

Unconscious on Sofa – scripted role play 1

Two people, each to read a part. A = abuser B = bystander. First, read the description of the situation.

A group of 8 male students have been out drinking. They return to their shared house with friends and continue drinking. One of the men passes out unconscious, lying face down on the sofa.

A: He's out, brilliant! Let's have some fun! We know the rule: the first one to fall asleep gets punished....

B: What did you have in mind?

A: Get his trousers off!

B: That's going a bit far, he's in a bad way. Let's just leave him there.

A: No let's get his trousers off. He'll find it funny in the morning when his arse is all over facebook.

B: No, you're crossing a line. We're his mates. I'd be really ****ed off if that was me. Let's dump him upstairs.

Discussion points:

When scripting this role-play our students were quite positive that somebody would definitely be determined to 'do something' to the unconscious man. They proposed a bystander could minimise the harm by suggesting a less intrusive 'punishment'. Is any kind of 'punishment' wrong? Would any kind of 'punishment' be an assault? Is this behaviour an example of 'lad culture'? Are the others in the group more likely to go along with the suggestion of 'dumping him upstairs' than 'helping him into bed and making sure he's ok'? If you want to, have a go at thinking about other ways of managing the situation or other things the bystander could say at this point.