

Chemsex & Consent Key Facts



www.galop.org.uk

Consent & Chemsex - Key facts

This factsheet is part of a series for men who participate in chemsex and who want to know more about consent in a chemsex context. The factsheet provides information on what the law says about consent and some of the issues around ensuring consent within chemsex spaces. The factsheet will also provide information on how to get help if you've experienced sexual assault whilst in a chemsex environment.



When we talk about sex in this leaflet, we mean any sort of sexual contact for example oral sex, sexual touching, penetrative sex, and other sex acts.

Galop believes that everyone taking part in chemsex has a right to choice and control over their body and sexual experiences – and a right to clear information about consent.



This factsheet is seeking to promote consensual sexual behaviour in a chemsex context by giving men clear information about consent and an understanding of the experience of survivors of sexual violence and other crimes taking place in the chemsex scene.



Galop believes that men who have experienced sexual violence in a chemsex context should be able to get informed support that can facilitate their access to help, counselling and criminal justice, should they want it.

Key Facts about Consent

- Sex without consent is a crime.
- People cannot consent if they are unconscious, asleep or too out of it to be able to make a decision for themselves.
- People cannot consent if they are threatened, frightened or intimidated. Saying 'yes' in this situation does not mean someone has consented.
- People have a right in law to withdraw consent at any time.
- Consenting to one sexual act, with one person, does not mean someone consents to more sex, or a different sexual act or sex with other people.
- Drugging someone with the intention of having sex with them while they are unconscious is a crime.
- Filming or live streaming anyone without their consent is a crime.
- Filming someone under 18 is a crime, even if they say yes.
- If you have sex with someone under any of these circumstances, you are breaking the law. If you are reported to the police for this, you may be arrested and charged with a sexual offence. If found guilty, you may be sent to prison.
- If found guilty of a sexual offence, you will be put on the Sex Offenders Register.
- Sexual offences are never 'spent' from your criminal record. They can be disclosed to employers and others under the Disclosure and Barring Service process. Some countries (like the USA) will not allow visa applications for anyone with a sexual offence on their criminal record.

You might find these facts are difficult to read. You may feel upset or surprised by this information.

Galop believes you have the right to know the facts, so you can make informed decisions for yourself and others.

Getting help

It can be devastating to be the victim of sexual assault and violence. If you feel something wrong or bad has happened to you, or you've experienced sexual violence or assault or you're not sure but worried, then talk to Galop. Galop provides a free, confidential and independent service to all LGBT+ people across London who have experienced sexual assault, abuse or violence, however or whenever it happened.

If you want to discuss something that has happened to you, or want some support and advice, then please contact us confidentially:

Galop's London Advice Line:

020 7704 2040

Email

referrals@galop.org.uk

Always dial 999 if it is an emergency and you think you are in immediate danger.

If you would like support around your own behaviour in a chemsex context:

Club Drug Clinic:

www.clubdrugclinic.cnwl.nhs.uk

London Friend:

www.londonfriend.org.uk

56 Dean Street:

www.dean.st/chemsex-support

More information:

Safety in a chemsex context:

www.gmfa.org.uk/pages/category/safer-chems

About the police response:

www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/cs/chemsex

For friends and families supporting a chemsex user:

www.adfam.org.uk/our-work/supporting-families/chemsex



About Galop

Galop is the UK's specialist LGBT+ anti-violence charity. Since 1982 we have been providing advice, support and advocacy and campaigning to end anti-LGBT+ violence, abuse and discrimination. Our mission is to make life just, fair and safe for LGBT+ people. Galop works around 3 key areas: hate crime, domestic abuse and sexual violence. We also have specific projects to support trans victims of crime and young LGBT+ people at risk.

Our services free and confidential and enable people to achieve positive

changes in their lives through emotional and practical support that develop empowerment and resilience, and engage with their communities to build lives free from violence and abuse.

Galop works at a strategic level to advocate for the concerns, experiences and needs of all LGBT+ people in the development of law and policy around violence and abuse. We continue to retain the trust and confidence of the LGBT+ community by remaining an independent, community-centered organization.