

BYSTANDER ACTION

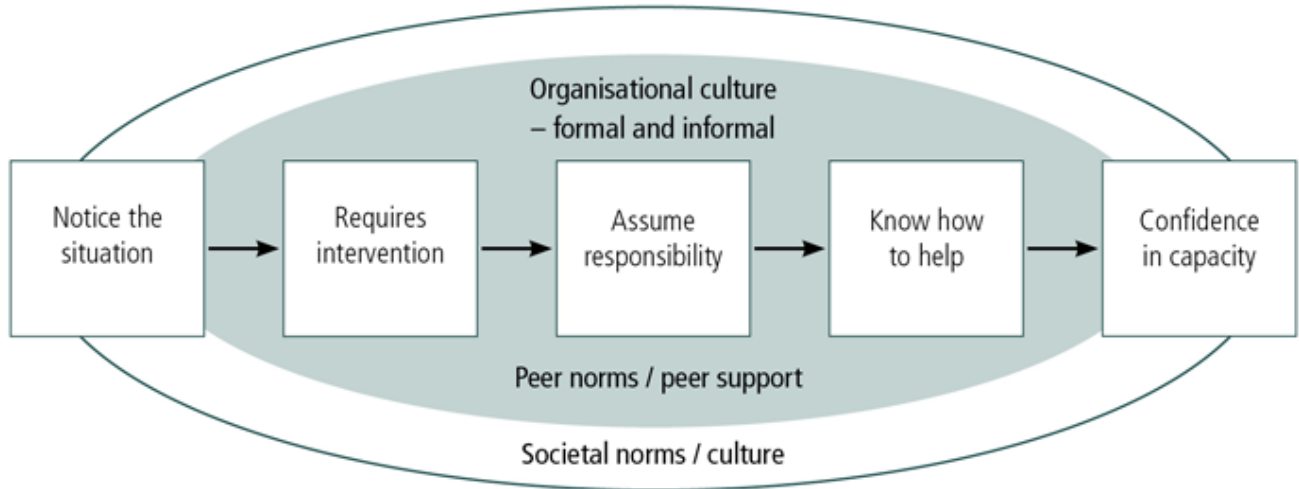
Table 1: Summary of individual enablers and obstacles to bystander action

Enablers of bystander action	Obstacles to bystander action
Knowledge of what constitutes violence against women	The ambiguous nature of some everyday sexism and heterosexism
Awareness of harm caused by violence against women	Exclusive group identity; male peer groups based on violence/aggressive masculinities
Perception of responsibility to intervene	Fear of violence or being targeted by perpetrator; fear that masculinity will be called into question
Perceived ability to intervene – skills	Perception that action would be ineffective
Desire to educate perpetrator	Lack of knowledge about how to intervene
Empathy for and desire to support victim	Rigid adherence to traditional gender roles; attitudes supporting male dominance
Self-validation, catharsis – expressing anger, disapproval etc.	Impression management, preserving interpersonal relations

Adapted from: Aboud & Joong 2008; Ashburn-Nardo, Morris & Goodwin 2008; Hyers 2007; Levine, Prosser, Evans & Reicher 2005; Saucier, Miller & Doucet 2005.

	Primary Prevention	Secondary Prevention	Tertiary Prevention
Approach	Proactive	Reactive	Reactive
When	Before a person has acquired risk factors for perpetrating sexual violation—and before sexual assault/abuse has been perpetrated	After a person has acquired risk factors for perpetrating sexual violation—and before (or very soon after) sexual assault/abuse has been perpetrated	After a person has perpetrated sexual assault/abuse—and the problem is chronic and/or entrenched
Strategies	Decrease perpetrator risk factors; increase perpetrator protective factors; Promote positive behaviors	Address perpetrator risk factors; Promote appropriate bystander behavior; Share victim risk-reduction techniques	Sex offender prosecution and/or treatment; Sexual assault crisis services for victims
Focus on	Individuals; Families; Communities; Organizations; Systems; Societal norms	Potential perpetrators; Potential bystanders; Potential victims	Known sex offenders; Known victims of sexual assault/abuse
Examples	Respect campaigns, providing info about healthy relationships, anti-bullying initiatives	Rape whistles, watching your drink at a bar, taking a self-defense class, walking with a partner	Crisis hotlines, victim services, court advocacy, sex offender registries, prison sentences

APPROACHES TO POSITIVE BYSTANDER ACTION



<http://www.aijs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/issue/i17/03.html>

**I can stop violence.
I am an active
bystander.**

