



Community Intervention with an Abuser

Adapted from Family Violence Prevention Fund

- The simple act of someone saying something and naming this behavior “abuse” is enough to get people thinking about how they treat the people around them.
- Trust your instincts. If you see or hear something that makes you feel uncomfortable or that you think crosses the line, chances are it is a warning sign and should not be ignored.
- Be involved but be respectful. Don’t get yourself in a dangerous situation and don’t try to “fix” other people’s relationships.
- When talking with an abuser, let him know that you think the use of any violence in a relationship, including threats, is unacceptable and that there’s never a reason for it. Nothing his partner does makes it okay for him to hurt her or him.
- Tell him that domestic violence, including stalking, is a crime and that his abuse can land him in jail.
- Let him know that there is help in the community to end his abusive behavior. Contact one of the local domestic violence programs to find a batterer’s treatment program in the area.
- Let him know that you are there to listen. When he gets frustrated and mad, tell him he can walk it out or talk it out.
- Discuss Stanford’s policies on abuse, physical and sexual violence and harassment.
- Display anti-violence posters and educational materials in your office and dorm.

*If you know the victim, please talk with her before taking any of the above actions with an abuser. Discuss your plans so she can maximize her safety.

Because the vast majority of domestic violence is committed by men against women, this page was written using the female gender when referring to the abused person. Domestic violence happens in same-sex relationships as well. All the information in this section is relevant for male victims and for individuals in same-sex relationships.