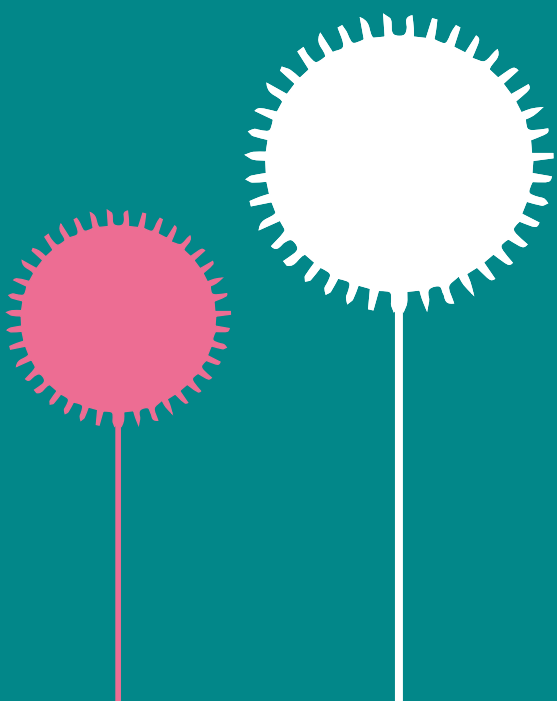


RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

Bystander effect:

What do you do when you witness a xenophobic attack, without putting yourself in danger?



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What is the bystander effect?

The term **bystander effect** refers to a situation where a person in distress is less likely to be helped when there is a large number of people present. For example, when someone attacks a foreign national in the street, observers are more likely to take action if there are few or no other witnesses. Being part of a large crowd has the effect of no single person taking responsibility to defend, protect or end a xenophobic attack, or any kind of attack for that matter, be it physical, mental or emotional.

Terms we need to understand:

- Bystander: a person who is present during an attack does not actively take part in it
- Perpetrator: a person who has committed a crime or a violent or harmful act. A perpetrator is often a suspect until it has been proven that he or she carried out the offense.
- Xenophobic attack: Dictionary definitions of *xenophobia* include: "deep-rooted fear towards foreigners" (Oxford English Dictionary; OED), and "fear of the unfamiliar" (Webster's). The word comes from the Greek words *xenos*, meaning "strange", "foreigner", and *phobos*, meaning "fear". Therefore a xenophobic attack is when you violently assault someone physically, mentally or emotionally because of your fear of their perceived difference to you.



"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody."

Lily Tomlin, American Actress

Why we don't act or help when we're in big groups:

- When we're in very busy areas, we may be less likely to notice someone in need.
- When we're unsure about events, we look to those around us. When no one else seems alarmed, we're more likely to keep to ourselves as well.
- Most commonly, having other people around lets us think that *someone else will take care of it*. This is the instance of us not wanting to respond and hoping someone else will take responsibility.

How to overcome being a bystander:

***NB:** If you feel unsafe intervening directly, you can still follow through by reporting the matter to officials, like police. Acting alone is also not a good idea and probably would not be very effective. Look around you for people who will support you if you choose to help someone in distress. It is never a good idea to approach a perpetrator in an act of violence. You could put yourself and others at great risk. Think about **WHEN** and **HOW** to act. Taking action doesn't mean putting your life in danger.

Scenario 1:

A friend is referring to immigrants as a *makwere kweres*. What do you do?

Bystander: Keep quiet.

Changemaker: Ask your friend why he or she uses that word. Start a conversation about the power of words, just like how *kaffir* has the effect of really hurting a black person.

Scenario 2:

An immigrant at school is being bullied, she has nowhere to turn to. Even certain teachers treat her badly. What do you do?

Bystander: Say and do nothing, you're only a pupil anyway, and you have no power over teachers.

Changemaker: Ask yourself, are you the only one who feels that the immigrant at school needs support? Who are your allies at school - friends and teachers - that you know would feel the same? Reach out to them and as a group try and support this person, even if it's a group of you inviting her to sit with you at break time.

Scenario 3:

On your way home from school you see someone being physically attacked in the street. What do you do?

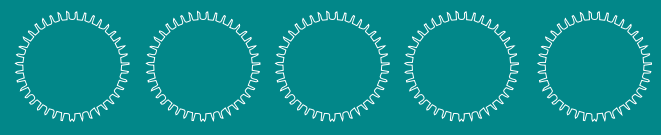
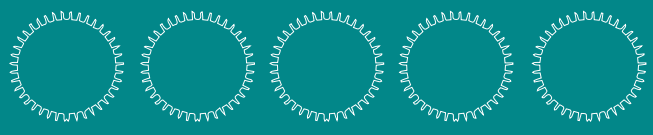
Bystander: Quickly walks away or stands and watches

Changemaker: It is very important not to put yourself in a dangerous situation, there are other ways of intervening that don't require you putting yourself in harm's way:

- Report the incident to police at your local station, or call the national emergency no 10111;
- Film the incident to be used as evidence
- See who around you will support you, and as a group see if you can intervene
- If the attack has happened and is over, comfort the victim by asking "What can I do to help you?"
- Help the victim get away from the area and calling an ambulance (10111).

"The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it."

Albert Einstein, Physicist



Preparing for the show



Choose an angle



Ways to talk about the bystander effect

- ★ What is the bystander effect in relation to xenophobic attacks?
- ★ What are the effects of being a bystander?
- ★ How to overcome being a bystander
- ★ How do we help someone being attacked in public (physically, emotionally, verbally)

Different ways to talk about the bystander effect in relation to xenophobic attacks:

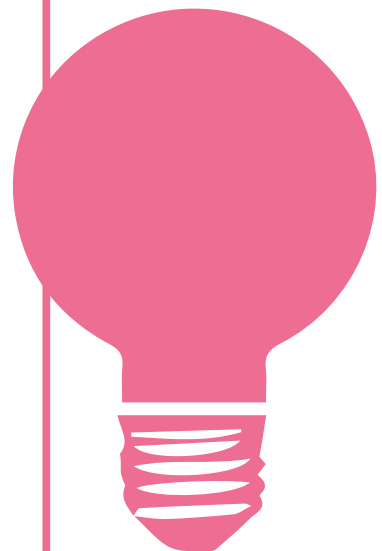
- ★ Defining what a xenophobic attack is - not only physical abuse, but mental, verbal and emotional
- ★ Understanding why people in emotional abuse crowds witnessing a xenophobic attack do not help
- ★ Sharing ways to overcome the bystander effect and help someone, without putting yourself in danger

Research different ways to think about the bystander effect:

- **Bystander**
- **Much Of What You Know About The "Bystander Effect" Is Wrong**
- **Bystanders and bullying**
- **The Bystander Effect**
- **How to Overcome the Bystander Effect**
- **Our Power as Active Bystanders**

"There are no bystanders in life [...] Our humanity makes us each a part of something greater than ourselves."

Sonia Sotomayor, First Hispanic and third female Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States



Radio formats

Vox Pop

Vox Pop aim: To get many opinions on one topic

Who do you talk to: Anyone in the community.

Question: What would you do if you were in a crowd and saw someone being attacked?

Audio commentary

Audio commentary aim: To get people's opinion about a topic that they care deeply about.

Who do you talk to: A young community member, a life science teacher or life counsellor on their opinion about why people sometimes just watch an attack on somebody and do not help. Ask if they think it is any different when it is a xenophobic attack.

Audio profile

Audio profile aim: To get a first person account of someone's experience and journey.

Who do you talk to: A young community member who has witnessed a xenophobic attack which was physical, emotional or mental and either stepped in or acted as a bystander and what this experience was like.

Questions to ask to get the person thinking before they record their profile:

- ★ What did it feel like to witness this event?
- ★ Why did you do something or why did you not do something?
- ★ How did you feel about your choice during the attack and after?
- ★ Looking back what would you do differently?
- ★ Do you have any advice for others about what to do in this situation?

PSA

The aim of a PSA: to create a public awareness message

Voice 1: Did you hear that?

Voice 2: What?

Voice 1: Sounds like the spaza shop owner shouting, let me go see

Voice 2: No don't go!

Voice 1: Why not? What if he needs help?

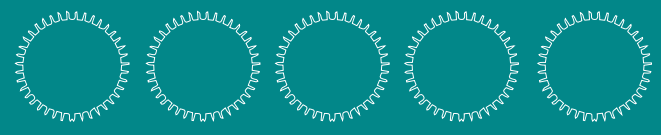
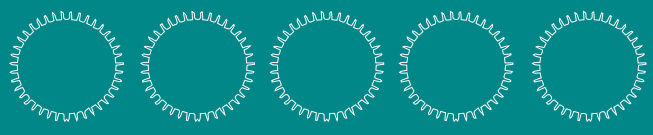
Voice 2: I'm sure someone else will go

Voice 3: I'm sure someone else will go

Voice 4: I'm sure someone else will go

Tagline: You are that someone. There is power in being responsive and supporting each other. Be that someone and together we can protect one another.

Avoid people whose
language sounds
judgemental or
shaming



How to present your show

Use your produced radio features, your research, the suggested script and questions to write your own script.

Suggested questions for your interview with an adult or young adult. You can interview someone who has experienced a xenophobic attack when no one helped or when someone did help. You could interview both the person who experienced the attack and the person who took action to help.

- ★ When did you experience this xenophobic attack? [Keep in mind that talking about the event again may affect the person, like re-experiencing the trauma]
- ★ How did you feel when you saw people around you but no one helped? OR How did it feel when someone stepped out of the crowd to help you?
- ★ What did you take from that experience?
- ★ How has it affected or changed you?
- ★ What advice do you have for someone who is emotionally, mentally or physically being attacked in public?

[INTRO:]
 Host 1: If you've just tuned in, you know what's good! Welcome to the [NAME OF SHOW] on [RADIO STATION] it's just gone [TIME] . And you'll be with me [NAME] and my partner [NAME] for the next [INSERT LENGTH OF SHOW].
 Host 2: On today's show we'll be talking about the bystander effect, what it means to just stand there and watch when someone is in distress. Like I'll never get that picture out of my mind of the Malawian man who was stabbed to death in Alex, there were so many people around!
 Host 1: Tjoe, I know I've done that before, and it's never left me with a very good feeling, I wonder how other people feel?
 Host 2: Well, let's hear what people have to say.
 [PLAY VOX POPS]
 [PRESENT WHO IS BEING INTERVIEWED]
 [PLAY THE INTERVIEW]

[Outro:]
 Host 1: This bystander effect is some serious stuff. If you just think of how many times you could have changed things for the better, if all of us just become more aware of the fact that we can help, that we can change the situation.
 Host 2: Ja, it's definitely made me rethink what I'd do if I witnessed something in public, I don't think I'd watch or just walk on ever again. But I also know that I have to take care and be aware of my own safety. Being a hero doesn't mean I have to step in harm's way.
 Host 1: Hopefully we've given you something to think about too, you can go to our Facebook page [NAME OF PAGE] and share what you think and feel about being a bystander or making the choice to be a changemaker.
 Host 2: And next week on [DAY] at [TIME] we'll be talking all about [NEXT WEEK'S SHOW TOPIC]. Until then, it's bye from us!



Prepare to present your show



Show outline

General intro
Intro vox pop
Vox pop
Outro vox pop
Music transition
Intro audio profile
Audio profile
Outro profile
Music transition
PSA
Jingle
Intro interview (and or Intro audio commentary)
Interview (and or Audio Commentary)
Outro interview (and or outro audio commentary)
Music transition & Jingle
Read a poem related to the topic (written by a youth reporter)
General outro
Music end

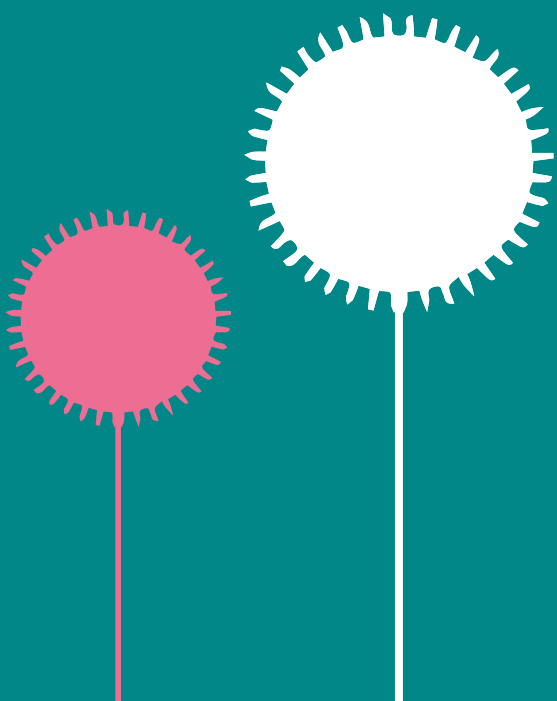


You must always introduce your show and radio features. Then once you've played your features, have a concluding statement for each one. Don't forget a final conclusion for the very end of the show.

Use links (facts, tips, did you know's, music) to glue it all together.



Now write your radio script



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