Sexual  
Assault

<b>Sexual assault</b> is a situation when another person, without the, intentionally or knowingly <br>

\* touches or contacts, either directly or through clothing, sexual parts of the victim; OR<br>

\* kisses the victim on the mouth, ear, or neck; OR <br>

\* disrobes the victim; OR <br>

\* causes the victim to touch or contact, either directly or through clothing, another person’s sexual parts, OR <br>

\* attempts to carry out any of those acts.

<br><br>

In case of <b>aggravated sexual assault</b> the same actions are carried out when:<br>

\* the offender uses or threatens to use a weapon, OR <br>

\* the offender uses or threatens to use force or other intimidating actions, OR <br>

\* the PCV/T victim is incapacitated or otherwise incapable of giving consent. <br><br>

The reaction of someone who is being sexually assaulted will depend on the context, their abilities, the number of attackers, whether the attackers are armed, and the proximity of possible help. They may react with one or a combination of the following: <br>

<u>\* Active resistance.</u> Attempting to fight off or distract the attacker using anger or physical force, including struggling, screaming, or escaping. This could lead to an increasingly violent response. <br>

<u>\* Passive resistance. </u> Doing or saying anything that will intimidate an attacker or persuade them to change their mind. <br>

<u>\* No resistance. </u> Doing nothing at all. This may be a conscious choice to minimize harm done during the assault. It could also be tonic immobility, or “freezing”—temporary paralysis in response to extreme trauma. This does not mean that the person is consenting. <br>

<b>In case sexual assault has happened:</b><br>

<u>Step 1: Get to a safe place </u><br>

This may be locking yourself in your room or going to a neighbor’s house or to another place where you can get help. The important thing is that you distance yourself from the assailant. <br>

<u>Step 2: Call your PCMO or duty officer </u><br>

The PCMO or duty officer will provide you with critical guidance that will help protect you and guarantee your access to support services. <br>

<u>Step 3: If you have serious injuries, seek immediate treatment </u><br>

You should make every attempt to contact your PCMO but seek immediate medical treatment if your life is at risk. If you are critically injured and need immediate help, get it. <br>

<u>Step 4: Do not go to the local police by yourself </u><br>

Dealing with the local police—especially after a trauma— can be very difficult. There can be language barriers, and you may not fully understand the legal process. If you want to report the incident to the police, ask for SSM’s assistance and involvement . <br>

<u>Step 5: Protect physical evidence </u><br>

Preserving physical evidence is important if you choose to bring criminal charges against your assailant. Thus, it is best not to disturb anything that could be used as evidence—and that includes evidence that may be in or on your body. If possible, you should not shower, bathe, brush your teeth, or discard your clothes and undergarments. <br>

<u>Step 6: Tell someone </u><br>

Most important, tell someone! You do not have to go through this alone. The Peace Corps has reporting options that are designed to protect your confidentiality and privacy, as well as to provide you with various support services. The Counseling and Outreach Unit (COU) staff at Peace Corps Headquarters are specifically trained in empirically validated treatment processes and in working with diverse populations. <br>

Threat/Stalking

<b>Stalking</b> is a situation when the same offender is demonstrating a threatening behavior composed of more than one act across a short period of time, that would cause a reasonable person to either fear for his or her safety or the safety of others and/or suffer substantial emotional distress. <br>

This behavior includes repeatedly maintaining unwanted visual or physical proximity to a person; conveying oral or written threats, implicitly threatening conduct, or any combination of these directed at or toward a person; or directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, following, monitoring, observing, surveilling, threatening, or communicating to or about a person. <br><br>

There are scenarios in Ukrainian culture that have similar characteristics to stalking in U.S. society but do not represent that same danger in the local cultural context. These instances can often be mitigated most effectively by culturally appropriate interventions. <br>

Local Peace Corps staff members (SSM, PMs) are trained on American social norms regarding stalking. They can help you devise culturally appropriate responses to these scenarios, as well as help you recognize when certain actions do present a threat in your current context. <br>

Robbery

<b>Robbery</b is the taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the victim by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm. Also includes when a robber threatens, displays, or uses a weapon or transports the victim to obtain his/her money or possessions. <br>

**Most theft incidents** that happen to PC Volunteers are pickpocketing and take place during travel. Majority of cases happen in Kyiv metro and in/near Central Train Station.  
  
**Main mitigation measure** is to use situational awareness and remember, that someone is a suitable target for a theft, if they:  
\* are distracted;  
\* openly display money or valuables;  
\* are intoxicated;  
\* leave their belongings unattended;  
\* are in the large crowd.  
  
**In case theft happened:**

1. Report to SSM exactly what was stolen: cash, bank cards, property (cell phone, digital camera, etc.) and the circumstances of the theft: place, method used and if there are any suspects.
2. Consider taking some actions for recovering the property. For instance, if the purse/wallet disappeared in a café, Volunteer might try to go there and ask the personnel if they found it.
3. If bank cards were stolen, call 24-hour bank card service center in Ukraine and the US bank depending on the cards origin and block them ASAP.
4. If passport and/or registration document “posvidka” are stolen, police report must be filed.
5. If PCV loses a property that is covered with US insurance police report is required for claiming insurance reimbursement.

Armed Conflict

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COVID-19

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Political violence

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Grenades/Depots Explosions

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Terrorist Attack

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Nuclear Accidents

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Alert

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Standfast

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Consolidation

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Evacuation

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