



FOR SAFER  
NIGHTLIFE



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# Could you be an active bystander?

What's on your mind  
on a night out? Having  
fun? Meeting new  
people? Responding  
to sexual harassment  
or assault?

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# So, what's an active bystander?

An active bystander is someone who responds effectively to harmful behaviour and provides support to a person experiencing any type of harassment or assault.

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**Safer nightlife  
is about looking  
out for each other, so  
when someone experiences  
predatory, creepy or violent  
behaviour, it's everyone's problem.**

**Build your skills to take a  
stand and make a difference...**



## **Is it safe?**

Assess the scene. Is it safe to intervene, or should you speak to staff or alert security? Avoid words or actions that could make it more dangerous for the person being targeted.

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## Check in

Try to ignore the harasser and check in with the person they've targeted first. If it's loud, try a thumbs up or making eye contact. Be neutral and friendly. You're showing that you're aware of the situation—not rushing in or taking over. If they don't need help, then no harm done!

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## Step in

Distract the harasser. Disrupt their behaviour by interrupting it:

- Start a conversation... about anything!
- Get in the way. Dance between them or create a distraction
- Pretend you recognise or know the person being harassed
- Offer to walk away with them or call them over to join your table
- Give them an 'out' to leave a situation



## Step up

Use neutral body language if directly challenging a harasser. ‘*That’s not okay.*’ or ‘*Stop.*’ Keep it short and clear—this is not a debate. Aggressive bystanders aren’t helpful, so keep calm.

Let the person targeted take the lead on next steps—if they want to be left alone, always respect that!



AND ALWAYS...

## Shape up


If you ignore this behaviour because the harasser is someone you know, what message does this send? If you’re challenging a friend about their words or actions for the first time, a one-on-one convo will be more effective than a group or public call out. Try naming the problem, the impact it’s having, and how you think they could change. Be a role model.

**Good Night Out  
Campaign is on a  
mission for safer  
nightlife. We believe  
nights out should  
be about fun and  
freedom, not fear.**

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