

The Intervention Initiative – Scenarios

Choose a scenario to work on in your groups – or create your own.

- How would you intervene? – discuss how and when you could intervene effectively.
- Is it safe to do so?
- What are the consequences of not intervening?
- How can you best support the victim?
- What are the best ways of communicating with the abuser?
- What kinds of words and phrases or other kinds of non-verbal communication might you use?

Role-play the scenario – you might develop more than one role-play - and give each other constructive feedback about what seemed to work well, and why. You could make notes to help you or you could go straight to an improvisation.

You could begin by staging a ‘bad’ role-play (e.g. an aggressive or ineffective intervention) and contrasting it with a ‘good’ role-play.

“Laddish” behaviour on a bus

You and a friend are on the bus on a Wednesday evening. A big group of lads in sports tops get on the bus. They are singing songs and laughing. A couple of people in the group start shouting to some of the other people on the bus “nice tits love, you’d get a raping” “Yeah I’d rape that”. The people they are talking to look uncomfortable but do not engage with the group of lads.

Acknowledgement: SARSAS

Commentary from SARSAS (Somerset & Avon Rape & Sexual Assault Support):
Rape culture is a concept that links rape and sexual violence to prevalent attitudes and practices that normalise, excuse, tolerate, and even condone rape.

NB A similar incident happened in 2013 when student members of Stirling University Men’s Hockey Club were filmed – see Social Media resources.

A friend discloses boyfriend rape

You and your friend Ella are having coffee for a catch up. You haven't seen her much since she got a new boyfriend and whenever you see her recently it's always her and him as a couple so you feel like you haven't had a chance to really catch up. Also you have seen him check her phone when you've been with them so you don't get to ask her how things are with him through texts or email.

You start chatting with Ella about her boyfriend and she says that it's great except something a bit weird happened the other day. She wasn't feeling very well so when her boyfriend wanted sex she told him she didn't feel like it but it kind of happened anyway. She says they usually have a good sex life but she feels uncomfortable about what happened as she told him she didn't want to.

Acknowledgement: SARSAS.

Commentary from SARSAS: A quarter of the people SARSAS supports are raped by a partner or ex-partner.

A friend discloses assault

You are home from uni for the Christmas holidays. At 8 o'clock on a Saturday morning, a close female friend from uni calls you, crying. You ask her what has happened and she says someone came into her room on campus last night. She reluctantly tells you that she woke up to find a naked man on top of her. She is afraid to tell her parents because she didn't lock her door and believes she is at fault.

Acknowledgement: Adapted via SAAM, 2010 from Plante, Banyard, Moynihan and Eckstein, 2002

Street harassment

It is Friday night and you are walking by the local cinema with a group of friends. A male friend of yours spots a beautiful woman. He makes some loud comments about her body and starts to hassle her.

Acknowledgement: Adapted via SAAM, 2010 from Banyard, Plante, and Moynihan, 2005

In a bar with your group

You are dancing in a bar with a group of friends. A young man joins your circle of dancers and begins to monopolize one woman's attention. It is loud, so you can't hear what they are saying to each other. He has moved in the way of seeing her face, cutting her off from the rest of your group.

Acknowledgement: NSVRC SAAM 2010 Making a Difference Workshop Facilitators Guide:
<http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/file/SAAM/SAAM-2010-Campus%20Making%20a%20Difference%20Workshop%20Facilitators%20Guide.pdf>

In a bar with a stranger

You and some friends are out at a bar on a Friday night. When you came in you noticed a woman at the bar sitting alone. A bit later in the evening you notice her again now sitting with a man who keeps moving closer to her and buying her drinks. She looks uncomfortable and keeps moving her chair a bit further back while looking around the bar. A bit later you notice that she stands up and tries to walk away. He follows her and puts his arm on the wall to talk to her further but it looks like she's cornered.

Acknowledgement: Adapted via SAAM, 2010 from Plante, Banyard, Moynihan and Eckstein, 2002

In halls of residence (1)

As you enter the halls of residence at your college, you see a couple stumbling down the hallway. Their hands are all over each other in a clearly sexual way. A few minutes later you hear a struggle, then loud voices and yelling coming from the room they entered.

Acknowledgement: Adapted via SAAM, 2010 from Banyard, Plante, and Moynihan, 2005

In halls of residence (2)

You and a friend live on the same corridor in halls. You walk by her room and hear her crying. In the past, she has shared with you that her boyfriend yells at her, humiliates her, and always wants to know where she is and who she's with. She also says he won't let her do things she wants to do. It appears she has some fresh bruises around her eye and on her arms.

Acknowledgement: StepUP – University of Arizona www.stepupprogram.org

In halls of residence (3)

You are walking down the hall to get the stairs to your room. When you pass a bedroom on the first floor you hear a man and a woman yelling at each other, they are really going at it. The man is calling the woman a “slut” and other names.

Acknowledgement: Adapted via SAAM, 2010 from from Katz, 2000

