WAYS TO BE AN ALLY

EDUCATE YOURSELF
- Learn to actively listen.
- Observe dynamics of power and privilege.
- Pay attention to who does and doesn’t get attention, space, and resources.
- Expand your knowledge and awareness of domestic and global social issues by taking courses or reading books and articles.
- Identify common microaggressions and eliminate them from your words & actions.
- Choose your words carefully and challenge oppressive language patterns.
- Learn about cultural appropriation and how to avoid doing it.
- Examine ways societal structures include and exclude groups of people.
- Question the perspective of stories.
- Ask about things you don’t understand, but do your own research first.

PRACTICE ACCOUNTABILITY
- Practice saying “I don’t know”.
- Focus on your impact, not your intent.
- Reflect on your social identity and social location and their associated histories.
- Ask for permission, not forgiveness.
- Develop authentic relationships.
- Lean into discomfort and consider new perspectives.
- Challenge assumptions, myths, and misperceptions.
- Recognize where you have privilege and how that shows up in everyday actions.

EDUCATE YOUR COMMUNITIES
- Model inclusive language.
- Call in others who may be using oppressive language or actions.
- Resist stereotypes and acknowledge oppressive histories within and outside of your communities.
- Raise awareness around different social issues that are left out of discussions.
- Talk about race and the ways race plays a role in current issues, decisions, and events.
- Question and critique media bias and representation in news and entertainment.
- Create diverse leadership structures and pay attention to social identities represented in structures of power, such as faculty and administration.

EMPOWER OTHER COMMUNITIES
- Affirm identities when you communicate, such as pronouncing names correctly and honoring pronouns.
- Give marginalized communities the space and platform to say how they would like to be supported.
- Listen first or ask how you can support and help, and then work in solidarity with that community.
- Talk about self-care and share resources.
- Support and amplify the communities’ work by leveraging your connections, resources, and access.
- Take up less space in conversations or events that are about issues you hold a privileged identity in.
- Promote and attend community events that are open to you.
- Respect space intended specifically for different group identities.
- Give your time, energy, and efforts.
- Cite your sources and pay attention to who you are and aren’t citing.
- Do not invalidate other experiences by centering yourself or your cause.

TAKE ACTION
- Make the pledge to practice accountable allyship during NYU Ally Week.
- Take a Safe Zone, Faith Zone, Diversity Zone, Action Zone, or DREAM Zone training.
- Attend NYU Ally Week events.
- Create collaborative events with other student organizations that are inclusive of different social identities.
- Vote in student, local, and federal government elections.
- Lobby policymakers.
- Volunteer with organizations led and supported by the community they’re serving.
- Donate time, talent, labor, and financial resources if you are able.
- Participate in protests, rallies, and marches and be aware of risks that you and others can and cannot take based on your social identities.
- Sign petitions that advocate for socially just policies, like fighting gentrification with fair housing policies.

nyu.edu/allyweek