



# C is for community



## Sexual violence is 100% preventable—and everyone can play a role in that prevention.

Community connectedness is an important *protective factor* against sexual violence – that is, something that makes sexual violence less likely to happen. In a connected community, people feel like they matter and belong; are comfortable being themselves; and feel empowered to call out behavior that makes their community less safe or inclusive. As individuals, there are many ways we can help build connected communities – at home, in the office, at school, and anywhere in-between!



## what you can do...



### AT WORK

Have you ever heard a coworker make a joke that's harmful – sexist, racist, or homophobic—and not known how to respond? We can "call in" our colleagues rather than calling them out. Taking the time to talk with someone privately and explain why their joke wasn't funny gives them the opportunity to learn and helps create a sense of community support at work.



### AT SCHOOL

Take a look at your school's dress code policy – is it inclusive in terms of religion, culture, and gender? No one should be denied the opportunity to learn because of a strict or discriminatory dress code. Teachers and staff can encourage administrators to create policies that make everyone feel like a valued part of the school community, and students can step in if they hear their peers making fun of someone's clothing.



### AT HOME

*Lights, camera, action!* Movie nights are a great way to bring together friends, family, and/or neighbors. You can choose a movie that sparks a conversation about consent, gender norms, and other topics that increase community understanding of sexual violence.