

## PRESS RELEASE

Paris-Saclay, 8 March 2021

### **Gender Equality Week 2021: “Does health have a gender?”**

**As part of International Women’s Day, Université Paris-Saclay is organising, for the sixth year running, a Gender Equality Week throughout the month of March on Gender and Health.**

Whether it is access to healthcare, medical practices, training or governance, inequality and discrimination in the health sector are an undeniable reality. The French High Council for Gender Equality (*Haut Conseil à l’Egalité entre les Femmes et les Hommes*) has highlighted these inequalities in its report “Taking sex and gender into account for better healthcare: a public health issue” (*Prendre en compte le sexe et le genre pour mieux soigner, un enjeu de santé publique*).

With the global health pandemic acting as a catalyst, we can no longer ignore the women working on the frontline in undervalued jobs, at greater risk of poverty and gender-based violence, more likely to be burdened by mental loads, and, as a result, less available for their research and professional development. As Simone de Beauvoir once said, “Naming something is to expose it, and exposing something is in itself a form of action.”

That is why, on 8 March and throughout the month, Université Paris-Saclay will be *naming and exposing* these inequalities through a series of awareness-raising actions, aimed at achieving greater equality in health.

- **A virtual exhibition on gender and health from the illustrator Catel**

The Covid-19 health crisis has transformed our daily lives and accentuated existing inequalities for women at home, in the workplace and even in the type of medical treatment and healthcare they receive. The mental load, Toxic Shock Syndrome, gynaecological violence, student poverty; the list goes on. The artist Catel explores these inequalities in twenty original illustrations she has created for this exhibition.

Discover the exhibition: <https://fr.calameo.com/read/0048003869844261813f2>

- **Webinars, online round-table discussions and virtual conferences**

From talks on anti-harassment to excision, the wellbeing of LGBT students in higher education to the importance considering sex and gender for better healthcare, a wide range of themes will be discussed throughout the week during a dozen webinars, online conferences and round-table discussions.

Find out what’s on here: <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/semaine-egalite-2021>

- **The launch of a period poverty campaign**

This year Université Paris-Saclay is committing to tackling period poverty among students.

Today, many students find themselves unable to attend their lectures due to a lack of sanitary products. Some students put their health at risk by not changing their protection regularly enough, while others do not have the possibility of choosing the type of protection they use, e.g. organic or reusable products. Period poverty exists and represents a major challenge for both student health and equal opportunities.

That is why Université Paris-Saclay has decided to install sanitary protection dispensers across its campus to help its most financially vulnerable students to have their periods without worrying about the cost.

In an attempt to tackle the taboo of menstruation, a communication campaign from the press cartoonist Besse will accompany the launch of the 'Never in the red again!' operation on 8 March.

For more information: <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/stop-precarite-menstruelle>

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## ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

*Université Paris-Saclay brings together ten constituent faculties and institutes, four Grandes Écoles, the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, two associate institutions and shared laboratories with six national research organisations.*

*With 48,000 students, 8,100 lecturers and 8,500 administrative and technical staff members, Université Paris-Saclay offers a comprehensive and varied range of undergraduate to doctorate level programmes and engineering degrees, renowned for their quality thanks to the reputation and commitment of the University's academic staff.*

*Located in the south of Paris on vast sites that stretch across Paris, Orsay, Évry and Versailles, Université Paris-Saclay benefits from a strategic geographical and socio-economic position that is strengthened by its international visibility. A leading University, Université Paris-Saclay is recognised for its excellent Mathematics and Physics programmes but also for Biological and Medical Sciences, Agriculture, Engineering, and its extensive Humanities and Social Sciences courses. Close to Paris, Université Paris-Saclay is nested in a protected natural area, at the very heart of a dynamic economic hub.*



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