



Act Out!

LGBTQ+ Youth League

5 STEPS TO FAIL THE F-SLUR

1

Stop using it, yourself! Some people in the LGBTQ+ community find power in reclaiming and using this word themselves. That's understandable, but that becomes a problem when other people hear it and think it's okay to use. Do you really want to give others permission to use this harmful slur?

2

If you feel safe, question the F-slur user! Often bullies aren't used to being called out; so, if you have the courage to say something, you will probably catch them off guard. Try something like, "What did you mean by that?" Many people won't know how to answer or will try to laugh or shrug it off. If this is the case, be direct but straightforward. "I heard you use the f-slur. That word is extremely hurtful and shouldn't be said."

3

If you can, educate them! Some people know that this word once meant a bundle of sticks; however, many don't know that these bundles were used to burn and torture LGBTQ+ people. It's a horrible word with a really dark history and deserves to be failed! Therefore, having a conversation with the "user" may get them to stop or at least think about their use of the word.

4

If you can't intervene, help the victim! Sometimes directly engaging with a bully makes matters worse. If this is the case, focus your attention on the victim (whether you know them or not). Come up with a reason to remove them from the situation like an important call/text or asking them where the bathroom is. Once they're out of the situation, see if they are okay or need some help reporting it.

5

Get help! Bullying is a serious issue. Some teachers and adults don't think this word is harmful and choose to ignore it. This is not okay! If this happens, go to a school administrator, guidance counselor, or trusted adult ally. Sometimes adults need some educating and don't realize the impact of their actions or inaction. It is also important to know there are federal, state, and district-wide protections for LGBTQ+ students and their marginalized peers. Schools are required to act, but you have to let someone know there is a problem. You and your LGBTQ+ friends are worth speaking up for!

Know the Impact!

Many LGBTQ+ people (particularly gay men) have been tormented and abused by people calling them this name. Some individuals over time have learned to shrug it off or laugh at the insult; but for others, it triggers intense fear and bad, sometimes traumatic memories. Why would anyone want to cause such fear or terror? It's important to know the power this one word has - so much so that a person doesn't even have to identify as gay to feel deeply insulted when called it.

HELP US FAIL THE F-SLUR!

