GUIDELINES
ON DEALING
WITH
SEXUAL
HARASSMENT

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sexual.harassment@sciencespo.fr
1. RECOGNISE
SEXUAL HARASSMENT

What is sexual harassment?

Article 222-33 of the French Criminal Code

Sexual harassment is the act of repeatedly subjecting a person to unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when such conduct either compromises the victim’s dignity through demeaning or humiliating words or actions, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment for the victim.

Any form of intense pressure, even if not repeated, with the actual or perceived goal of obtaining sexual favours, whether for the offender or for a third party, is also considered sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is punishable by two years of imprisonment and a fine of €30,000.

This penalty is increased to three years of imprisonment and a fine of €45,000 if the offence:

1° involves abuse of the authority vested in the offender by virtue of his or her position;
2° targets a victim under fifteen years of age;
3° targets a particularly defenceless victim when such vulnerability, due to age, illness, physical or mental disability or pregnancy, is clearly visible or known to the offender;
4° targets a particularly defenceless or dependant victim when such vulnerability, due to social or economic insecurity, is clearly visible or known to the offender;
5° is committed by more than one person acting as perpetrators and/or accomplices.

Article 225-1-1 of the French Criminal Code

Any distinction made between individuals on the basis of having endured or refused acts of sexual harassment as described in article 222-33, or having reported such acts, including the cases of isolated acts with regard to the provisions set out in section I of said article, constitutes discrimination.
Other violations

» Insults of a sexual nature
  (article R624-4 of the French Criminal Code)

» Sexual exhibition in a public setting
  (article 222-32 of the French Criminal Code)

» Sexual aggression
  sexual abuse committed with the use of violence, coercion, threat or surprise
  (article 222-22 of the French Criminal Code); sexual aggression may include
  touching, fondling or rape;

» Rape
  rape differs from other forms of sexual aggression in that it involves sexual
  penetration, regardless of the exact nature of such penetration, as well as
  the use of violence, coercion, threat or surprise (article 222-23 of the French
  Criminal Code); in the event of rape, you are strongly advised to contact a
  doctor for a forensic medical examination;

» Invasion of privacy
  the act of capturing, recording or transmitting private or confidential
  discussions and/or images of a person in a private setting without his or her
  consent (article 226-1 of the French Criminal Code);

» Telephone harassment and cyberstalking
  repeated malicious telephone calls, electronic messages or oral
  assaults intended to disturb the peace and tranquillity of other people
  (article 222-16 of the French Criminal Code);

» Psychological harassment
  the act of harassing one or more individuals through repeated verbal or
  physical conduct, intentionally or unintentionally resulting in a deterioration
  of working conditions liable to undermine the individual’s rights or dignity,
  impact his or her physical or mental health or compromise his or
  her professional future (article 222-33 of the French Criminal Code).

2. REACT
WHEN FACED WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Say no
It is important to express clear and firm refusal as of the first signs of sexual
harassment, if possible, and to underscore the reprehensible and unlawful
nature of such acts. You may also remind the offender that Sciences Po has
a sexual harassment monitoring unit.

Protect yourself
To the extent possible, avoid one-on-one encounters with the person
harassing you.
Do not keep the situation to yourself; talk to a third party, colleague,
classmate, professor, etc.

Contact the monitoring unit
Immediately alert the sexual harassment monitoring unit.

If you have witnessed acts of sexual harassment
Show solidarity with the victim, inform him or her of the steps to be taken
and refer him or her to the Sciences Po sexual harassment monitoring unit.
Provide a written account of the events, specifying the location, date and
circumstances, as well as the identity of any other people present.
3. TALK TO TRUSTED PROFESSIONALS

Sciences Po sexual harassment monitoring unit

The members of the Sciences Po sexual harassment monitoring unit can meet with you and offer you guidance, with complete respect for your privacy. You will be offered an initial interview with two members of the unit. You may request to speak to specific members of the unit, listed below. The objective is to listen to you carefully and professionally, passing no judgement. We can then offer you advice on the steps to be taken and refer you to healthcare (e.g., psychologist, doctor) or legal professionals, according to your needs. If necessary, we can put you in contact with English-speaking lawyers and gynaecologists.

NOTE:
The monitoring unit is not a disciplinary body, but rather a place to be heard and to receive information. It fully complies with the French Data Protection Act. All interviews remain strictly confidential.

4. REPORT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

Reporting sexual harassment helps put an end to offensive behaviour and encourages other victims to speak up. The Sciences Po sexual harassment monitoring unit can offer you advice and guide you through the process. Perpetrators of sexual harassment may be subject to disciplinary action and criminal charges. Disciplinary and criminal procedures are independent of one another and may be undertaken simultaneously.

Criminal charges

Pressing criminal charges makes it possible to bring the case to court, obtain damages and see the offender punished. Sexual harassment is punishable by up to two years of imprisonment and a fine of €30,000. You must file a complaint at a police station or Gendarmerie. There is a three-year statute of limitations. Complaints lead to an investigation, following which the prosecutor decides whether to pursue the case. In the event of indictment, pre-trial hearings begin (this phase may last two to three years), followed by the trial itself.

NOTE:
Prosecuting serious violations such as sexual harassment makes it possible to bring such acts to light, to protect oneself and to protect other potential victims.

Disciplinary measures

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated with respect to any person engaged in an activity at Sciences Po, whether as a student, faculty member, researcher or member of staff. The director, who may be alerted by any means, begins the disciplinary proceedings by informing the relevant disciplinary section. To exercise the proceedings, the section establishes a committee of enquiry. It can interview any witness or expert competent in issues of sexual harassment and whose opinion is liable to clarify its deliberations. It then pronounces a contradictory procedure, and when appropriate, a disciplinary sanction. Disciplinary measures may be appealed before the French National Board of Higher Education and Research (CNESER). Implementation of the disciplinary procedure may go along with precautionary measures such as a suspension, in order to distance the victim from the alleged offender.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROCEDURES:
www.sciencespo.fr/vie-etudiante/en/content/sexual-harassment
Other contacts at Sciences Po

Health Centre
+33 1 45 49 51 76

**Occupational health care centre (employees)**
CMB, 26 rue Notre Dame des Victoires, 75086 Paris Cedex 02
Secretariat : +33 1 49 27 60 15

**CHSCT**
*(Committee on hygiene, safety and working conditions)*
*(employees)*
intranet.sciences-po.fr/services/drh/irp/chsctprésentation.htm elus.chsct@sciences-po.fr

**Office of the Dean of Academic Studies**
+33 1 45 49 53 83

Reims, Dijon, Le Havre, Menton, Nancy and Poitiers campuses
www.sciencespo.fr/node/117

**Human Resources Department**
+33 1 45 49 50 37

**Gender Equality Supervisor**
+33 1 45 49 59 86

For more information:
www.sciencespo.fr/vie-etudiante/en/content/sexual-harassment

Useful phone numbers and associations

**08 Victimes**
+33 8 842 846 37
Price of a local call, available seven days a week

**Ombudsman**
+33 9 69 39 00 00
www.defenseurdesdroits.fr

**French government sexual harassment website**
stop-harcelement-sexuel.gouv.fr

**AVFT**
*(European Association against violence against women in the workplace)*
Hotline: +33 1 45 84 24 24
(Monday - Friday, 9.30 am - 3.00 pm)
www.avft.org

**CLASCHES**
*(Anti-sexism Collective against Sexual Harassment in Higher Education)*
*Sexual harassment in higher education and research. Information and Defence Handbook* (in french only), 2014
www.clasches.fr

**Institut en santé génésique**
Our partner for Université Sorbonne Paris Cité
can also provide you assistance
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