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## Sex Attack Women Given Guide Help

*Women victims of sexual violence are to be given a newly-launched legal handbook detailing how the crimes are investigated and prosecuted.*

The Home Office-funded guide will tell women what to expect from the moment they report a crime to the final court hearing and afterwards.

Written from the perspective of a victim, it also advises on coping with a court case and being cross-examined.

Campaigners say it is a response to the low rape conviction rate in the UK.

### **‘Traumatic Experience’**

The guide also describes the kind of procedures police use when investigating allegations of rape or sexual assault and deals with medical examinations.

Ranjit Kaur of campaign group Rights of Women – which along with the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit at London Metropolitan University produced the free handbook – said it was written to help victims cut through “legal jargon”.

“Sexual violence is a reality for thousands of women and it is a traumatic experience,” she said.

“The processes of reporting and prosecuting can be very complex – particularly in terms of the legal system.

“The law is often incomprehensible to lay people and simply having a lawyer explain it is sometimes not that helpful.

“Our job is to inform women of their legal rights.”

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