

## Facts and figures from Germany

The available studies do not always explicitly refer to all genders. Trans\*, inter\* and non-binary people who are read as female or as not being gender-normative are, however, frequently and especially affected by sexualised violence. It can therefore be assumed that the statistics for complaints to the police and convictions are at least as high as among cis women.

- ❑ In the EU, 80% - 99% of rapes are not reported.
- ❑ Every seventh woman in Germany experiences one or several cases of criminally relevant sexualised violence. The figure is around one in three worldwide.
- ❑ Only about 5% of women who experience criminally relevant sexualised violence press charges for at least one of these offences.
- ❑ Less than 15 % of the rapes reported end in a conviction.
- ❑ Almost every second woman (47%) remains silent about the experience.
- ❑ Girls and women with disabilities are twice as likely to have experienced sexualised violence as non-disabled persons.
- ❑ Trans\* people are affected particularly often, with 1/3 having experienced serious sexualised violence.
- ❑ Having uncertain residence status and language barriers increase the risk of experiencing violence and make access to justice and support services more difficult.

**The advice service we offer is intersectional-feminist, free of charge, confidential and we are totally on your side. If you wish, sessions can also take place anonymously.**

Sources: Müller & Schröttle (2004), FRA study (2014), Study by Les Migras (2012)

## Services provided by the specialist centre for women, trans\*, inter\* and non-binary people

- ❑ Support from our hotline
- ❑ Psychosocial counselling on the telephone and in person
- ❑ Support in crisis situations, even without an appointment
- ❑ E-mail counselling
- ❑ Native speaker counselling or language mediation, also in sign language
- ❑ Legal advice from lawyers
- ❑ Psychosocial court assistance
- ❑ Group offers
- ❑ Counselling for relatives and people close to you
- ❑ Advice to specialists
- ❑ Further training for other professional groups

## Mobile counselling service for refugee women, trans\* inter\* and non-binary people

- ❑ Advice on the telephone and in person
- ❑ Native speaker counselling or with language mediation
- ❑ E-mail counselling
- ❑ Support in crisis situations
- ❑ Contact with and support from lawyers and doctors
- ❑ Counselling for relatives
- ❑ Further training for other professional groups
- ❑ Legal advice
- ❑ Group offers
- ❑ Referral to other support services



SPECIALIST UNIT  
FOR SEXUALISED VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN, TRANS\*, INTER\*  
AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE

Fuggerstraße 19  
10777 Berlin

### Specialist center:

Telephone/Hotline: 030 2168888  
General enquiries: [beratung@lara-berlin.de](mailto:beratung@lara-berlin.de)  
Counselling enquiries: [emailberatung@lara-berlin.de](mailto:emailberatung@lara-berlin.de)

### Mobile counselling service for refugees

Telephone: 030 2163023  
Email: [mobile-beratung@lara-berlin.de](mailto:mobile-beratung@lara-berlin.de)  
[www.lara-berlin.de](http://www.lara-berlin.de)

### Opening hours and Hotline:

Monday – Friday, 9 am to 6 pm

### Account for donations:

**Responsible body:** LARA - Verein gegen sexuelle Gewalt an Frauen e.V.  
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft  
IBAN DE97 3702 0500 0003 2668 01  
BIC BFSWDE33BER



MYTHS ABOUT SEXUALISED VIOLENCE

(030) 2168888

FACHSTELLE GEGEN SEXUALISIERTE GEWALT  
AN FRAUEN\*, TRANS\*, INTER\* UND  
NICHT-BINÄREN PERSONEN  
MOBILE BERATUNG FÜR GEFLÜCHTETE FRAUEN\*,  
TRANS\*, INTER\* UND NICHT-BINÄREN PERSONEN

LARA

**This information is intended to encourage people to break down preconceptions and to develop their own ways of how to question sexualised violence.**

The reality of life for women, trans\*, inter\* and non-binary people means they are exposed to different forms of sexualised violence. This may include sexual harassment (e.g. on the street, at their place of work, among friends), digital violence (e.g. the unsolicited receipt of sexualised images and representations) and stalking as well as serious physical violence such as coercion and rape or being administered with “date rape” drugs. Sexualised violence can cause both physical injuries and psychological symptoms, as well as social problems.

Myths about sexual assault work in society to support prejudices maintaining that women, trans\*, inter\* and non-binary people are partly to blame, thus exonerating the perpetrators. The main motive of perpetrators, which is to exercise power and humiliate women, trans\*, inter\* and non-binary people, is covered up by these prejudices. As a result, the actions of the perpetrators are trivialised, and the victims are held responsible for the offence (victim blaming).

According to a study by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA 2014), every third woman in Germany is affected by physical and/or sexualised violence. Perpetrators commit violence against trans\* people particularly frequently, with one third of trans\* people stating they had experienced serious sexualised violence. For inter\* and non-binary people the risk of sexual assault also increases if they are recognised as such. But only few of the offences are reported. Many do not talk about their experiences because they are scared they will not be believed. Myths and prejudices increase the shame and feelings of guilt among those affected and make it more difficult for them to make public or report violent behaviour against them. Such myths are widespread in the general population as well as in the police, judiciary and medical professions.

❖ **Myth**

*Women, trans\*, inter and non-binary people are usually to blame for a sexual attack, at least in part, and they provoke it through their behaviour, appearance or clothing.*

**The fact is**

The responsibility for abusive behaviour always lies with the person perpetrating the violence. Women, trans\*, inter\* and non-binary people are affected by sexualised violence irrespective of their age, appearance, behaviour or clothing. There is no such thing as behaviour that justifies or fundamentally excludes sexual assault.

❖ **Myth**

*Rapes are committed by strangers. Mostly at night on the street or in a dark park.*

**The fact is**

Sexual assaults can occur at any time of day or night and take place anywhere. In most cases, they are perpetrated by partners or acquaintances, relatives, friends or colleagues and are committed in a private setting.

❖ **Myth**

*Women, trans\*, inter\* and non-binary people cannot be raped against their will if they fight back.*

**The fact is**

Rape always takes place against the will of the victims and is often experienced as life-threatening. This can lead them to go into shock and feel a state of numbness that makes (physical) resistance impossible (freeze).

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\*The myths originally refer to cis women who are seen as a homogenous group; however gender identities are more diverse. Trans\* women are also women. People of other genders, on the other hand, are often wrongly categorised as female, such as some trans\*, inter\* or non-binary people. On the one hand, this flyer refers to all persons who are categorised as women, either correctly or contrary to their actual gender identity, as well as persons who do not conform to society's gender “norms”.

❖ **Myth**

*For many women, trans\*, inter\* and non-binary persons, rape is a pleasurable form of sexual intercourse.*

**The fact is**

Even when physically aroused, those affected do not experience rape as a pleasurable sexual act, but as a massive attack and an existential threat. The physical reaction (e.g. lubrication) is a reflex and also serves to protect the body from further injury.

❖ **Myth**

*Rapists are men who can't help themselves and are sick or disturbed.*

**The fact is**

Over 90% of rapists do not exhibit any psychopathological anomalies. There is no scientific basis for the fact that a man cannot control his sexual behaviour. Rape is first and foremost an act of violence that acts to exercise power over women, trans\* inter\* and non-binary people and humiliate them.

**Myth**

❖ *Many reports of sexual assault are lies. Victims affected report men in order to harm men or take revenge on them.*

**The fact is**

False accusations are extremely rare. According to an EU study from 2009, the figure was approx. 3% of cases reported. Many victims do not report a rape because of the emotional burden, feelings of guilt and shame or fear, as well as lack of knowledge and uncertainty about the consequences. The closer they are known to or related to the person who assaulted them, the less likely they are to report sexual assault.

❖ **Myth**

*There can be no rape in a marriage (or in a partnership).*

**The fact is**

For many women\*, trans\*, inter\* and non-binary people, sexualised violence – including rape – is a reality in marriage (and partnerships). In fact, the most frequent assaults are committed by (married) partners. In Germany, rape and coercion in marriage have also been punishable offences since 1997.

❖ **Myth**

*If the person affected after an assault seems very composed, it wasn't that bad.*

**The fact is**

Every person reacts differently to a traumatic experience. There is no standard way of reacting, and also no right or wrong behaviour after a sexual assault.

❖ **Myth**

*Sexualised violence can only be committed by men and only then has serious consequences.*

**The fact is**

It is a fact that the perpetrators are predominantly male (> 90%). When sexualised violence is committed by women, trans\*, inter\* and non-binary persons, the consequences can also be as traumatic.

❖ **Myth**

*Sexualised violence leads people to “become” trans\* or non-binary.*

**The fact is**

Gender identity is neither a choice, nor a consequence of trauma. Diverse sexual identities have always existed, and they cannot be measured solely by biological characteristics.