FACTSHEET
Sexual Violence and Harassment against Women

- **1 in 3 women** in Europe has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.¹
- Disability is the second most common risk factor to experiencing sexual assault after gender.²
- In Ireland, 865 people attended Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs) in 2017: 92% were women, and the average age was **26**.

**Women Students in Ireland**

- In 2016/2017, **52%** of the **225,628** students enrolled in publically-funded Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in Ireland were women.³
- Over **30%** of students in Ireland reported feeling sexually harassed or intimidated while in their current educational institution.⁴ **31%** of **women students** reported feeling **harassed**, including **19%** being **physically groped**.⁵
- **5%** of women students recorded that they were **survivors of rape** and **3%** of **attempted rape**.⁶
- Disability is the second most common risk factor to experiencing sexual assault after gender.⁷

**Online Sexual Violence and Harassment**

- Across continents, women are **27** times more likely to be harassed online.⁸
- In Ireland, **17%** of women students had been photographed or filmed without consent. **8%** had these images circulated online without consent.⁹

**Reporting**

- Less than **79%** of women in Ireland who experience sexual or physical violence have ever reported to an official body.¹⁰
- Only **3%** of women students in Ireland said they reported unwanted sexual experiences to An Garda Síochána.¹¹

**Attitudes towards Sexual Violence**

- **21%** of people in Ireland think there are understandable reasons for having sexual intercourse without consent.¹²
- **23%** of Irish people believe women often make up or exaggerate claims of abuse or rape.¹³

---

¹ European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), Violence Against Women Study, 2014
² 19% of all complainants of rape were recorded as having a physical or intellectual disability or history of mental illness. Rape and Justice in Ireland: A National Study of Survivors. Prosecutor and Court Responses to Rape, 2009
³ Higher Education Authority (HEA), Key Facts and Figures Report, 2016/17
⁴ Union of Students in Ireland (USI), Say Something Survey, 2012
⁵ Ibid
⁶ Ibid
⁷ 19% of all complainants of rape were recorded as having a physical or intellectual disability or history of mental illness. Rape and Justice in Ireland: A National Study of Survivors. Prosecutor and Court Responses to Rape, 2009
⁹ USI, Say Something Survey, 2012
¹⁰ FRA, Violence Against Women Survey, 2014
¹¹ USI, Say Something Survey, 2012
¹² Eurobarometer on Gender-based Violence, 2016
¹³ Ibid