

# 10 Ways Young Men Can Prevent Sexual Violence

Most guys don't commit rape, but every guy can play a vital role in ending sexual and dating violence. Read the list below and learn what you and your friends can do every day. It can be something small or something large. Whatever you do, you're making a difference. Don't stand on the sidelines.

## Be Bold, Be Strong, Take Action!

### 1 Define Your Own Manhood

Consider whether messages about manhood like "don't take no for an answer" play a role in creating unhealthy and unsafe relationships. Choose what kind of man you want to be. Be a positive role model.

### 2 Talk It Over

Better communication in sexual situations — listening to the other person, stating desires clearly, and asking when a situation is unclear — will make relationships safer and healthier. Create a space to enthusiastically say yes.

### 3 Understand the Ability to Consent

Drugs and alcohol can affect people's ability to decide whether they want to be sexual with someone. If a person is "really out of it" and can't give consent, wait until you both are ready to enthusiastically say yes.

### 4 Get a Woman's Perspective

Ask women how the fear of rape affects their daily lives and whether they know someone who has been raped. Listen and learn from them about the impact of rape and how to stop it.

### 5 Ask Guys

Ask men how it would feel to be seen as a potential rapist and how they would feel if a woman or girl in their life was sexually assaulted. Learn about the ways sexual violence touches the lives of men.

### 6 Be Aware of Pop Culture's Messages

We are surrounded daily by TV shows, music, magazines, video games, and movies that communicate messages about masculinity and relationships. Don't let images in popular culture dictate your behavior.

### 7 Choose Words Carefully

When you use words to put women down, you support the belief that they are less than fully human. It is easier to ignore women's well-being when they are seen as inferior. Choose language that respects women.

### 8 Speak Out

You probably will never see a rape in progress, but you will hear attitudes and see behaviors that degrade women and promote a culture of violence. When your friend tells a joke about rape, say you don't find it funny. Use your voice.

### 9 Get Involved

Join a student group working to prevent violence against women. Or, if there isn't a student group, start your own. Men's anti-rape groups are becoming more and more common on college campuses. Make a difference.

### 10 Show Your Strength

Don't ever have sex with anyone against their will. Make a pledge to be a man whose strength is used for respect, not for hurting.