Why don’t we help others?

Must have been a good party!

She just needs to sleep it off...

I don’t want to get involved or risk getting in trouble too

Someone else will help her

Be an ETHICAL Bystander

Appropriate Responses

Calling For Help

Encouraging Dialogue

Show support

Sometimes it may be appropriate to actively show support for an approahed person, in order to prevent further victimization. If you are worried that the approahed person may want to avoid the confrontaion of action.

Example: At an athletic event, you overhear a fan make a cruel remark about someone on the opposing team, who turned to a player and said, “go for it!..."

An ethical bystander should react to such behavior. Avoid calling attention to the approahed person, as this could cause further embarassment. Instead, it is approahed and safe if you express your view to the approahed person as a way of expressing your concern for their feelings.

Unhelpful Responses

BEING A DOCTOR

Bystander Situations

Tips for Intervening

- Identify and approach the approahed person
- Do not use intimidate or aggressive language
- Treat the approahed person with respect
- Refuse to do anything that will put you in danger
- Call for help if the approahed person is in immediate danger

- If you see someone being bullied, do not join in the bullying. Instead, try to intervene or report the incident to a trusted adult.

Ethical Bystander Strategies

OBSERVE:

Interpret as a problem

Intervene

Get Help

DO SOMETHING!

- Make sure the situation is handled by those most suited to handle the situation.

Example: A student in your residence hall is upset. She is angry, and doesn’t expect anyone to help her.

Use body language

- Make sure you use non-verbal signals that communicate that behavior is unacceptable.

Example: While hanging out in a common area, a hall-mate uses offensive, stereotypical language.

Interrupt & Distract

- Protect someone else from being hurt or offended by interrupting a situation.

Example: You see a male student making advances on a female student at a party. Her body language indicates that she is not interested but he is getting “friendly.”
Why don’t we help others?
She just needs to sleep it off...
Someone else will help her
I don't want to get involved or risk getting in trouble too
Must have been a good party!
What is a bystander?
A bystander is someone who sees an event or incident but does not take part.

An ethical bystander
Takes steps that can make a difference.

Tips for Intervening
• Approach as a friend
• Do not use antagonistic language
• Be assertive, but not aggressive or violent
• Be honest
• Recruit help if necessary
• Maintain your safety — DON'T PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER TO HELP OTHERS

Bystander Situations
• Rude behavior
• Offensive humor
• Escalating conflict
• Bullying
• Inappropriate / unwanted sexual advances
• Harassment
• Dangerous or destructive behavior
• Discrimination
• Threats / violence
Be an ETHICAL Bystander
Unhelpful Responses
#ThisIsn'tHelping #BeAnActiveBystander #Intervene
“Sorry, I don’t want to get involved.”
Appropriate

Ethical

Bystander

Responses
Calling For Help
Observe!

Consider your own safety first

Question

Ask yourself (is it a problem? How can I help?)

Ask others to help

Act!

Direct (Intervene)

Indirect (Get help)
Ethical Bystander Strategies

**Acknowledge the offense**
Identify inappropriate behavior so it won’t be ignored.

Example: A classmate makes an stereotypical joke during a group project.
Response: “I am uncomfortable with that kind of humor in this setting – someone here could be offended.”

**Interrupt & Distract**
Protect someone else from being hurt or offended by interrupting a situation.

Example: You see a male student making advances on a female student at a party. Her body language indicates that she is not interested but he is getting “touchy feely”
Response: Walk over and tell her that her friend is asking for her and offer to take her to the friend.
Show support

Sometimes it may be appropriate to publicly show support for an aggrieved person in order to prevent further offense. If you are worried that the offender will retaliate you may want to avoid this course of action.

Example: At an athletic event, you overhear a fan make a cruel remark about someone on the opposing team who seemed to hear it.
Response: Say loud enough for all to hear “you’re just afraid she’s going to win!”

Use body language

Subtly and non-verbally communicate that behavior is unacceptable

Example: While hanging in a common area, a hall-mate uses offensive, stereotypical language.
Response: Frown, make a surprised facial expression, or even get up and walk away
Initiate dialogues

Tension can be caused by misunderstanding. As tension increases, the chances that an amicable agreement will be reached decreases. Starting dialogue reduces tension so that differences can be worked through.

Example: Two people on your hall have separately expressed grievances about each other to you. One day you here them arguing in the hall.
Response: Interrupt and say “Excuse me. I couldn’t help, but overhear. I can tell that you both are pretty angry. Why don’t we sit down and talk about what is bothering you?” You could even get an RA to mediate if needed.

Call for help

Make sure the situation is handled by those most qualified by summoning help.

Example: A student in your residence hall is passed out, smells, like alcohol, and does not respond when you try to wake them.
Response: Call 911 and tell them you suspect alcohol poisoning.
Helpful Resources

FAU Police
(561) 297-3500 or 911
www.fau.edu/police

FAU Victim Services
(561) 297-0500
www.fau.edu/police/victimservices

FAU Counseling & Psychological Services
(561) 297-3540
www.fau.edu/counseling

FAU Dean of Students
(561) 297-3542
www.fau.edu/dean

Medical Amnesty Policy
http://www.fau.edu/dean/pdf/Medical%20Amnesty%20Policy.pdf

Title IX
http://www.fau.edu/eop/Title%20IX.php

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