



# BULLYING IN THE KNOW

## WHY ARE BYSTANDERS SO RELUCTANT TO COME FORWARD?

“The prevailing explanation why young people won’t come forward is because there’s a code of silence that forbids them. No one wants to be a snitch. While there’s some truth in that - I think just as powerful a reason for kids’ silence is because the adults haven’t created an environment where kids think reporting will make the problem better instead of worse. Yet, the most common advice we give to bystanders is to tell an adult. **Like it or not, the truth is it’s not good enough to tell kids to tell an adult.**”

Telling an adult won’t magically solve the problem. What far too many kids know and experience on a daily basis, but we deny, is that far too many adults are ill-equipped to respond effectively and often only cause the young person to give up on adults entirely. Furthermore, the very way a lot of adults treat young people - in a condescending or dominant (i.e. “bullying”) manner - makes it impossible for young people to have any confidence in our ability to be effective advocates.”

*From expert Rosalind Wiseman - Creating Cultures of Dignity*