

HOW CAN I BE A GOOD BYSTANDER WHEN 2SLGBTQ+ STUDENTS ARE TARGETED?

Queer and trans students are often targets of bullying and harassment in their schools. As an educator you can help address and prevent some of the harm caused by this violence by being a good bystander and stepping in when violence occurs.



WHAT TO DO:

FAMILIARIZE

- Even in a position of authority, you can succumb to the “bystander effect”.
- Familiarize yourself with the laws, and policies governing your role as a teacher, including regarding incidents involving parents or when off school property. Exercise caution and adhere to your professional boundaries and duty of care.
- Know your school layout, including blind spots and hidden corners where students may be targeted, and watch for signs of harm among students.

More **FROM SAFER:**

Use the QR Code below to access additional tipsheets and info on the SAFER project.



DURING AN INCIDENT

- Support the victim and maintain calm to de-escalate emotionally charged situations. Find a location away from any crowd that has formed, but allow a calm friend of the affected student or your professional colleague to accompany you.
- Determine the seriousness of the situation and identify who is involved, and assess the safety of everyone. Consider the presence of weapons, your ability to intervene physically, and the availability of staff support before deciding on a course of action.

ASK FOR HELP

- In situations involving violence, if unsure how to intervene, seek assistance and monitor the situation until help arrives.
- Take action and delegate tasks to another adult if necessary.



FOLLOW-UP

- Report the incident following your school's procedures.
- If you are tasked with follow-up to process the incident, listen to both parties, ideally, separately. In addition to any disciplinary measures, connect students to internal and external support (e.g GSA for peer support, school or community counseling, etc.)
- Include bystander intervention in your classroom to empower students to not be passive in the face of harassment and violence.

RESOURCES:

What Kids Who Have Been Bullied Say Helps the Most (Elementary school):

https://hrc-prod-requests.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/welcoming-schools/documents/WS_What_Kids_Say_Helps.pdf?mtime=20200713132117&focal=none

Bystander Intervention Tip Sheet:

<https://www.apa.org/pi/health-equity/bystander-intervention>

Responding to Sexism, Homophobia and Transphobia: Tips for Parents and Educators of Younger Children (EGALE):

https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/files/k12_safeandcaring_pdf_responding_sexism_homophobia_transphobia.pdf