

INDONESIA: Information for victims of rape and sexual assault

This information is provided to help British nationals overseas make decisions about whether and how to seek medical advice and attention; report to local police; and engage with foreign legal authorities following a rape or other form of sexual assault overseas. It is advisable to read the whole document to help you come to a decision on what to do next.

For information on support available in the UK, see [Rape and Sexual Assault: Returning to the UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rape-and-sexual-assault-abroad-returning-to-the-uk): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rape-and-sexual-assault-abroad-returning-to-the-uk>

First steps

It is your choice about what you do next, but this information may help you in coming to a decision. The most important thing is to make sure that you are as safe as you can be. You can:

- Contact the international emergency number on **112**
- Contact your tour operator if you are travelling with one
- Contact your nearest British Embassy, High Commission or Consulate. Embassy staff will be polite, patient, sensitive and non-judgmental, and can provide information on local police and medical procedures. Anything you tell them will be treated in the strictest confidence. They can contact your family or friends for you if you wish.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-jakarta>

If you want to report the incident to the police in Indonesia

- If you have a tour operator, they should be able to arrange for someone to support you. If you do not have a tour operator and you are in an area where there is a British Embassy or Consulate, we will try to send a consular officer to support you. Consular staff can accompany you to the police station should you wish and where possible.
- If you approach the police directly, you can also ask them to inform the British Embassy/Consulate. You can reach the British Embassy Jakarta/Consulate Bali 24/7 through the following number: +6221 2356 5200
- Reporting a rape and sexual assault crime is time critical. If you choose to report the crime, try to do so as soon as possible, so forensic evidence can be retained. Washing yourself or your clothes may make it difficult for the police to obtain forensic evidence. If you change your clothes, think about taking those you were wearing to the police. You may wish to preserve evidence by retaining items such as bedding, condoms, toothbrushes, or texts.
- Tell the police if you think you have been drugged.
- Insist you get a police report, and request a translation in English if applicable.

- Most major police stations in Indonesia have a women and children's protection unit (In Indonesian language: Unit Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak) that handles rape/sexual assaults/child abuse cases. Both female and male officers are available to deal with the case. If you do not speak Indonesian, the police may provide an interpreter. However, this is not always the case and you may be asked to provide an interpreter at their own cost. You may refer to our list of translators through this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indonesia-list-of-lawyers>.
- If the victim of sexual assaults/rape is male, the report is most likely to be treated less seriously and the report will be handled by the general crime unit.
- You may be asked to undergo a medical examination at a hospital to collect forensic evidence to support your report. You may also be asked to pay for all related costs.
- The police may ask for a copy of your passport for investigation purposes, but it should not be retained.
- We can accompany you to the police station if that is what you want and inform you about local procedures. However, we cannot act as your interpreter.
- We can also contact your family/friends should you so wish and where possible.
- You have to report the crime in-country for it to be investigated.

If you do not want to report the incident to the police in Indonesia

- You can still contact the nearest British Embassy or Consulate for assistance. We can help you make arrangements to contact your insurance company, your family, travel back to the UK and/or provide you with information on local support in the UK. We can also provide you with lists of English-speaking medical facilities, lawyers and translators.
- If you are travelling with a tour operator, you can report the incident to them and ask for assistance. Where possible and if you wish, the tour operator may accompany you to the local hospital.
- You may still get medical attention at your personal cost even if you do not want to report the incident to the police.
- If you do not wish to report the incident to the police, you may still get medical attention at your personal cost. You should go to the nearest hospital. A list can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indonesia-list-of-medical-facilities-and-funeral-directors--2>
- You can ask for forensic evidence to be taken even if you do not wish to report the crime immediately. It is important that this is done within 72 hours.

If you want to report the incident to the police in the UK

It is possible to report the crime to police in the UK. However, it is for foreign police forces to decide whether to investigate a crime in their jurisdiction. UK police forces cannot investigate crimes committed overseas. Foreign police forces can decide to request assistance from the UK police, but this cannot be guaranteed, and it is a very lengthy process. It can therefore be very difficult to guarantee that any justice can be served without reporting the crime locally.

Please see [Rape and Sexual Assault: Returning to the UK](#) after rape or sexual assault abroad for more information.

Reporting the crime in Indonesia - what happens at the police station?

- A non-specialised officer may oversee the initial reporting of the incident and the first interviews by the police, before a specially-trained officer takes over. In smaller towns there may not be a specialised officer at all. In larger towns, you may be escorted or have to travel to another police station.
- You will be asked to tell the police about the incident in detail including describing the attacker(s)
- The police may keep any evidence they consider related to the incident, including your clothes.
- If you need an interpreter the police in some areas may provide one, though there is no guarantee of quality. This translation may be done over the phone. In some places, victims of rape and sexual assault may be asked to pay for one. In some cases, a conference call can be arranged between you, the police and a translator. A consular officer may be permitted to attend at the discretion of the police officer. If an interpreter is required in person, there may be a delay while one is found.
- You will be asked to undergo a medical examination at a hospital for forensic evidence and you may be asked to pay for the examination.

The medical examination – what to expect

- Only certain hospitals, mainly general hospitals, treat victims of rape or sexual assaults
- If you report the incident to the police, they will either issue you a letter for medical examination and leave you to visit hospital on your own or accompany you to hospital for the examination. The hospital will automatically send their report to the police. From our experience, any hospital report may not be made available to you as the police deem it is for investigative purposes.
- During the examination, the doctor may well carry out physical external and internal examinations that include blood sample taking. Pictures may be taken of your injuries.
- We can accompany you to the hospital if that is what you wish

Treatment

- You may be at risk of pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections (STI's). Emergency anti-HIV medication, called post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) may prevent HIV infection. However, PEP is not readily available in Indonesia, especially in remote areas. In Bali, we are aware that BIMC hospital is the only facility that has PEP. In Jakarta you can go to Ciptomangunkusumo hospital (RSCM) or Carolus hospital to get one. If you are in other area, you should consult the nearest hospital as soon as possible.
- Not all medical staff are able to give advice on HIV Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and PEP can only be given by prescription and under strict control in Indonesia.

- HIV PEP medication needs to be taken within 72 hours of the incident for it to be effective. The NHS may be able to commence or continue the 28-day treatment on return to the UK.
- Emergency contraception can only be obtained by prescription at the main general hospital or pharmacists, and you will have to pay for it. The local emergency contraception brands are Postinor and Valenor.
- Emergency contraception needs to be taken within 72 hours of the incident for it to be effective.
- You are likely to have to pay for the medical examination and any treatment yourself – if you have insurance, you may be able to reclaim these costs.
- If you have had medication administered overseas, you may wish to keep the label or make a note of the name of the medication, so that you let your local health provider know when you return home.

Police investigations in Indonesia – what to expect.

- The police can take you to the scene of the crime, or to the location where you think the attacker is located to try to identify and arrest the person.
- If a suspect is brought to the police station, you will be asked to make an identification.
- If the police make an arrest, they will have to build their case based on evidence and witnesses' statements. When the police have completed the case, it is then passed to the Prosecutor's office. The police have a maximum 60 days to complete their investigation and pass it to the Prosecutor. The Prosecutor's office has a maximum of 50 days to review the case and decide if the case should go to court for trial.
- If the case goes to court, you will be expected to testify in court, and this includes cross examination by the Public Prosecutor. If you want the lawyer to give her/him legal advice for the case, then you will have to pay. Please make sure that your appointed lawyer is experienced in dealing with RSA cases. According to local regulation, the appointed lawyer will have the rights to represent you and have access to the case notes. Some law firms may offer pro-bono services. Court may also appoint a public lawyer to assist you, if you can prove that you do not have funds to appoint a lawyer yourself. In Bali, victims can go to Posbakum (court lawyer) office in district court and liaise directly.
- You may leave the country after the case is filed; however, you may be asked to come back to Indonesia when the case goes to trial. In some cases, your presence in country may be needed for the case to move forward. If you wish to return to the UK before your case goes to trial, please consult with your lawyer/police first.

Court procedures – what to expect.

- If the case goes to court, you will be expected to testify in court, and this includes cross examination by the Public Prosecutor. If you want a lawyer to give you legal advice for the case, then you will have to pay the lawyer.

- It is unlikely that the police will update you on the case progress if you do not have a lawyer. Your lawyer can raise a complaint to the police if you think your case is not progressing or it takes longer than necessary.
- It is possible that you will have to give an additional statement if the case is referred to further investigation.
- It is possible for you to drop charges while the case is still at the investigation process with the police. Once it is already with the Prosecutor's Office, it may be difficult to drop the charges. The charge of rape in Indonesia is not an automatic state prosecution. The case can be dropped if there is not enough evidence.
- There is always a possibility that the alleged assailant may press counter charges claiming false accusations.
- There is no compensation system for the offender to pay compensation for any injuries or losses, either after they have been convicted in a criminal court or as a result of civil action.
- Currently there is no state-funded compensation scheme to cover physical or psychological injuries suffered as a result of a violent crime, which may apply to foreign nationals.

Communication

In some cases, the court do not always provide updates on the case development unless your lawyer proactively requests it. Your lawyer may be in direct contact with the investigator/court. Any correspondence will be sent to the address you provide to the court and your lawyer. Communication over *WhatsApp* may also be possible as this is the main communication platform used by the public sector in Indonesia.

Legal aid

- Legal Aid is provided mainly for Indonesian nationals, however, there are some institutions/NGOs (called LBH in Bahasa) that may provide this based on assessment of individual cases. You may find some NGOs who provide legal aid for victims of rape and sexual assault below.
- Legal Aid may give you legal advice on the legal processes in Indonesia and help you with the prosecution. Although the legal service is free, you may incur some operational fees that you will need to cover.

When you return home to the UK

- You may want to let your GP or a Sexual Assault Referral Centre know what has happened to you so that you can talk about the experience and seek further support and advice.
- If you believe you may be at risk of having contracted a sexually-transmitted infection (STI), you should ask your local health provider to test you, even if you have been tested in the country that the assault took place in.
- The local police will not inform the police in the UK about your case.

The British Embassy Jakarta and British Consulate Bali can help in several aspects in this circumstance.

- We take any report of rape and sexual assault seriously and will try to see you to offer you support as soon as possible and in private. We aim to be polite, patient, sensitive and non-judgemental.
- Many victims of rape and sexual assault, regardless of their gender, prefer to talk about their ordeal with women. If that is what you want, we will do our best to make sure that a female consular official is present at any meeting.
- We can tell you about local police and legal procedures. If you want to contact the police, we can come to the police station with you. If possible, we can ask that you are interviewed by a female police officer if that is what you would prefer, and one is available. If you want us to, we can give you a list of local lawyers and interpreters. However, only you can decide whether or not to report the crime to the police or take legal action – we cannot make this decision for you. Remember that if you choose not to report the crime immediately but change your mind later, forensic and other evidence may be lost.
- We can help you to deal with the local authorities to arrange a medical examination by a female doctor, if possible and if that is what you would prefer.
- If you want us to, we can contact your family or friends.
- We can give you information on what professional help is available locally and in the UK, both for you and for your family, including rape crisis organisations. Or we can put you in touch with Rape Crisis Glasgow & Clyde for support and advice if there is no local rape support organisation (www.glasgowclyderapecrisis.org.uk/content/survivors-abroad).
- We have a leaflet called 'Rape and sexual assault overseas' with more information. You will find details at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rape-and-sexual-assault-abroadreturning-to-the-uk>.

Support organisations in Indonesia

- It is your choice to let people know. If you are ready to talk about it, the following organisations may be able to help you.

LISA Helpline

A joint movement from 11 communities to create a suicide prevention and mental health helpline in Bali. They offer helpline in English too. You can reach them through the following number: 08113815472.

You can read more about LISA helpline on this website:

<https://movementofrecovery.org/lisa-helpline/>

Mitra Perempuan

- Jalan Tebet Barat Dalam IV B No. 23, Jakarta Selatan 12810 Jakarta
- (021) 837 90010
- Monday – Saturday from 08:00 – 17:00
- Counselling service and support for women as victims of violence

Rifka Annisa

- Jl Jambon IV, Kompleks Jatimulyo Indah
- Yogyakarta 55242 - Indonesia
- +62 274 553333 (hunting)
- www.rifka-annisa.org
- Psychological and Law Consultation on Women and Children

Lentera Sintas Indonesia

- **Twitter: @lenteraid**
- info@lenteraindonesia.org
- <https://www.sintas.org/>

LBH Bali

- Jalan Plawa No.57, Dangin Puri Kangin, Denpasar, Bali 80233
- 0361 - 223010
- <https://www.lbhbali.or.id>
- Provides legal aid for victims of crime including victims of rape and sexual assault

LBH Apik

- Jl. Trengguli No. 85 Penatih Denpasar (ATM BNI)
- Apik.bali@yahoo.com
- +62 819-9998-2064
- The Women's Legal Aid Organization Association for Justice in Bali (LBH Apik Bali) is one of fifteen organizations under the umbrella of LBH Apik Indonesian Federation.
- Gives services and legal mentoring for victims of discrimination and violence against women, providing training, analyses, and advocating for the legal empowerment of Balinese society.

Disclaimer: This information is provided by the British Government for the convenience of enquirers, but neither Her Majesty's Government nor any official of the Consulate accept liability for any loss or damage which you might suffer as a result of relying on the information supplied. This information is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical or legal advice.

Medical information has been provided by The Havens Sexual Assault Referral Centres of Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and The Rowan SARC NI and was accurate at the time of production.