Teen Dating Violence: Information for Bystanders

Bystander Intervention, Prevention & Education

You can help stop teen dating violence in your community. Learning to be an active bystander, helping advocate for training for your school, and launching campaigns can all raise awareness about this serious issue.

Bystander Intervention

Bystander intervention is a tool in the fight against teen dating violence, but many people will not intervene if they do not know the right way to go about it or when to get involved. If you witness dating violence, you can be an active bystander whether or not you know the people involved.

You can respond to incidents of abuse by: gathering a group to talk to the abuser, creating a distraction, speaking up and letting the abuser know their actions are not ok, telling a trusted adult about what you saw, or calling the police. While calling 911 can be overwhelming, it’s important to involve the police if you feel your or someone else’s safety has been threatened or is in danger. Even if you feel it is not your place to get involved, remember that dating abuse is not a personal problem; it is a serious crime that affects us all. For more information on how you can be an active bystander visit: NYS Teen Dating Violence.

Prevention and Education

There are many ways you can work toward ending dating violence in your community. One way is to become an ally for victims of dating violence through bystander intervention. Another way is to raise awareness of dating violence. There are many campaigns you can become involved in and bring to your school, church, or community. You can print free posters from the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and use them to start a conversation about healthy relationships.

Training Programs for Your Community

For information on dating violence training in your area, contact your local Domestic Violence Program. If you’re in New York City, Day One may be able to provide training at your request.

Public Awareness Campaigns

Some public awareness events you may want to consider bringing to your area include: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February, Take Back the Night and Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, and Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.
For more information on these awareness months visit:
Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month
Take Back the Night
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Shine the Light Domestic Violence Awareness Month

For More Information:

For Teens
NYS Teen Dating Violence
Love is Respect
No More
Day One

For Parents
Day One - Tips for Caregivers
Love is Respect - Help your child fact sheet
NYS Teen Dating Violence - Advice for Parents
iPhone App - Love is Not Abuse App for parents

For Schools/Curriculum Ideas
Break the Cycle
Safe Dates
Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence Guide

Helplines and Online Chat Available 24 Hours a Day/7 Days a Week
New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline 1.800.942.6906
National Domestic Violence Hotline 1.800.799.7233
National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline 1.866.331.9474 TTD/TTY-1.866.331.8453
Love is Respect Peer Advocates 1.866.331.9474 or Text “loveis” to 22522
Online Chat: loveisrespect.org

1-800-942-6906
NYS Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline
CONFIDENTIAL 24 HRS/7 DAYS
English & espanol, multi-language accessibility
711: Deaf or Hard of Hearing
In NYC: 311 or 1-800-621-HOPE (4673)
TDD: 1-800-810-7444