

## **What Can We Christians Do to Stop Harassment of Asian-Americans?**

Recently the Asian Law Caucus and the Hollaback nonprofits conducted a webinar on “Bystander Intervention to Stop Anti-Asian/American and Xenophobic Harassment”. The reason people don’t do something when they see someone being harassed is called the Bystander Effect: Everyone waits for someone else to act.

How do we show up and support each other? We learn and use at least one of the 5 D’s: Distract, Delegate, Document, Delay, Direct.

When intervening, always prioritize and assess your own safety. Notice the scenario. Note your concerns. Decide if one of the five D’s which are designed to de-escalate the situation works for you. (47% of the attendees for this webinar responded their first choice would usually be to Distract.)

### Distract

Ask the harasser, “Can you tell me where the closest grocery store is?”

Drop something heavy. Spill a drink, and everyone will backup.

Talk to the person experiencing the harassment.

Pretend you know the person being harassed, “Here you are. I have been waiting for you.”

### Delegate

Get help from someone else. Ask the person next to you to find someone in authority. If on a bus, tell the bus driver.

Always check with the person being harassed before you call the police.

If harassment is online, report to the platform where it happened.

### Document

Delegate, then document.

Take photo or video. Try filming undercover. Be six feet away.

Hold phone horizontal; be steady for 10 seconds.

Give video to the person who was harassed.

Write down everything you can remember if you can't take a photo.

### Delay

Immediately after the event, check the person who was harassed to assess and ask what you can do.

It is so important to check-in with the person. Checking in is deeply validating to the person who was victimized.

Your knowing glance can reduce the trauma of the victim. Small gestures show we have the backs of those being harassed.

### Direct

(Don't intervene if the harassment is online.)

Name the behavior to the harasser. For example, "That's racist" said in a calm voice.

Name what you observe to the harasser. For example, "She looks uncomfortable." "Why don't you leave her alone?"

Ask a question of the harasser in hopes they will stop and self-correct. For example, "What are you doing?"

**These five D's apply not just to Asian Americans as victims, but to anyone who is targeted. Please use them help others and change you from a person of inaction to a Bystander in Action.**

For more information please go online to [standagainstatred.org](http://standagainstatred.org)

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