



VILLE DE
GENÈVE

Because everyone
deserves to feel safe
in public places

Towards
Zero
sexism
IN MY CITY

www.geneve.ch/zero-sexisme



Sexism and sexual harassment in public places

What are we talking about?

Any action or behaviour that undermines a person's dignity due to their sex, sexual and/or affective orientation, gender identity and/or expression. It can take the shape of inappropriate looks or comments, intrusive attitudes, insults, threats, exhibitionism, or other physical and/or sexual assaults. These actions, generally committed by strangers, are characterized as unwanted.

Where and how do they occur?

In the street, but also in public transportation, sports clubs, public events and parties, etc. An isolated case already constitutes harassment. However, people who are subjected to these behaviours often face them recurrently, sometimes multiple times a day by different perpetrators.

With what consequences?

Sexual harassment sends a message to those who are targeted that they do not belong and are not welcome in public spaces and facilities. This can provoke a sense of insecurity, have an impact on their health, or force them to adopt avoidance strategies. The latter restrict their freedom and can impose a significant financial burden.

What does the law say?

Some sexist behaviours are not currently specifically prohibited in the law, but this does not make them acceptable. Other behaviours constitute criminal offenses under the Criminal Code (hereafter CC), such as:

- ✖ Insult (177 CC)
- ✖ Threats (180 CC)
- ✖ Coercion (181 CC)
- ✖ Physical harm (122, 123, 125 CC) and misdemeanour assault (126 CC)
- ✖ Assault and battery (134 CC)
- ✖ Offences against sexual integrity, including sexual acts committed in the presence of others without their consent, rude or offensive speech, and/or touching of a sexual nature (198 CC).
- ✖ Offences of a sexual nature, including sexual coercion (189 CC), rape (190 CC), sexual acts committed on a person incapable of discernment or resistance (191 CC), abuse of distress (193 CC), and exhibitionism (194 CC).

Insults, threats, attacks on sexual integrity, misdemeanour assault, simple physical harm (123 CC), and exhibitionism are only prosecuted upon the filing of a complaint.

Coercion, grave physical harm (122 CC), assault and battery, and violations of sexual freedom and honour are prosecuted automatically when criminal authorities become aware of them.

For more information on the articles of the law, visit: www.eyesupapp.ch

What to do?

In case of an immediate threat to your safety or that of others, call the police at 117.



STARTING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

If you wish, you can file a complaint with the police. You have the right to be accompanied by a support person (someone close to you or a professional) during these procedures.

NOTIFYING THE POLICE ("MAIN COURANTE")

- Submitting a "main courante" involves registering an event in the police log. It is useful in case of a subsequent complaint, or to establish a record of sexist or sexual acts.
- Anyone who is a victim or a witness of sexist or sexual harassment can log the event at the police station closest to where the events occurred.
- Logging an event does not result in the criminal prosecution of the perpetrator unless the offense falls under the category of automatically prosecuted infractions.

FILING A COMPLAINT

- The only person who can file a complaint of a criminal offense is the victim. It may be submitted in person at a police station, or in a letter addressed to the Prosecutor's office.
- In case of an offense prosecuted solely upon complaint, the submission of the complaint must take place within three months of the events.
- The complaint can be submitted against a known or an unknown person.



GETTING HELP

The following associations in Geneva can help you or redirect you according to the situation you find yourself in:

F-INFORMATION

Welcomes women and provides information.
www.f-information.org
022 740 31 00

ÉPICÈNE

Association that supports trans* persons.
www.epicene.ch
022 940 01 01

VIOL-SECOURS

For women, trans*, non-binary, and intersex people having experienced sexist or sexual violence.
www.viol-secours.ch
022 345 20 20

ASSOCIATION 360

Welcomes LGBTQI+ people and offers guidance and support services.
www.association360.ch
022 741 00 70

LESTIME

Welcomes LBTQI+ women and offers guidance and support services.
www.lestime.ch
022 797 27 14

CENTRE LAVI

Help for people having experienced a criminal offense.
www.centrelavi-ge.ch
022 320 01 02



REPORT

The *Genève en poche* App includes a tool for reporting situations of sexist or sexual harassment in public places. Your report allows for the municipal police to follow-up on cases.

DOWNLOAD THE
GENÈVE EN POCHE
APP:

