



ACT & NWG Network

Preventing VAWG using Bystander Interventions

Presented by

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#SaferCultureSaferSport

Bystander Interventions



Content warning and self-care
Focus on VAWG
and
Bystander interventions in other areas

#SafercultureSaferSport #Safersociety



Bystander Interventions



There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

We Need You to be that Active Bystander

#SafercultureSaferSport #Saferociety



Bystander Interventions



- How did the NWG get here
- PHE Webinar featuring Dr Rachel Fenton and Dr Nathan Eisenstadt from Exeter University
 - Developed Football Onside intervention programme
- Reduced beliefs in rape and abuse myths
- Improved in their intention to help others and readiness to change themselves
- Improved their knowledge of the law in this area and reported that this makes them more confident to intervene
- Increased in their confidence to be a bystander
- Reported that since the course they had intervened positively in a potentially harmful situation

We Need You to be that Active Bystander

#SafercultureSaferSport #Safersociety



Bystander Interventions



Council of Europe Declaration

Article 12.4 UK formally ratified July 22

Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

“Parties shall take necessary measures to encourage all members of society, especially men and boys to contribute actively to preventing all forms of violence covered by the scope of the convention”

What is the Problem ?



- 95% perpetrators of sexual abuse are men
- 80% victims are female
- Of the 20% who are male the majority will be abused as children.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001mp06/catching-a-pervert-sexual-assault-for-sale>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1XGPvbWn0A>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-65103002>
- VAWG is a male problem as is VAMB but bystander interventions belong to us all

Recap, why we need change

Quotes from <https://www.everyonesinvited.uk/>

- Sexual abuse online and harassment 'normalised' in schools - 9 out of 10 girls had received unsolicited images and been subject to sexist name calling (Ofsted June 2021).
- According to police figures in England and Wales one child is raped in school on every school day, and in primary schools alone three sexual assaults are reported to the police every school day.
- 99.7% of our sample of women [22,419] had been repeatedly subjected to violence including assaults, harassment and rape (Victim Focus UK, 2021).
- 1.4% of all rape cases resulted in a charge or summons. There is a 1 in 70 chance of your rapist being charged (Home Office figures 2021).

What is a Bystander ?



- Witness to a situation
- Is confided in/disclosed to about a situation
- Not involved as a 'victim'* or 'wrongdoer'
- *Note we choose to use 'victim' to mean recipient of harmful behaviour and wrongdoer as the perpetrator
- Active Bystanders can intervene to stop events before they happen
- Active Bystanders can intervene while an event is occurring

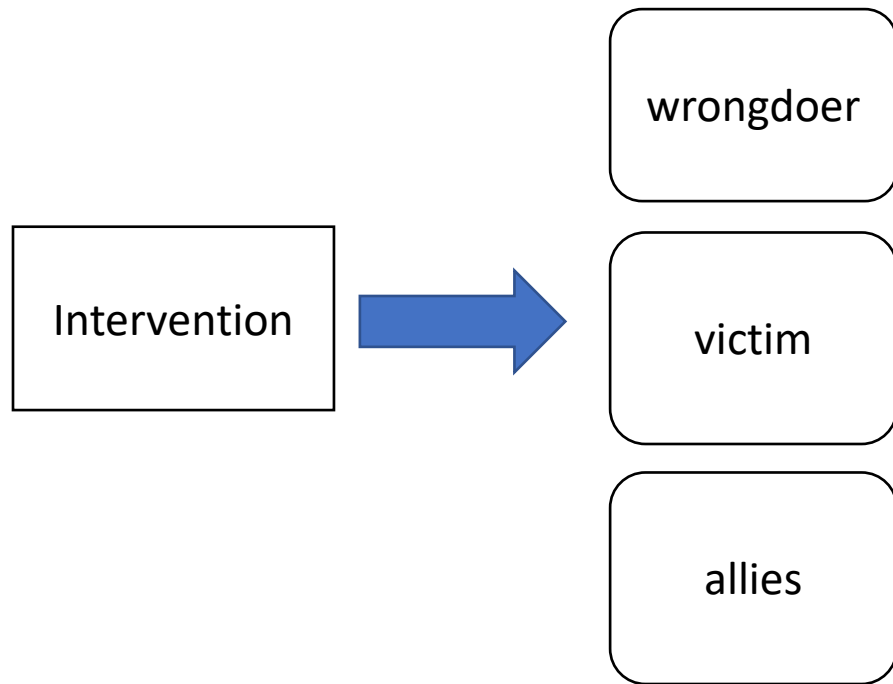
Why do people not intervene



- *“Decades of research confirms that individual moral instincts (to help) are turned off when in groups”* Graham Goulden June 23
 - They don't look like me
 - It may be dangerous
 - Too many people around
 - Someone else will do it
 - It looks like everyone else thinks its OK to do nothing
- (Adapted from Berkowitz, A. (2009) *Response Ability: A Complete Guide to Bystander Intervention*, Beck & Co., p.18)

How to Intervene

- First and foremost, safety has to be your number 1 priority



- Distract
- Delegate
- Direct
- Delay
- Document
- And finally Do Something

Interventions

- Body language signalling disapproval
- Choosing not to laugh at a joke
- Distraction
- Interruption
- Express disagreement
- Being supportive to colleagues / friends
- Getting help/assistance
- Challenging a social media post

Misogyny



Three irons on a shirt

Lord Sugar blasts BBC coverage of Women's Euros over 'no male' host

Jessica Ennis-Hill receives rape threats over Ched Evans stance



[BBC Wales Investigates](#) that a male colleague said in front of others that he wanted to "rape" her.



"BACK TO THE KITCHEN NOW, BIRDS!' WELL DONE, THE FA, YOU F*****G IDIOTS.

As Sports Illustrated reports, female sports reporters often face sexual harassment from agents, players, coaches and even get flashed in the locker room at times.

"It's not all men [who] are doing it," she said. "But all women have experienced it in the House of Commons. And they're just calling time on it. Harriet Harman Labour MP.



Bystander Interventions



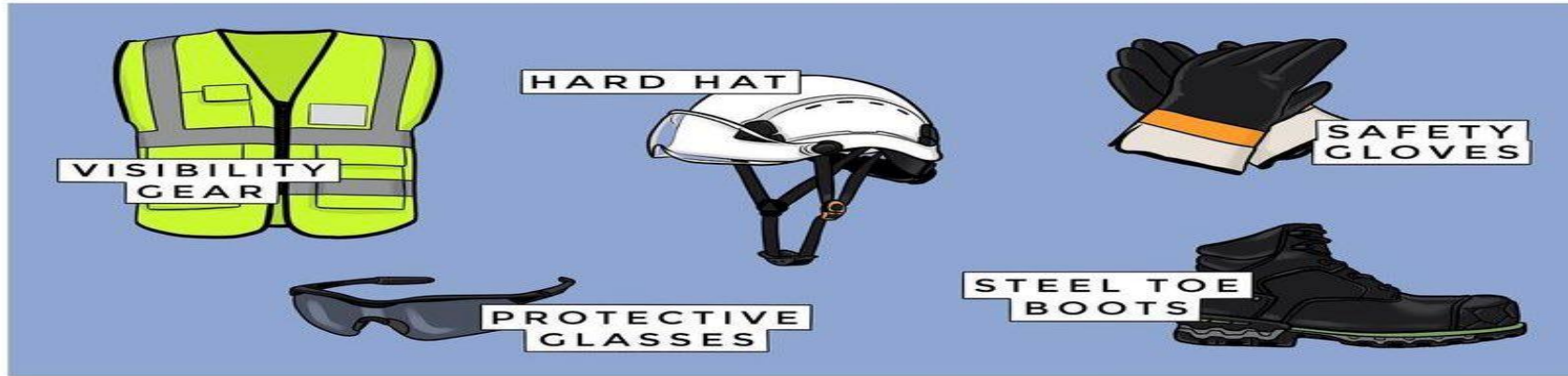
Impact of VAWG

Protective behaviours

Think about the protective behaviour you take to avoid sexual harassment/violence in public spaces

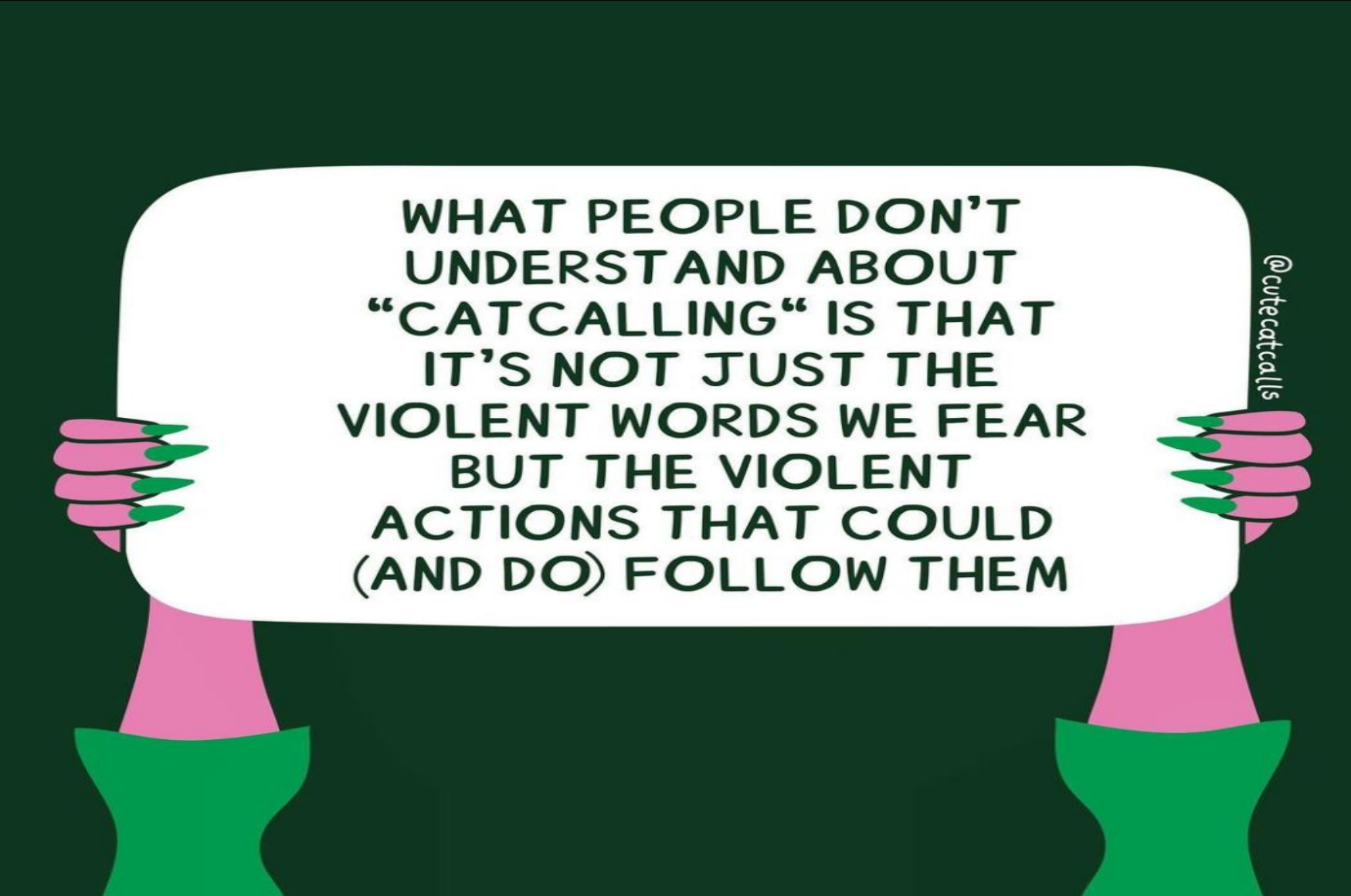
What next ?

WHEN YOU GOOGLE MEN'S SAFETY ITEMS:



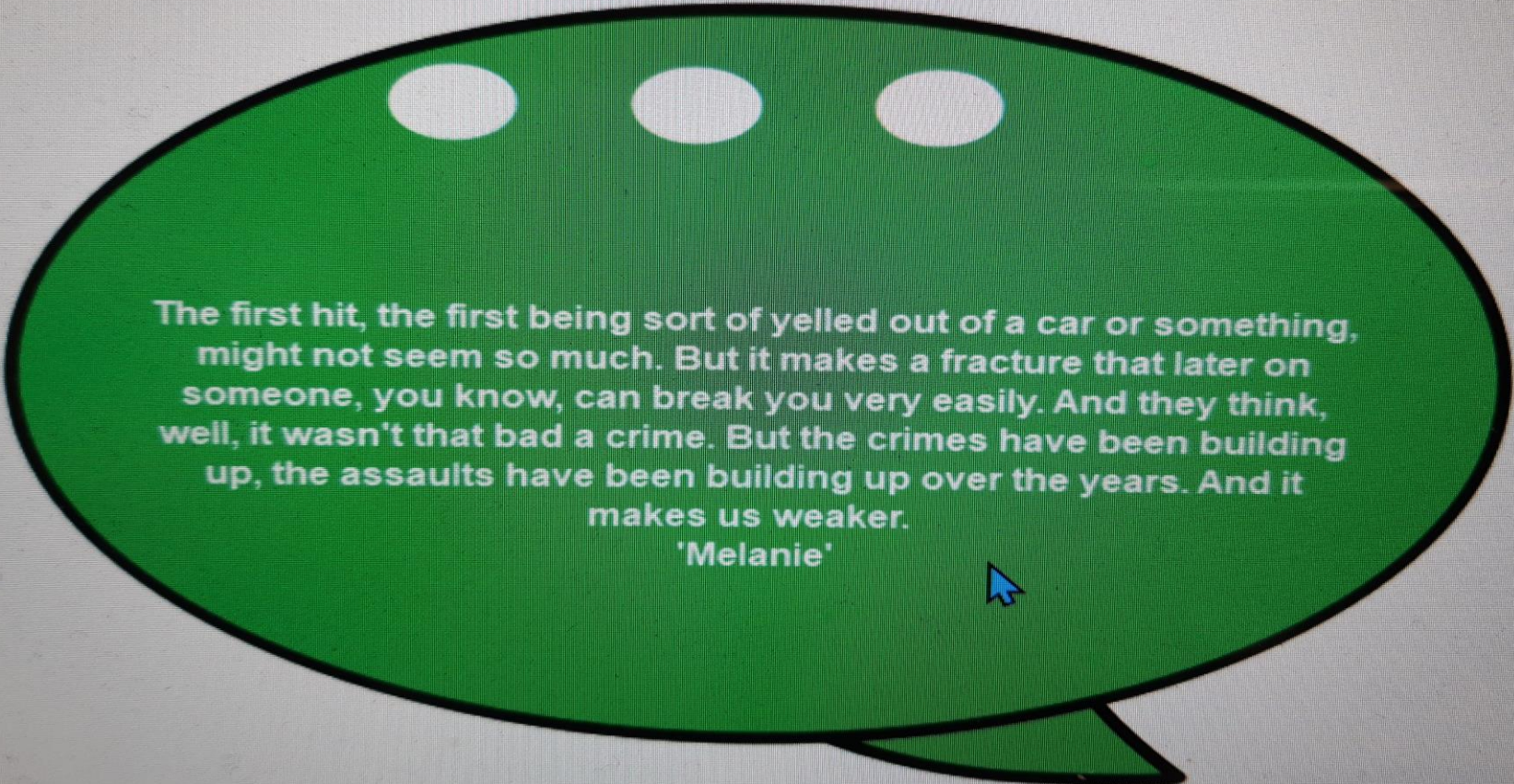
WHEN YOU GOOGLE WOMEN'S SAFETY ITEMS:





WHAT PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT "CATCALLING" IS THAT IT'S NOT JUST THE VIOLENT WORDS WE FEAR BUT THE VIOLENT ACTIONS THAT COULD (AND DO) FOLLOW THEM

@cutecatcalls



The first hit, the first being sort of yelled out of a car or something, might not seem so much. But it makes a fracture that later on someone, you know, can break you very easily. And they think, well, it wasn't that bad a crime. But the crimes have been building up, the assaults have been building up over the years. And it makes us weaker.

'Melanie'

Figure 37: Excerpt from interview with 'Melanie' (1)

Bystander Interventions



- A question to ask is “where else can we use bystander interventions ???”
- Professor Amos Guiora
- The Crimes of Complicity, the bystander in the holocaust.

“Bystander complicity, significantly enhances perpetrator conduct and dramatically enhances victim isolation”

“Non intervention is the essence of complicity”

- Armies of Enablers, survivors stories of complicity, betrayal and sexual assaults.
- *But in must be remembered that every day, everywhere, in all sorts of circumstances and conditions, people suffer because others turn away rather than offering them assistance*
- *Those who look the other way are guilty of a crime of omission, the failure to act.*

Bystander Interventions



Question...where has it all gone wrong

- Whyte review gymnastics
- Sheldon review Football
- Athletics, swimming, tennis (et al)
 - Winterbourne View
- Operation Baddeck Devon/Cornwall
 - Whorlton Hall
 - Eldertree Lodge
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-65103002>

Bystander Interventions



“ Its very tempting to take the side of the perpetrator. All the perpetrator asks is that the bystanders do nothing.

He appeals to the universal desire to see,hear, and speak no evil.

The victim, on the contrary, asks the bystander to share the burden of pain, the victim demands action, engagement and remembering

Judith Herman

What next ? #SaferCultureSaferSport

- Have open discussion in your work-place about the role of the bystander and bystander interventions and your bias
- Culture change starts at the top
- Training...training and training
- Are you a Bystander Organization
- Set that Goal and be that “active bystander”
- *The standard you walk past is the standard you set* Lt Gen David Morrison Chief of Australian Army 2021

And finally

Remember

“ do the small things well” The Lord Laming, Victoria Climbe Inquiry 2003

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