ENGAGED BYSTANDER

An engaged bystander is someone who intervenes in a positive way before, during, or after a situation or event in which they see or hear behaviors that promote sexual misconduct in any of its forms. The University encourages all members of the campus community to be engaged bystanders.

MYTH

Sometimes the best thing to do is not address a harmful situation

Though some circumstances may seem difficult to address, the most important thing that can be done is to get help for the victim. Reporting Sexual Misconduct helps the immediate victim and may help prevent others from being victimized. Ignoring harmful situations and not addressing them is NEVER the right option.

FACT

OVERCOMING BARRIERS

Sometimes we tell ourselves:

1) “Someone else will take care of it, help, or speak up.” 2) “It's none of my business” or “It's not my responsibility.” 3) “They might do something to me if I try to help the person they're harming.”

These may be legitimate concerns, but we can overcome these barriers by considering the following responses:

1) “I can do something about this and get other people to help.”

2) “I want to help, because if I were in the same situation, I hope someone would help me.”

3) “I can enlist help from others or the police if I'm worried about getting hurt or someone retaliating against me.”

WHAT DO I DO?

There is no single “right” way to intervene, and what is appropriate depends on the situation and the individuals involved. There are three basic steps you can take to be an engaged bystander when a harmful event is occurring:

1) Recognize potential harm: Be aware of what’s going on around you and be aware of behavior that seems out-of-place or concerning.

2) Choose to respond: Decide that you have a duty to help when you observe trouble and choose safe and positive ways to intervene and avoid placing yourself in harm’s way.

3) Take Action: Taking action might mean speaking up to express that you are aware and do not condone the harmful behavior you see or calling 911 during an emergency. You can intervene directly (e.g. asking if the person in harm's way needs help) or indirectly (calling 911, reporting the harmful behavior). Remember, doing nothing is NEVER a positive option.

CAN I HELP AFTER THE FACT?

Yes! Sometimes, you may not witness the event during which harm was caused, but you can still be an engaged bystander. You can positively intervene by helping and supporting a victim.

COUGARSTAND

We invite all students and those affiliated with BYU to take a CougarStand and choose to be an engaged bystander so that our campus is a safe place to be.

Learn more at titleix.byu.edu

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