

**FROM
BYSTANDERS
TO ALLIES:**

**CHANGING
OUR
ATTITUDES
TO CHANGE
OUR
COMMUNITY**



**LGBT
LANARK COUNTY**

*"Bullying needs to stop
right here and right now.
It's just the right thing to do"*



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

SUPPORT LGBTQ Youth
SPEAK Against
OUT Homophobia & Transphobia

www.lgbtlanark.com



*John Fenik
Mayor of Perth*

LGBT PEOPLE ARE:



- 10% OF PEOPLE WORLDWIDE
- SEXUAL ORIENTATION
 - WHO WE LOVE
 - HETEROSEXUAL
 - LESBIAN
 - GAY
 - BISEXUAL

LGBT PEOPLE ARE:

Three handprints are visible in the background. One is purple at the top, one is green on the left, and one is pink on the right. They are semi-transparent and overlap each other.

- GENDER IDENTITY

- HOW WE FEEL IN OUR MIND AS COMPARED TO OUR OUTWARD APPEARANCE:

- MIND & BODY MATCHES

- TRANSGENDER

- GENDER QUEER

- TRANSEXUAL

WHY ARE LGBT STUDENTS BULLIED?

- WE ARE DIFFERENT
- WE CHALLENGE STRONGLY HELD BELIEFS ABOUT WHAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE NORMAL
 - It turns out that research has shown that “normal” includes a wide range of sexual orientations and gender identities

WHAT IS BULLYING?

The background of the slide features three handprints. One is purple at the top, one is green on the left, and one is pink on the right. They are semi-transparent and overlap each other.

- Bullying is any action or words designed to hurt someone
 - assault
 - physical pushing, shoving
 - defacing lockers, school supplies
 - destroying personal property
 - name-calling

WATCH YOUR WORDS!

- **THAT'S SO GAY** when used to mean that's stupid is insulting to gay people
- Calling someone a FAGGOT or QUEER or LESBIAN to **make fun of** them is offensive

THAT'S SO GAY

- Why do people use anti-gay slurs?
 - Sometimes they are uncomfortable with the person's orientation or gender
 - Most of the time it is to exclude them from the peer group

Impact of Bullying On LGBT Students

The ONE time you hear an LGBT student being bullied is probably not the only time that day he or she has been attacked.

The impact of bullying can be devastating:

- SELF-ESTEEM, EXPERIENCE INTERNALIZED OPPRESSION
- LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY
- DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE, SELF-HARM & DEPRESSION
- 2-3 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT SUICIDE

The background of the slide features several handprints in various colors, including purple, green, and pink, scattered across the white background. A central black-bordered box contains the main text.

**IN MOST CASES BULLYING STOPS IN
10 SECONDS
WHEN PEERS INTERVENE!**

What Makes An Ally?

AN ALLY IS SOMEONE WHO:

- Stands up for the rights of other students
- Speaks up when they hear homophobic or transphobic language
- Intervenes when someone is being bullied
 - Doesn't laugh along
 - Tells a teacher or parent
 - Talks about what happened with their friends
 - Stands up to the bully
 - Befriends the person being bullied

WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO STAND UP AGAINST BULLIES?

- We all want to be liked
- We've gotten used to laughing at someone else – at least they are not laughing at you
- We measure our success by someone else's failure
- These are habits which are hard to change

WHAT STOPS US FROM SPEAKING UP?

- **FEAR** that the bully will turn on us
- **FEAR** that our friends will side with the bully
- **FEAR** of being alone
- **FEAR** of looking like a fool
- **FEAR** of being called a snitch
- Sometimes we are afraid of **FEAR**

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?



**“BULLYING DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN TO GAY KIDS.
ANYONE CAN BE A TARGET.”**

- Changing the way we treat each other so there is room for everybody to be who they are
- Check your values & beliefs:
 - Stand up for what is right

LGBTQ Lanark County

Guiding Principles



- **SEE...** beyond the stereotypes
- **VALUE** ... our differences and acknowledge our similarities
- **UNDERSTAND** ... the importance of speaking out against discrimination
- **STAND UP ... SPEAK UP!**

Scenario No. 1

- **You are walking down the hall and you hear Doug say this to Harry:**

You are so gay. Why don't you go to another school and get out of my face. Nobody wants you here."

- **What do you say?**
 - That's not true, Doug. I think he's okay.
 - Hey, Doug, you don't speak for the rest of us.
 - Hey, Doug, that's bullying & its wrong.
 - What do you mean by that, Doug?

Scenario No. 2

- **You are sitting in the cafeteria and Emily says to you:**

“Did you see what Joe wore to school today? That’s so gay.”

- **What do you say?**
 - I thought he looked nice today.
 - What’s wrong with looking gay anyway?
 - I don’t care if he is gay or not.
 - What’s your problem?

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!



“COURAGE IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR, BUT RATHER THE JUDGEMENT THAT SOMETHING ELSE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FEAR.”

- Ambrose Redmoon
(1933-1996)

[NO MORE BULLIES](#)