

# Information if you or someone you know has experienced sexual violence



In Ireland, sexual violence is a recognised crime. Sexual activity without your consent is a crime. This includes exploitation, where you are forced or compelled to do something you do not wish to do. In Ireland you can access:

- free medical care;
- independent and confidential support from rape crisis centres; and
- the police will protect you and seek to prosecute the crime where possible.

## We are here to support you, no matter your circumstances, without judgment

The sexual violence

- may have happened in Ukraine;
- may have been perpetrated by soldiers or others;
- while you fled Ukraine;
- when you arrived in Ireland;
- may still be going on.

Go to [www.rapecrisishelp.ie](http://www.rapecrisishelp.ie) for frequently asked questions, full details of services and contact details in Ukrainian and Russian. The 24 hour helpline on **1800 77 88 88** has a translation service available Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

## The three main services you may need are:

- An Garda Síochána is the Irish police service and any Garda (member of the Irish police service) will be able to support you if you approach them or visit the local police station. The guards have specialist units for sexual violence (Divisional Protective Services Units) and your case may be handled by them should you wish to go forward.
- Medical and forensic care is available at Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs). The guards or rape crisis centre will ensure you have access if needed or you can contact them directly (details at [www.rapecrisishelp.ie](http://www.rapecrisishelp.ie)). SATUs provide specialist medical care including for STIs and pregnancy testing, even if you do not wish to report to the guards. They also may gather forensic evidence if possible.
- Rape crisis centers provide a safe place among professionals who understand how you are feeling – you may take up counselling or accompaniment services. They can provide you with information and support you in making any decisions or link you with relevant services to meet your needs (details on map in [www.rapecrisishelp.ie](http://www.rapecrisishelp.ie)).

## Reporting Rape as a Weapon of War

If you were raped by enemy soldiers in the war in Ukraine then you may want to report it, that is, make a formal statement of complaint so that it can be investigated and, hopefully, prosecuted as a war crime in the International Criminal Court. **If this is what you want to do, please tell the local police in Ireland.** They will make the necessary arrangements.

## Victims Charter

If you are a victim of crime in Ireland you have the right to:

- Information about victim support services
- An assessment of your needs, in case specific supports or protections are needed
- Clear information about the Criminal Justice system, and your role within it
- Be accompanied by a person of your choice at all stages of the process
- Interpretation and translation services
- A written acknowledgement of your complaint
- Information about the investigation and any court proceedings
- To be told why a prosecution was not taken, and to request a review of that decision
- Information about any release date of the offender
- To make a complaint if you feel these rights were not met

More on your rights and supports at [victimscharter.ie](https://victimscharter.ie)

## Ireland's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine

More information for people on the supports and services available while you are in Ireland is available on [gov.ie/Ukraine](https://gov.ie/Ukraine)

