

Unconscious on Sofa – scripted role play 2

Two people, each to read a part. A = abuser B = bystander. First, read the description of the situation.

A group of 8 male students have been out drinking. They return to their shared house with friends and continue drinking. One of the men passes out unconscious, lying face down on the sofa. One of the party encourages the group to pull down his trousers and underwear.

A: Brilliant, he's pulling a mooner and he doesn't even know it. Classic.

B: Yeh, hilarious. You had your fun, time to call it a night. End of. [folds arms, shakes head] Let's get him upstairs.

A: Well it's his fault for letting himself get so legless.

B: Whatever, let's get him upstairs.

Discussion points:

In this script the Bystander has chosen not to argue with the Abuser – he has prioritised getting his friend out of the situation. If you want to, have a go at thinking about other ways of managing the situation or other things the bystander could say at this point. For example – does the Bystander agree with the Abuser that what happened to the victim really “his fault”? Where does blame lie? Is it possible to have a persuasive conversation with someone who has been drinking heavily? What kind of interventions could happen ‘after the event’?