

*Respect and Responsibility Educator Cohort Curriculum*



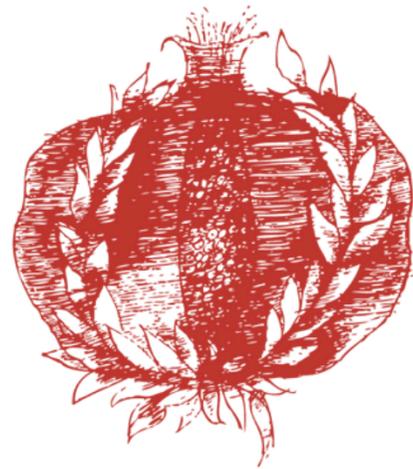
SACRED SPACES

## **Are Bystanders Innocent?**

— Ilana Gimpelevich, Kenneth Beth Israel

# About This Curriculum

- This curriculum was made possible, in part, by funds granted by The Covenant Foundation.
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The Covenant Foundation

# What is Bullying?

- Planned aggressive behavior
- Power differential
- Rigidity of roles
- Fear



# What is Sexual Assault?

- Any unwanted sexual contact of any kind
- 93% of victims under the age of 18 know the abuser



# What is Grooming?

- Manipulative behaviors to gain access
- Coercion
- Reduce risk of being caught



# Grooming Patterns

- Victim selection
- Gaining access and isolation
- Trust development
- Desensitization
- Attempt to make behavior seem natural



# Statistics

- 1 in 10 adults report having been emotionally abused as children
- 1 in 5 adults report having been sexually abused as children
- 1 in 4 adults report having been physically abused as children
- **Most children don't tell**
- **Frum community is not immune**



# As a Bystander, What Can You Do?

- If you see something, say something
- Jewish Values
  - Danger to life פיקח נפש
  - Mitzvah to rebuke תוכחה
  - Not to be a bystander לא תעמוד



# Rambam, Mishneh Torah, Rotzeach 11:4

(ד) אחד הגג ואחד כל דבר שיש בו סכנה וראוי שייכשל בו אדם וימות, כגון שהיתה לו באר או בור בחצירו, בין שיש בהן מים בין שאין בהן מים, חייב לעשות להן חוליה גבוהה עשרה טפחים, או לעשות להן כיסוי, כדי שלא יפול בה אדם וימות:

(4) This requirement applies to a roof, and similarly, to any place that might present a danger and cause a person to stumble and die. For example, if a person has a well or a cistern in his courtyard, he must erect a sand wall ten handbreadths high around them or make a cover for them, so that a person will not fall in and die.



# Rambam, Mishneh Torah, Rotzeach 11:4

וכן, כל מכשול שיש בו סכנת נפשות, מצות עשה להסירו ולהישמר ממנו ולהיזהר בדבר יפה יפה, שנאמר "השמר לך ושמור נפשך" (דברים ד:ט'). ואם לא הסיר, והניח המכשולות המביאין לידי סכנה, ביטל מצות עשה, ועבר ב"לא תשים דמים":

Similarly, it is a positive mitzvah to remove any obstacle that could pose a danger to life, and to be very careful regarding these matters, as Deuteronomy 4:9 states: "Beware for yourself; and guard your soul." If a person leaves a dangerous obstacle and does not remove it, he negates the observance of a positive commandment, and violates the negative commandment: "Do not cause blood to be spilled."



# Mitzvah of Rebuke: Vayikra 19

לֹא־תִשְׁנֵא אֶת־אֲחִיךָ בְּלִבְּךָ הוֹכֵחַ תּוֹכִיחַ אֶת־עַמִּיתְךָ וְלֹא־תִשָּׂא עָלָיו חֵטְא:

(17) You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.



# No Innocent Bystanders

כִּי תִפְגַּע שׂוֹר אִיבֶּה, אִו חֲמֹרוֹ תֵּעָה הַשֵּׁב תְּשִׁיבֵנּוּ לוֹ: (ד)  
כִּי־תִרְאֶה חֲמֹר שֵׁנְאָךְ רֹבֵץ תַּחַת מִשְׁאוֹ וְחִדַּלְתָּ מֵעֲזֹב לוֹ עֲזֹב תִּעֲזֹב עִמּוֹ: (ה)

(4) If you encounter your enemy's ox or donkey wandering, you shall surely return it to him. (5) If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under his load, refrain from leaving it to him; rather release it together with him. (*Exodus 23:4-5*)

וּיְקָרָא י"ט:ט"ז

לֹא־תֵלֵךְ רֹכִיל בְּעַמֶּיךָ לֹא תַעֲמֹד עַל־דַּם רֵעֶךָ אֲנִי יְהוָה: (טז)

You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people. You shall not stand idly by over the blood of your neighbor. I am Hashem. (*Leviticus 19:16*)



# Samuel II, Chap. 11

- The story of Dovid and Batsheva
- Notice the bystanders
  - Who are they?
  - What are they doing?
- Notice the intervention points



# Consequences

- The child dies
- Dovid gets rebuked
- Dovid cannot build *Beit HaMikdash*
- The harm to Batsheva



# Destruction of the Beit HaMikdash

אַקְמָצָא וּבַר קַמְצָא חָרוֹב יְרוּשָׁלַיִם...

Jerusalem was destroyed on account of Kamtza and bar Kamtza.

אָמַר הוֹאִיל וְהוּוּ יְתַבִּי רַבָּנִן וְלֹא מַחוּ בֵּיהּ שְׁמַע מִיַּנְיָהּ קָא נִיחָא לְהוּ.

After having been cast out from the feast, bar Kamtza said to himself: Since the Sages were sitting there and did not protest the actions of the host, although they saw how he humiliated me, learn from it that they were content with what he did. (*Gittin 55b:17-56a:1*)



# Preventing Bullying

12. Child Safety – Bullying – Dr. Rona Novick (1/5)

Copy link



# HOW TO HANDLE BULLYING

DR. RONA NOVICK

Watch on  YouTube

The image is a video player thumbnail for a YouTube video. It features a portrait of Dr. Rona Novick on the left side. The background is a dark purple color. The title 'HOW TO HANDLE BULLYING' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the title, 'DR. RONA NOVICK' is written in smaller, yellow, bold, sans-serif capital letters. In the top left corner, there is a small circular icon with a keyhole and the text '12. Child Safety – Bullying – Dr. Rona Novick (1/5)'. In the top right corner, there is a 'Copy link' button with a document icon. In the bottom left corner, there is a black button with the text 'Watch on YouTube' and the YouTube logo.



# Gemara Gittin 56a:5

אָמַר רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן עֲנֻוֹתָנוּתוֹ שֶׁל רַבִּי זְכַרְיָה בֶּן אֲבִקוּלָס הִחְרִיבָה אֶת בֵּיתֵנוּ וְשָׂרְפָה אֶת הַיְכָלֵנוּ וְהִגְלִיתָנוּ מֵאֶרְצֵנוּ.

Rabbi Yohanan says: The excessive humility of Rabbi Zekharya ben Avkolas destroyed our Temple, burned our Sanctuary, and exiled us from our land.



# In Conclusion

If you See Something,  
Say Something

