

DEFINITIONS RELATED TO NAME-CALLING, BULLYING AND BIAS

Anti-bias: A term to describe the active commitment to challenging prejudice, stereotyping and all forms of discrimination.

Bias: An inclination or preference either for or against an individual or group that interferes with impartial judgment.

Bullying: Repeated actions or threats of action directed toward a person by one or more people who have (or are perceived to have) more power or status than their target in order to cause fear, distress or harm. Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological or any combination of these three. Bullying behaviors can include name-calling, obscene gesturing, malicious teasing, rumors, slander, social exclusion, damaging a person's belongings, threats and physical violence.

Cyberbullying: A type of bullying that uses the computer or other electronic media to send mean, hurtful or threatening messages or images about another person, to post sensitive, private information about another person for the purpose of hurting or embarrassing the person, to pretend to be someone else in order to make that person look bad and/or to intentionally exclude someone from an online group.

Name-calling: The use of language to defame, demean or degrade individuals or groups.

Roles in Bias Incidents

Ally: Someone who speaks out on behalf of someone else or takes actions that are supportive of someone else.

Bystander: Someone who sees something happening and does not say or do anything.

Confronter: Someone who speaks out when an incident of bias takes place. The role of confronter can be filled by other people (allies) or by targets themselves.

Perpetrator: Someone who says or does something harmful or malicious to another person intentionally and unprovoked.

Target: Someone against whom mistreatment is directed.

