



## Dating Safety Tips

Meeting new people is an exciting experience, but you should always be cautious when interacting with strangers. Use your best judgment and make your safety a priority, whether you're starting out on video calls or deciding to meet in person. While you can't control the actions of others, there are steps you can take to stay safe during your BIM app experience.

### Online Safety

- **Never send money or share financial data**

Never send money, especially by wire transfer, crypto or money transfer, even if the person you are talking to claims it is urgent. Sending a wire transfer is similar to sending cash: it is almost impossible to reverse the transaction or trace the funds. Never share information that could be used to access your financial accounts. If another user asks you for money, report it to us immediately.

For advice on preventing cybercrime scams, see Europol's advice at:  
<https://www.europol.europa.eu/report-a-crime/report-cybercrime-online>

BIM Group or any other subsidiary will never ask you for your bank details outside of the in-app transactions specifically designed for this purpose.

- **Protect your personal information**

Never share personal information, such as your Social Security number, bank or tax IDs, home or work address, or anything about your daily routine (e.g., that you go to a certain gym every Monday) with people you don't know. If you're a parent, limit the information you share about your children on your profile and in early communications. Avoid sharing information like your children's names, where they go to school, their ages, or their genders.

- **Communicate only on our application**

As long as you get to know each other, only chat on the BIM app. Some malicious users often try to encourage you to chat outside the app to chat via SMS, WhatsApp, Telegram, phone or email. By staying on the app, your personal data is not visible to other users. Your security is therefore preserved.

- **Beware of long distance and overseas relationships**



Be wary of scammers who claim to be from your country but are traveling abroad, especially if they are asking for financial help to get home. Be wary of anyone who flatly refuses to meet you in person, chances are they are not who they say they are. If someone avoids your questions or pushes you into a serious relationship without wanting to meet or get to know you first, take it as a real red flag.

- **Report any suspicious or offensive behavior**

You know when someone is crossing the line, and if they are, let us know. Block and report anyone who violates our terms of service. Here are some examples of non-compliance, but not limited to: Demandes d'argent ou de dons

- Involvement of underage people
- Harassment, threats and aggressive messages
- Inappropriate or harmful behaviour during or after a face-to-face meeting
- Fake profiles
- Interactions without mutual consent
- Spam or solicitation such as sending link to merchant sites, resale sites or attempts to sell products or services

You can report any concerns about suspicious behavior directly from the BIM application. For more information, see the [Code of Ethics](#).

- **Protect your account**

You can only log in to your account via your phone. If your phone is lost or stolen, please contact us immediately. BIM will never send you an email asking for your username or password. If you receive such emails, please report them to us immediately.

### **In-person meetings**

- **Slowly but surely**

Always get to know someone before you meet them or engage in dialogue outside of the BIM application. Don't be afraid to ask questions whose answers might make you think it's best not to pursue the relationship. Our video dialogue system normally allows you to limit the risks before a first meeting.

- **Meet your interlocutor in a public place and stay there**



Arrange first dates in busy public places—never at your home, your date's home, or any other private location. If your date pressures you to go somewhere private, end the meeting.

- **Tell your friends or relatives where you are going**

Tell a friend or relative where you are going and what time. Make sure you have your cell phone with you and that it is fully charged.

- **Don't depend on anyone for your travels**

We want you to be in control of all your trips so you can leave whenever you want. If you're driving, have a plan B like using a rideshare app, hailing a taxi, or calling a friend to pick you up.

- **Know your own limits**

Be aware of the effects of drugs or alcohol on you in particular — they can impair your judgment and alertness. If your date tries to pressure you to use drugs or drink more than is reasonable for you, be firm and end the date.

- **Do not leave any drinks or personal items unattended.**

Know where your drink is coming from and where it is at all times — only accept drinks that are poured or served directly by the bartender or server. Many substances that are poured into drinks to facilitate sexual assault are odorless, colorless, and tasteless. Also keep your smartphone, purse, wallet, and anything else that contains personal information on you at all times.

- **If you don't feel comfortable, just leave.**

Don't hesitate to cut the date short if you feel uncomfortable. In fact, we recommend that you do so. And if your gut tells you that something is off or you don't feel safe, ask the bartender or server for help.

- **LGBTQ+ Travels**

We recognize and believe in the importance of being inclusive and accepting of all sexual identities and orientations, but the reality is that not all countries are safe for our LGBTQ+ community and some countries have laws that criminalize them.



Check local laws when traveling to an unfamiliar place and find out what types of legal protection, if any, are available to you based on your sexual orientation. In case you find yourself in a risky area, we advise you not to use the app.

It is important to exercise caution if you choose to communicate with new people in these countries, as we know that some law enforcement agencies use dating apps as tools to try to trap certain users. Some countries have also recently introduced laws that criminalize same-sex communications on dating apps or websites. Penalties are also increased if said communications result in sexual encounters.

Visit [ILGA World](#) to find out the latest sexual orientation laws by country, and consider donating to support their research.

*Source : ILGA World, march 2019 update*

## Sexual health and consent

BIM is not intended to foster or promote sexuality. However, encounters can sometimes lead to more intimate relationships. Below are some tips for a better experience.

- **Protect yourself**

It is important to use methods that can prevent you from being infected with STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) correctly and consistently. Condoms can significantly reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting an STD, such as HIV. However, be careful with STDs such as herpes, which can be transmitted through skin-to-skin contact. You can reduce the risk of catching certain STDs by getting vaccinated. If in doubt, do not hesitate to consult a doctor.

- **Stay up to date on your results**

Not all STDs have symptoms, and it's best not to bury your head in the sand about them. Stay on top of your health and prevent the spread of STDs by getting tested regularly.

- **Talk about it**

Communication is very important: before being physically intimate with a partner, talk about sexual health and STI testing. And be aware that in some



places, knowingly transmitting an STD is considered a punishable offense. Need help on how to start such a conversation.

- **Consent**

All sexual activity must begin with mutual consent and should include repeated explicit confirmations from your partner. Verbal communication can help you and your partner ensure that each other's boundaries are fully respected. You can end the act at any time because you do not owe anyone any sexual favors. Stop if your partner seems uncomfortable or unsure, or if he or she is unable to consciously consent due to the effects of drugs or alcohol.

### **Resources for help, support or advice**

Remember that even if you follow these tips, no risk reduction method is foolproof. If you have a negative experience, know that it is not your fault and that help is available. Report any incidents to BIM. **If you believe you are in immediate danger or need emergency assistance, contact your local emergency services or law enforcement agency.**