



Who, If Not You?

Bystander Intervention/De-escalation Workshop
The Reverend Cyndi Simpson, MDiv
February 16, 2017



WHY ARE WE HERE TONIGHT?

- To learn how to intervene effectively in public discrimination/harassment events
- To gain confidence in and commitment to intervening through practice

Chalice Lighting *The Reverend Rosemary Bray McNatt*

The truth is this: if there is no justice, there will be no peace. If we cannot bring justice into the small circles of our individual lives, we cannot bring justice to the world. And if we do not bring justice to the world, none of us is safe and none of us will survive. Nothing that we do is more important than making justice real – here, where we are.



Our UU Theological Grounding for this Work

The Covenant of our First Principle calls us to this work:

“In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, **we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.**”

~UUA/UUSC Declaration of Conscience, 2017



Our UU Theological Grounding for this Work

The Covenant of our Second Principle also calls us to this work;

our commitment to:

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations



RESULTS OF INTERVENTION?

- What is the aim of effective intervention?
- What should result from what we do?
- What do we hope will happen because we intervene?



GOAL = SAFETY FOR THE VICTIM



Why Don't Bystanders Intervene?



DOCUMENT THE INCIDENT

- Through video/audio recording
- In writing
- In person
- Online:

Southern Poverty Law Center:

<http://www.splcenter.org/repothate>

ProPublica:

<http://projects.propublica.org/graphics/hate-crimes-form>

PRACTICE

- Get in groups of 3 – Victim, Perpetrator, Helper
- Will do this 3 times, so each person can be the Helper
- Find space in the building
- Take your handout with you
- Set yourselves up in a situation – bus, sidewalk, other public place. Decide whether the Victim will be sitting, standing or whatever
- Perpetrator – get as close as you like. BUT only say: “blah, blah, blah” softly.
- **What will strengthen you is to keep a laser focus on the VICTIM!**

PRACTICE

- Helper – make your decision to help!
- Helper approach Victim and engage with them
- Ask for help from “others” who might be present
- Helper DO NOT engage with Perpetrator in any way
- Perpetrator – hang in there for a little bit and then leave, because you are being ignored!
- Helper – ask the victim what they need

RELIGIOUS & CIVIL COURAGE
REQUIRE YOU TO:

Be prepared

Ignore the perpetrator

Keep calm

Never use violence

Act immediately

Document the scene

Bring help/Attract attention

SUPPORT THE VICTIM

THE WHOLE TIME !!

CLOSING WORDS *Andrea Hawkins-Kamper*

May we see all as it is, and may it all be as we see it.

May we be the ones to make it as it should be,

For if not us, who? If not now, when?

This is answering the cry of justice with the work of peace,

This is redeeming the pain of history with the grace of wisdom,

This is the work we are called to do, and this is the call we

answer now:

To be the barrier and the bridge,
To be the living embodiment of our Principles,
To be about the work of building the Beloved Community,
To be a people of intention and a people of conscience.

So may it be. Blessed be. Let us go in peace.