

STREET HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESOURCES

IMMEDIATE RESOURCES FOR STREET HARASSMENT

If you are in immediate danger, please call 999

The university's security services have a *24 hour hotline* - their 24 hour number is **+44 (0)1865 289999** for emergencies and **+44 (0)1865 272944** for general enquiries. Calling their control room allows operators to make a rapid decision as to the appropriate level of response. They can speak to you on the telephone while you walk, monitor you on University CCTV, send a patrol staff to attend, or call the police. Further details here:

<https://estates.admin.ox.ac.uk/emergency-contacts>

During in-person terms, [Oxford Nightline](https://oxfordnightline.org/) run a *Get Home Safe* service, where you can call them and stay on the phone until you're home safe - at the moment they're only operating over text, but next term the service should be fully up and running <https://oxfordnightline.org/>

IMMEDIATE RESOURCES FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE

If you are in immediate danger, please call 999

What to do after an incidence of sexual violence:

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) are an option for after an incidence of sexual violence. They are independent evidence collection and support centres. You can go to one and have evidence collected and not call the police or involve the police - this is your choice.

Women, men, and children can use a SARC. They will have a specialist perform a forensic examination (if wanted) and they can give you crisis support for initial visits and arrange follow up appointments. They also provide independent advocacy and support with practical matters, telephone advice, and signposting to external services.

Solace Centre

Police House, Queens Avenue, Bicester, OX26 2NT
0300 130 3036
Appointment only

The New Swindon Sanctuary

Vpu The Gables Shrivenham Road South Marston Swindon
Wiltshire SN3 4RB
www.swindonsanctuary.co.uk

Thames Valley SARC Slough

0845 519 7638 Upton Hospital Church Street Slough
SL1 2BJ

Having evidence collected does not mean that a report has to be made to the police, but it will help if a survivor later chooses to make a report.

Evidence collection can be essential to building a legal case, especially in cases where the survivor has blacked out or suspects that drugs were used. Key signs of date rape drugs include sudden dizziness, nausea, and amnesia. The symptoms will typically begin to set in

about 20 minutes after the drug is consumed. Date rape drugs are normally drunk. Alcohol can also be a date rape drug.

In regard to evidence collection this is a best practice list of instructions which should be followed as closely as possible, however, if a survivor cannot follow these this does not mean evidence is unattainable.

- Do not wash.
- Do not brush your teeth.
- Do not have a cigarette.
- Do not eat or drink.
- Do not change your clothes (or keep them safely to one side).
- Try not go to the toilet.
- Do not clear up anything from the area of the incident.
- Any evidence that is moved (clothes etc) should be picked up and stored in a paper bag.

It is best to report as soon as possible. However, you can report sexual violence at any point, even years after the event.

Things to remember:

- The survivor can have a translator and/or signer for any part of the police process
- The survivor can bring a family or friend, however, they shouldn't be a potential witness
- The process will be done at the survivor's pace
- The survivor can stop the process at any point
- The survivor will not be judged
- The survivor's safety will be considered and appropriate measures to maintain their safety will always be put in place
- The survivor is legally guaranteed anonymity from the press and public
- The survivor can access support at any time during the process and it will always be given to them
- The survivor can also go through the police after going to a Sexual Assault Referral Centre

WELFARE RESOURCES

If you've been emotionally affected by street harassment or sexual violence in Oxford and would like to talk to somebody about it, don't hesitate to reach out. The University Counselling service (counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk) is still running remotely and has shorter wait times than usual, and for more targeted support, the Support Service (supportservice@admin.ox.ac.uk) is here if you'd like to talk specifically about harassment and violence.

The Oxford Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service is an all-in-one provision for any students regardless of age or gender who have been affected by sexual harassment or violence. They provide free support and advice, along with a safe place to be heard independent of your college or department. They have specialist advisors who can also offer counselling. They have an independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) who can advise around reporting sexual violence. <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/supportservice>

You can also contact the *Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC)* a feminist organisation committed to supporting survivors of sexual abuse, rape, domestic abuse, and harassment. They offer a free and confidential service to survivors who are dealing with the effects of sexual violence, and to anyone who is supporting them. (<https://www.osarcc.org.uk/>)

It Happens Here, the SU's anti-sexual violence campaign, also has a number of resources on their Facebook page related to sexual violence, as well as a support group for survivors

OTHER RESOURCES

Security issues or intruders in and around Catz can be reported to porters or faculty at any time, who can take the necessary security measures.

For more general concerns relating to security issues, you can contact the SU's student advice service here <https://www.oxfordsu.org/support/studentadvice/> or call them on the phone at **07436225637** or **07436225630** between 10.30am-12.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in term time.

If you have further complaints related to an area of Oxford being made safer, you can get into contact with *County Councillor Sobia Afridi* at sobia.afridi@oxfordshire.gov.uk. For issues with lighting specifically, you can report it via the Council website at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/.../street.../street-lighting>

It Happens Here is a student led campaign against sexual violence and harassment. If there is anything they can help with regarding campaigns, lobbying, contacting the Council or putting you in touch with the SU or security services, please do message the Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/ItHappensHereOxford>

OxWarnings is a facebook group made especially for sharing incidents of students feeling unsafe around Oxford to help alert and prevent similar incidents for others. Thank you to Kas, Maya, Anya, and Gaia for setting it up. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/243629820799561>

The instagram page [@everyonesinvited](#) is a UK movement committed to eradicating rape culture through support services, action letters and testimonies.