

say  
what?!

# Street Harassment Intervention Strategies

# What is Street Harassment?

Street harassment is gender-based harassment, often in the form of unwanted comments, gestures, and other actions, directed at a person because of their actual or perceived sex, gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

While street harassment may seem like an annoyance, it can often escalate to physical violence, and shouldn't be ignored when witnessed.

# **IMPORTANT:**

**ALWAYS** assess the situation before deciding to intervene. Don't put yourself or others in danger, and consider how your identity may affect the situation.

## **CAUTION**

Whenever possible, avoid involving the police. People of Color and Gender Non-Conforming folks are more likely to be targeted by police, even if they are the ones being harassed.

# Intervention Tips

When possible, get consent from the person being harassed.

Be mindful of your posture. Try to stand at eye level with the people you're talking to.

Speak Confidently, calmly, slowly, and clearly.

**REMEMBER:** the goal of intervening is to de-escalate the situation. If things get worse, switch strategies!!



# Intervention Strategies

## Escape:

Offer the person being harassed a way out.

EX: "Hey this looks uncomfortable. Do you want to leave? I can leave with you or stay here and talk to this person."



## Re-Focus:

Shift the center of activity.

EX: Pretend to recognize the person being harassed and engage them in conversation.

# Intervention Strategies

## Distract:

Prevent the harasser from giving their full attention to the person being harassed.

EX: Ask them for directions, call out their behavior, etc.

## Use Humor:

Diffuse the situation with a joke, but don't antagonize.

EX: Tell a funny joke you know.



# Intervention Strategies

## Give Choices:

Offer the harasser options.

EX: "We have two choices here."

"You can do this or that."



## Empathize:

Show the harasser you get where they're coming from.

EX: "I see what you're saying but..."

# Intervention Strategies

## Delegate:

Get other bystanders involved.

EX: "That looks uncomfortable. Can you check in with the person being harassed while I talk to the harasser?"

## After Intervention:

Check in with the person who was being harassed. Ask them if they need any additional support.





# Practice makes Perfect!

The best way to get good at intervening? Practice! Work on perfecting the strategies in this booklet with a friend, and be sure to take it with you as a reminder in real-time!






SMILE.




baby.



HEY  
(M.A.)



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