hands
- Remove, wash, discard or destroy clothing worn or bedding and towels used at the time of the incident or subsequent to it
- Drink or eat anything, including non-essential medication
- Clean your teeth
- Smoke
- Disturb the scene or allow other people or animals to enter the area where the incident took place, where possible.
- Non-physical evidence, such as relevant texts, social media messages and emails should be preserved.

What you need to know

- if you think you have been given any type of drug, it is best to be tested within 24 hours
- if you need emergency contraception, medication should be started within 72 hours
- if you would like HIV prevention drugs, medication should be started within 36 hours

REPORTING THE INCIDENT

If you have experienced sexual violence you are encouraged to make contact with the University’s Wellbeing Service or the Student Union Advice and Support Centre. We are able to provide initial care and support and talk through options with you. We are not here to judge or blame you. We will listen, offer support and advice. A member of the team can act as an ongoing supporting contact for you.
If you want to report the incident to the police they will usually arrange for a SOLO (Sexual Offence Liaison Officer) to come and see you once they have seen to your initial welfare. The SOLO will then normally take mouth swabs and urine samples as forensic evidence. They will also be your main point of contact during your case.

If you decide to attend a SARC or police station directly, it is important to take any underwear or clothing worn at the time of the incident in a plastic bag, if not being worn for the journey. The place of the incident should also be made secure if possible.

**WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO REPORT THE INCIDENT**

You might decide not to report the incident to the police. This is completely your decision and you will be respected and supported in whatever decision you make. No one will judge or blame you. You can still speak to a member of the University’s Wellbeing Service of Student Union Advice and Support Centre who will support you. It would be useful, where appropriate, to take photographs of the scene of the incident and keep any relevant clothes, bedding, text messages or emails etc as these can then be used if you decide to report what happened to the police in the future.

If you choose not to report the incident to the police, you can still access the services of the local Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). The team at the SARC can see you without police involvement and book you an appointment as a self-referral. They can collect evidence in case you later decide to report the incident and can also provide you with emergency contraception and sexual health screening.

**WHAT IS A SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRE (SARC)?**

A Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) is a special facility where recent survivors of rape or sexual assault can receive immediate help and support. This includes access to a forensic medical examination, which is carried out by an experienced and qualified doctor, and the opportunity to speak to the Police about what has happened to them if they wish to do so. SARC clients also receive help and advice from one of a Crisis Worker who can offer to support them and stay with them throughout the process.
For more information on the advice and support SARC can provide, please visit http://www.newpathways.org.uk/sexual-assault-referral-centre/

**New pathways - Sexual Assault Referral Centre**

New pathways is a sexual assault referral centre where a range of specially trained, experienced professionals give help, support and advice to men, women, children and young people, following a sexual assault in Swansea or the surrounding areas.

New Pathways  
Unit 3  
Langdon House  
Langdon Road  
Swansea  
SA1 8QY  
Tel: 01792 966660  
Email: enquiries@newpathways.org.uk  
Website: http://www.newpathways.org.uk

New pathways provides a holistic service in a safe and comfortable environment that is client focused. Anyone can refer to them. It doesn't matter how long ago an assault happened, or if you don't want to tell the police.

Services include:

- Advice, to help you decide the way forward.
- Police interview facilitation, in a comfortable and confidential setting.
- Emotional support and advice.
- A forensic medical examination carried out by a specially trained doctor.
- Ongoing support and advocacy through the criminal justice system.
- Specialist counselling from an experienced and qualified Counsellor.

For further information, contact by telephone, email or visit the website. the website link directs you to the New Pathways website which covers a number of areas across Wales.
Out of Hours Tel. No.: 07423 437020

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
If you report an incident of sexual violence to the police they will carry out their investigation. If a suspect is charged, the case will go to court.

You are encouraged to report any incident to Student Services who have specific staff to support students who have been a victim of sexual violence. A member of the team will discuss the next steps with you in regards to supporting you and any disciplinary action that we may take. Procedures are in place to manage any risk to yourself or other members of the university community. If you have reported the incident to the police, we will not take any action that may interfere with these investigations however there are numerous adjustments that we may be able to make for you. These include:

Academic Adjustments

Where appropriate adjustments will be made to enable you to continue with your course which may include:

- Submission of Exceptional Circumstances forms and letters of supporting evidence outlining that you have experienced ECs of a personal and confidential nature.
- Delayed assessment opportunities or further opportunities for assessment as a first attempt.
- Extensions to deadlines for the submission of written assignments.
- In some cases, alternative modes of assessment, eg. written work to replace group work or presentations, should be considered.

Exam Arrangements

Staff will liaise with academic schools and the Examinations Office to arrange:

- Examinations in an individual or smaller room.
- 25% extra time.

Teaching and Attendance
• Staff will liaise with academic schools to explain possible absences from classes.
• Notes for any missed lectures will be made available.
• Changes to the timetable and alternative teaching slots should also be considered if appropriate.

**Leave of Absence**

• If you feel like taking some time out from your course will be beneficial, a period of Leave of Absence will be authorised.
• Staff will provide appropriate supporting evidence for this and will advise you of any practical and financial implications of this.
• Staff will provide support through your period of leave, ensuring that contact is maintained following transition back into study.

**Accommodation**

• For students living in university accommodation, changing to another room on campus (if appropriate).
• For students living off campus, offer of a room on campus.
• Financial assistance with these costs.
• Additional security measures to be considered for existing accommodation (eg, window locks, security patrols, timing on automatic doors).

**Equipment**

• A replacement mobile phone and laptop can be lent to you if they are needed by police for forensic investigations.

**Security**

• You will be given appropriate telephone numbers to access out of hours support including, Emergency Services, Campus Security, Residence Support team (if appropriate) as well as provided with details of how to access the Universities ‘SafeZone’ App.
• Staff will ensure relevant information is shared with the University’s Security team so that additional security measures can be introduced. This could include additional surveillance and visits to halls and information about the alleged perpetrator where appropriate.
Reporting Process

- If the alleged perpetrator is a Swansea University student some of the following actions may be taken against them:
  - Internal disciplinary investigation.
  - Restricted access to campus or specified areas of campus.
  - Accommodation move if possible

FURTHER SUPPORT

The following organisations can offer further support to victims and supporters of sexual violence or gender-based violence:

- **Rape Crisis**: A free telephone helpline which can provide advice to women and men.
- **Victim support**: Options for support as a victim of crime
- **NHS Choices**: Help after rape and sexual assault
- **BAWSO**: Bawso is an all-Wales voluntary organisation, providing specialist services to victims and BAME people affected or at risk of Domestic Abuse and all forms of violence
- **Swansea Women’s Aid**: Swansea Women’s Aid is a women-only organisation which supports women, with or without children, who are affected by domestic abuse.
- **Support Line**: Confidential telephone helpline
- **Mind**: Mental health charity
- **The Survivors Trust**: Specialist organisations throughout the UK
- **Karma Nirvana**: Charity that supports victims and survivors of forced marriage and honour-based abuse.
- **Survivors UK**: A free and confidential telephone helpline for men and boys who are dealing with the effects of sexual violence.

CONTACT THE TEAM

To arrange an appointment with one of the team or to seek advice please get in touch:

**Wellbeing Service**  
**Phone**: 01792 29 5592  
**Email**: sar@swansea.ac.uk
The Advice and Support Centre at the Student Union
Phone: 01792 29 5821
Email: advice@swansea-union.co.uk