

# Positive Bystanders

## Age Range:

Age 13+, Year group 9+,  
KS3+

## Topics Covered:

Sexual Assault  
Bystanders

## Time:

30 – 40 minutes

## Equipment needed:

Copies of second sheet

## Suggested

## Learning Outcomes:

- Young people have increased knowledge of the role of bystanders and impacts of sexual harassment and assault.
- Young people have an increased awareness of attitudes towards harmful sexual behaviour.
- Young people have an increased understanding of the role bystanders can play to combat attitudes towards harmful sexual behaviours.

This exercise supports key topics identified in the new statutory RSHE guidance, including:

- Respectful relationships
- Intimate and sexual relationships
- Online and media
- Being safe

**An exercise to explore the role of bystanders and the impacts of sexual harassment and assault.**

## Introduction

By the end of this exercise, learners will have explored a range of attitudes and feelings regarding sexual assault, including the impacts of sexual harassment and assault, and how bystanders can make a difference.

## Exercise

Begin by explaining that you will be discussing a difficult topic and make sure the learners are aware of the support they can access in your school/setting.

Ask the students to get into small groups and hand each group a copy of the second page below of Calli's story. Ask the groups to read the story from the start box at the bottom of the page, following the arrows.

Once the story has been read, ask the students to discuss in their group's possible endings for Calli's story and explore the impacts on her physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Ask the groups to share their ideas with the rest of the class.

Working in their own groups again, ask the students to go back through Calli's story and suggest who might have been the bystanders. Groups are then to answer the following questions:

- Why might the bystanders have not intervened to help Calli?
- When could they have intervened?
- If they had intervened and helped Calli, how would the ending of her story have changed?
- How might Calli have felt if someone had intervened and supported her?

To explore the issues of attitudes towards harmful sexual behaviours in further detail, use the suggested questions below to encourage discussions either in groups or as a whole:

- Why might Kai have thought that his actions were acceptable and bragged to his mates afterwards?
- Why might the people who continued to share the video online and make comments towards Calli think this behaviour is acceptable?
- Where might these attitudes and behaviours come from? What influences and pressures are there on people to think and act this way?
- What harm could these attitudes and behaviours have on someone who experiences sexual harassment and assault, and others who see/hear it?

## Summary

At the end of the session, explore why being a positive bystander is important and how it can help prevent harmful attitudes and behaviours surrounding sexual harassment and assault. Also, explore who else Calli and her friends could go to for help and support, including staff at school/college and the safeguarding team, parents/guardians/carers, and other support services such as Childline.

## HOW DOES THE STORY END



Calli's younger sister sees the video online and shows it to their parents.

After a few days, Calli deletes all her social media accounts, but her friends tell her that the video is still being shared and talked about.

Kai goes back inside and brags to his mates that he 'got with' Calli; Calli tells her friends she is leaving the party.

The next day, Calli sees videos on people's story of what happened last night with Kai; her friends start messaging her about it.

Calli receives direct messages on social media from people she doesn't know, calling her a 'slut', saying she was 'asking for it' by wearing a short dress. They ask her for nude photos.

The same people inside the house have been filming Calli and Kai.

They share a kiss but then Kai puts his hand up Calli's dress and tries to touch her; she asks him to stop and tries to push him off, but Kai carries on.

One lad, Kai, begins flirting with Calli and asks her to go outside into the garden for a chat. Others at the party watch them from inside the house.

## START HERE

- Calli
- 16 years old
- Year 11 student
- Lives with parents and a younger sister
- Part of local hockey team

Calli and her friends are at an end of term house party.

A group of lads from their school ask Calli and her friends to play a drinking game.