Bystander Intervention Resources

ASOR'S Annual Meeting is a place for active scholarly exchange, including vigorous discussions. That exchange works best when participants can take part in a professional environment free from harassment, bullying, and intimidation. These expectations apply throughout the meeting, in sessions, online spaces, and meeting-related social activities, and are described in ASOR's Annual Meeting Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct affirms that robust debate and scholarly exchange should take place within an atmosphere of mutual respect and states plainly that **"ASOR will not tolerate harassment in any form."** Harassment, intimidation, and bullying have no place in the ASOR Annual Meeting. All attendees, including participants, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, and vendors, are expected to follow the Code of Conduct. Attendees are encouraged to review the full policy before the meeting.

Bystander intervention is one practical way attendees can help uphold these shared standards. It is not about policing ideas or requiring confrontation. Rather, it offers several possible responses when someone witnesses concerning conduct: addressing it directly, redirecting the situation, asking another person for help, documenting what occurred, or checking in afterward with the person affected. The goal is to recognize when support may be needed and choose a response that is appropriate and safe for everyone involved.

No one is expected to intervene in a way that could place themselves or someone else at risk. The appropriate response will depend on the circumstances, and these educational resources do not replace ASOR's reporting procedures or emergency assistance.

Reporting a Concern at the Annual Meeting

If you experience or witness harassment, bullying, or intimidation at the Annual Meeting, reach out to ASOR staff and leadership for assistance, hotel security at "55" from a house phone, or in an emergency dial "911." To report a concern, reach out to the first ASOR staff member you see or seek out the Help Desk, and ASOR leadership, such as Arlene Press (Director of Meetings and Events), Jane Evans (Board President), Kevin McGeough (Board Vice President), or Andy Vaughn (Executive Director)**.** Reports may be made in writing or electronically and should be made as soon as practicable.

For the 2026 Annual Meeting, designated reporting contacts and instructions will be listed on the **back of attendees'** name badges and available at the meeting venue.

ASOR is committed to a safe and respectful environment at our Annual Meetings. If you or someone you know are in danger or experience verbal or physical assault, there are people here to help:

For an emergency or imminent danger: Call 9-1-1
Hilton Chicago Director of Security: John Beers (number listed on attendee name badge) - reach hotel security by dialing "55" from any house phone.
Local Police Station: 1718 S. State St. (312-746-6000)
ASOR President: Jane DeRose Evans (president@asor.org)
ASOR Executive-Director: Andrew Vaughn (number listed on attendee name badge)
ASOR Director of Meetings and Events: Arlene Press (number listed on attendee name badge)
Nearest Urgent Care: 811 S. State St. (312-566-9510)

Bystander intervention is not a prerequisite for reporting an incident. If you witness concerning conduct, you may choose to report what occurred even if direct intervention was not appropriate or safe.

Learn the Basics of Bystander Intervention

If this idea is new to you, Call It Out! Be an Active Bystander offers a helpful starting point. You can also learn more about the "5 Ds" of bystander intervention: Direct, Distract, Delegate, Document, and Delay in the Right to Be's introductory guide.

For additional guidance and practice, Right to Be offers free live and online training.

If you work or study on an academic campus, you may also have access to workshops and ongoing support through your institution (often available through faculty development, graduate education, or campus safety offices). These might include Safe Zone or LGBTQ+ ally training, anti-harassment and discrimination training, sexual misconduct prevention programs, conflict de-escalation workshops, or resources offered by an ombuds office. External programs such as the Safe Zone Project and the Green Zone Ally Project may provide additional starting points.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR ACADEMIC AND FIELD SETTINGS:

- For those working in archaeological or other field research contexts, FieldFutures provides specialized, scenario-driven training designed to prevent and address harassment or assault during fieldwork. These sessions, which range from 90 minutes to four hours, can be conducted in person or virtually.
- **ADVANCEing FieldSafety,** developed through the University of Colorado Boulder and ADVANCEGeo, offers a self-paced Coursera course covering field-team expectations, leadership, codes of conduct, and safer field environments.
- **ADVANCEGeo** has bystander workshops using science and fieldwork scenarios, plus a particularly useful directory of related programs.

At the Annual Meeting

Want to learn more about these resources or about ASOR's work to support a welcoming professional community? **Stop by the GIV Committee table during the Annual Meeting** to meet committee members, ask questions, and explore additional resources.

The GIV Committee table is an educational and informational resource and does not replace ASOR's official reporting procedures. If you need to report an incident, please use the contacts provided on your name badge and in the meeting materials.

External links are provided as educational resources. ASOR does not control their content, and inclusion on this webpage does not constitute endorsement of every statement or program offered by an external organization.