Assault

It is a violent crime. It’s when someone physically attacks you, or threatens to attack you.

[Types of assault](https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/crime-info/types-crime/assault/#b86900dd874e9df3d)

There are different assault offences, depending on how seriously the victim was injured, the harm caused and ‘[culpability of the offender](https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/droppable/item/culpability/)’. That means how responsible the perpetrator was for the crime.

* **Common assault:**when someone uses force, such as pushing or slapping, or makes threats of violence. (This doesn’t have to involve physical violence.)
* **Actual bodily harm (ABH)**: when someone is hurt or injured as a result of an assault.
* **Grievous bodily harm (GBH) or wounding**: when someone is seriously injured in an assault, such as being stabbed. The injury does not have to be permanent.
* **Causing GBH or wounding with intent to cause GBH**: this is the most serious form of assault charge in UK law, where there’s a very serious injury and the offender intended to cause serious harm to the victim. It can carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment