

University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna

Works Council for the
Scientific staff

and

Coordination Office for Gender Equality,
Diversity and Accessibility



16 Days against Violence against Women

Review and Guide

**Violence is legally prohibited and cannot be justified by anything.
People who experience violence have a right to protection and help!**

16 days against violence against women

November 25 is the International Day of Remembrance for all women and girls who have been victims of violence. December 10 is International Human Rights Day.

In between, the worldwide campaign period for the "16 Days against Violence against Women" take place. During this period, the extent, and various forms of violence against women and girls are to be publicly addressed to raise awareness of the fact that gender-based violence is a fundamental violation of human rights.

In 187 countries and in more than 6,000 organizations, the topic of 2022, femicide, i.e., the murder of women and girls, was therefore discussed internally and in the media under the hashtag #LetsEndFemicide through various actions.

At BOKU, the Rectorate and the Coordination Office for Gender Equality, Diversity and Accessibility also celebrated these days with the Orange the World campaign.

As the works council for scientific staff, we are appointed by the Labor Constitution Act as a body of the workforce to safeguard and promote the economic, social, health and cultural interests of the employees. Therefore, the prevention of violence against women is not only an urgent concern for us, but also a legal mandate.

Gender-based violence is not a new phenomenon. As part of university culture, women and persons affected by other inequalities (e.g., age, disability, non-normative gender identities, sexual orientations, ethnic and cultural origins, religious affiliations, and more) are pushed out of academia and research.

Gender-specific violence knows neither educational nor income boundaries, and the university is only a reflection of society. In cooperation with the Coordination Office for Gender Equality, Diversity and Accessibility we want to summarize information and contacts as a follow-up to the actions of the past days. In this review you can get information and advice if you are confronted with violence in your work environment, or a person is committing violence against yourself.

Ending Gender-Based Violence: Toward a Safe and Respectful University Culture for All - Call for Action.

Acute help

You observe the use of violence by perpetrators or are possibly threatened by perpetrators using violence yourself?

In case of acute violence, call the police without hesitation - phone 133 or 112

SMS emergency call also for the deaf: Police 0800 133 133

For safe accommodation, call the women's shelter emergency number in Vienna - phone 05 77 22.

Advice is also offered by the women's helpline - telephone 0800 222 555

Every day from 6pm - 10pm and every Friday from 9am - 11am, the online help chat is available to them in different languages.

Advice and support

Legal protection

Since 1997, the Protection Against Violence Act has included measures to protect against violence in the family. Since 2009, children have also been explicitly protected. The laws include police and civil law protection, criminal law measures against the perpetrators, as well as victims' rights. The term violence includes physical, psychological, or sexual violence, but also repeated harassment (stalking).

IMPORTANT: Protection against violence is available to any person residing in Austria, regardless of origin or citizenship. The police are obliged to intervene quickly in any case of violence.

Protection at home

Ban on entering

The police can issue an immediate ban on entering the apartment on site pursuant to Section 38a of the Security Police Act, which applies for two weeks for the time being. If you need further protection after that, you can apply to the district court of your place of residence for a temporary injunction. This will extend the no-entry order to four weeks. After that, you can get longer-term

protection, also through a temporary restraining order. The ban on entering includes not only the home itself, but also the area surrounding the residence. In case of violation, you can immediately call the police. You can use this period of the no-entry order to obtain more comprehensive advice.

At this point, it does not matter who owns the apartment or house.

If children under the age of 14 are affected, the ban on entering the premises can also be extended to kindergarten, school, after-school care, etc.

Duty of information and documentation

The police must give the victims an information sheet informing them about the possibility of applying for a restraining order. The endangered person also receives an information sheet. This contains the information that a disregard of the prohibition to enter is punishable, as well as information about possibilities of a safe accommodation.

Police are required to keep accurate records of every domestic violence call and submit a report to the court in the event of a request for a restraining order.

Free counseling and accompaniment by intervention agencies and violence protection centers

In the case of a prohibition to enter, you will be contacted by the Intervention Center or the Violence Protection Center of your province; they offer free counseling and accompaniment.

**Violence is legally prohibited and cannot be justified by anything.
People who experience violence have a right to protection and help!**

Violent acts in the Criminal Code

Violent crimes

The Austrian Criminal Code (Strafgesetzbuch - StGB) criminalizes several violent acts. These include, among others:

- Bodily injury and grievous bodily harm (§§ 83 and 84 StGB)
- Intentional grievous bodily harm (§ 87 StGB)
- Deprivation of liberty (§ 99 StGB)
- Trafficking in human beings (§ 104a StGB)
- Coercion and aggravated coercion (§§ 105 and 106 StGB)
- Dangerous threat (§ 107 StGB)
- Persistent persecution - stalking (§ 107a StGB)
- Continued use of force (§ 107b StGB)
- Rape (§ 201 StGB)
- Sexual coercion (§ 202 StGB)
- Aggravated sexual abuse and sexual abuse of minors (§§ 206 and 207 StGB)

All violent crimes are so-called official offenses, which means that they are charged and prosecuted by the state as soon as they come to the attention of the authorities (police, court). The consent of the victim is not required.

On June 1, 2009, the new criminal offense "Continued Use of Violence" (107b StGB) entered into force in Austria. Repeated acts of violence against a person are thus punishable and are punished more severely than individual acts of violence.

Protection against stalking

Stalking has been criminalized in Austria since July 1, 2006, under the term "persistent persecution" (§ 107a StGB).

What is stalking?

Stalking is when a person persistently pursues another person against their will over a longer period, thereby unreasonably interfering with the affected person's way of life. This includes, for example, repeated persecution, harassment by telephone calls, by e-mail or in any other way. It is also a criminal offense if orders are placed using a person's data or if a third-party initiates contact with the victim.

What can I do against stalking?

In any case, you should contact the police and file a complaint. In an acute case of stalking, the police should be called immediately. The police can issue a prohibition order against the stalking person (§ 38a Security Police Act).

Restraining order as a remedy against stalking

For immediate protection against stalking, you can also apply for a temporary restraining order. The application must be filed at the district court of the victim's residence. The following measures can be applied for:

- Prohibition of personal contact and tracking.
- Prohibition of contact by letter, telephone, or other means.
- Prohibition to stay in certain places.
- Prohibition of disclosure and dissemination of personal data and photos.
- Prohibition to order goods or services using personal data of the victim.
- Prohibition on inducing a third party to initiate contact with the victim.

The restraining order to stop stalking can be enforced by the police. However, this must be explicitly requested. If the restraining order is disregarded, you should immediately notify the police and apply to the court for a bending penalty.

Security plan

The Vienna Intervention Center against Violence in the Family recommends that victims of violence prepare themselves for a possible coming crisis, i.e., active use of violence, by making a safety plan. This preparation helps you to stay one step ahead of the violent person. The security plan includes:

Get help

- Keep loose change and cell phone handy (emergency numbers also work on a cell phone without credit, but it is important that the cell phone is always charged).
- Carry a list of emergency phone numbers with you or save it in your cell phone (Women's Helpline 0800/222 555, around the clock and free of charge from all over Austria).
- in case of danger, call the police immediately (emergency call 133).
- Ask neighbors to call the police in case of agreed signs.

Get to safety

If the situation becomes dangerous, try to leave the apartment in time (with the children).

Prepare to leave

- Have change and public transportation schedules ready, save the number of a cab company, ask friends or relatives for transportation.
- Get spare keys for apartment and car.
- Pack crisis suitcase and store in a safe place (with relatives, acquaintances, or at work) (contents: documents, spare keys, money, clothes, toys, etc.).
- A pre-packed small escape-backpack will help you to keep the most necessary things (IDs, keys, medicines, ...) ready.
- Organize accommodation in case of emergency (relatives, acquaintances, or women's shelter).
- Deposit savings books and valuables in a (bank-) custody account.
- Prepare children for a possible crisis.

Take safety precautions for afterwards

- Install secure door lock or security door.
- Under no circumstances open the apartment door to the violent person.
- Call the police (133) immediately if the trespassing ban is in effect.
- Take safety precautions for all commutes (to school, work, etc.).
- Agree on safety measures with school and childcare facilities, inform youth welfare office and family court of possible risk of abduction.
- Ask for support in the workplace.
- Organize escort for dangerous situations (e.g., court hearing).
- Request the possibility of separate video testimony (adversarial examination) for witnesses in court.
- In case of great danger, request police for personal protection.

Collect evidence

- note all incidents accurately with date and time.
- with injuries, it is essential to consult a doctor. Ask them to document the injuries exactly, take photos.
- Secure evidence (destroyed items, torn clothing).
- Take photos of destruction.
- Also save photos and recordings you have made with the cell phone to the cloud in an Internet storage.
- Save threatening calls. Keep your old cell phone but put it on silent and do not pick up the phone when you receive a call, but immediately forward calls to voicemail. Ask friends or relatives to listen to the voicemail if you are too disturbed by the messages.
- Get a second cell phone with a new number and give this new number only to people you can absolutely trust.

**Women's counseling centers or the centers for protection against violence /
the intervention center help you with all these steps!**

How I can react correctly in violent situations

Reacting and getting involved helps

Ignoring and looking away from violent situations is not helpful for those who experience violence. On the contrary, it gives free rein to the perpetrators of violence. However, as a helping person, always consider your own safety: No one is helped if the violent person also turns on you. Please do not hesitate to call the police (133)! This can save lives! Also, the "Healthy Slapping" of children is punishable, here you should interfere in any case and inform the police, or the responsible youth welfare office.

Proper help is important

Well-intentioned but inappropriate advice can have a deterrent effect on those affected by violence and discourage them. Hasty and ill-considered reactions on the part of those affected by violence can lead to frustration on the part of those providing help, for example if the support is not accepted. However, as the person helping, you must put up with this and not heap accusations on the person affected by violence. Do not put pressure on the victim! Keep in contact with the affected person without becoming a nuisance. Try to make contact when the person committing violence is not around. Again, first and foremost, pay attention to your own safety!

Obtain information on the subject

Anyone who wants to help in a specific case should therefore seek advice on the legal situation and possibilities for assistance. Such help is offered by the Women's Helpline, tel. 0800/222 555 or the Information Center against Violence, where you can order information material. If you as a helping person feel overwhelmed by the situation, then also get help from the counseling centers. For example, you do not have to take in a victim of violence if it becomes too much for you or puts you in danger. A whole network of help and support facilities relieves them of this responsibility.

Support for colleagues in the workplace

The following actions serve as a guide to how you should respond as a co-worker if you suspect or are directly informed of domestic violence or stalking:

- Look for outward signs that suggest domestic violence. Educate yourself about domestic violence to strengthen or shatter your suspicions.
These signs may include multiple daily "surveillance calls" or WhatsApps; jealousy and derogatory comments from partner; purposeful obtaining of financial dependency; purposeful manipulation of medications, e.g., exchanging birth control pills to maintain dependency through pregnancy; control of social media accounts by partner; social isolation; more frequent sick days to hide injuries; ...
- Respond to hidden signals by the affected person. Take every call for help seriously.
- Approach the person directly if you have any suspicions. Make sure that you appear firm but not pushy.
- Make sure that the atmosphere of the conversation is one of trust. Signal that you will treat the problem confidentially and then do so!
- Expect excuses, brusque rejection, belittlement. Nevertheless, persevere, because the affected person needs help from the outside.
- Offer support, show understanding, but hold back on sage advice.
- Make sure that you are informed about possible offers of help from authorities and institutions or doctors. Give the affected person information material and addresses of help offers (see below).
- Offer your assistance with the necessary regulatory channels.
- Point out possible BOKU-internal help and advice by the works council of the general staff, the works council of the scientific staff and the occupational psychological counseling.

Auxiliary facilities in Austria

Women's Helpline Tel. 0800 222 555, free of charge and around the clock

Violence protection centers and intervention centers against violence

State	Phone number
Burgenland	03352 314 20
Carinthia	0463 590 290
Lower Austria/St. Pölten	02742 139 66
Lower Austria/Wr. Neustadt	02622 243 00
Lower Austria/Zwettl	02822 530 03
Lower Austria/Amstetten	02742 31 966
Upper Austria	0732 607 760
Salzburg	0662 870 100
Styria	0316 774 199
Tyrol	0512 571 313
Vorarlberg	0517 55 535
Vienna	01 585 32 88

Women's shelters

Amstetten	07472 665 00
Burgenland	02682 612 80
Dornbirn	0517 55 577
Graz	0316 42 99 00
Hallein	06245 80 261
Innsbruck	0512 580 977
Innviertel	07752 717 33
Kapfenberg	03862 279 99
Klagenfurt	0463 449 66
Kufstein	05372 636 16

Women's shelters

Lienz	04852 671 93
Linz	0732 606 700
Lavanttal	04352 369 29
Mistelbach	02572 50 88
Mödling	02236 465 49
Neunkirchen	02635 689 71
Pinzgau	0664 500 68 68
Salzburg	0662 458 458
Spittal a.d. Drava	04762 61 386
Steyr	07252 877 00
St. Pölten	02742 366 524
Tyrol	0512 342 112
Villach	04242 31 0 31
Vöcklabruck	07672 227 22
Catfish	07242 67851
Vienna Women's Shelter Emergency Call	05 77 22
Wiener Neustadt	02622 88 066

Counseling centers for violence in the family

Kapfenberg	03862 279 99
St. Pölten	02742 366 514
Vöcklabruck	07672 227 22
Catfish	07242 452 93
Vienna	01 512 38 39
Wiener Neustadt	02622 825 96

**Violence is legally prohibited and cannot be justified by anything.
People who experience violence have a right to protection and help!**