

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Université Paris-Saclay steps up its commitment against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

For several years now, Université Paris-Saclay has been committed to an ambitious policy aimed at combatting all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, based on a zero tolerance and prevention for all approach. While various actions take place throughout the year across the University's different campuses, the week of 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, is a key time for mobilisation.

From Monday 21 November to Friday 25 November 2022, Université Paris-Saclay is organising an awareness week to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The programme includes awareness-raising activities, debates and presentations of existing initiatives. The week is a time for mobilisation for a cause that the University has decided to make one of its priorities.

Sexual and gender-based violence is a widespread phenomenon in our society and around the world. It occurs everywhere, in both private and professional spheres, in the public arena... and higher education is obviously no exception. It is systemic and takes many forms (sexist behaviour, sexual or moral harassment, sexual assault, rape, etc.). It is carried out by all types of aggressors and the vast majority of victims are women.

With its community of some 80,000 people, including 60,000 students, Université Paris-Saclay considers that SGBV awareness and training help to develop citizenship. ***"As an educational institution, we have the responsibility of defining a shared culture of equality between men and women, fighting against SGBV, and sharing exemplary behaviours,"*** explains Estelle Iacona, President of Université Paris-Saclay.

A counselling, monitoring and support unit has been in place since 2018 to welcome, support, listen to and refer anyone who is a victim and/or witness of sexual and gender-based violence.

The University plans to roll out an ambitious educational plan for all students. From 2023, the plan will be based on:

- a 1.5-hour e-learning course for all newcomers to the University, regardless of their programme
- a training course for the members of the associations' offices as well as training for SGBV contact students in the constituent faculties and institutes, and on all campuses
- training/awareness-raising sessions for the University's 4,000 PhD candidates and their 250 supervisors, financed by a national call for projects obtained in 2022.

Université Paris-Saclay also intends to build on the successful experience of organising some 20 training sessions for staff in 2022 and expand this in the coming months to all staff within the University's remit via an e-learning course accessible to as many people as possible.

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## ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

Université Paris-Saclay was born from the shared ambition of French universities, *grandes écoles* and national research organisations. As a leading university in Europe and the world, it covers the fields of science and engineering, life sciences and health, and humanities and social sciences. The university's science policy closely intertwines research and innovation, incorporating both basic and applied science to tackle major societal challenges. Université Paris-Saclay offers a varied range of undergraduate to doctorate level degrees, including programmes with its *grandes écoles*, all of which are focused on achieving student success and employability. The university prepares students for an ever-changing world where the ability to think critically, remain agile and renew one's skills are crucial. Université Paris-Saclay also offers a comprehensive range of lifelong learning courses.

Located to the south of Paris, the university extends across a vast and rich local area. Its location strengthens both its international visibility and its close ties with its socio-economic partners (major companies, SMEs, start-ups, local authorities, charities).

[www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en](http://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en)



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