



NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON THE HOLOCAUST

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust-council/



■ ROLES PEOPLE PLAY ■ in Human Rights

- **PERPETRATORS** — people who plan and carry out acts of violence along with an inner circle of forces they control, such as the military, police, and militias.
- **ENABLERS** — arms dealers, mafias, or other criminals who look to profit from mass killings.
- **UPSTANDERS** — people who help those targeted for violence or death, often at great peril and personal risk; they speak out, offer assistance, and intervene to prevent abuse.
- **BYSTANDER** — people who stand by and do nothing; by looking away, they can even appear to support the perpetrators.
- **VICTIMS** — people targeted for violence.

■ WHY PEOPLE STAND BY ■

- **FEAR** — Some people feel they have to go along with the perpetrators or they will suffer abuse themselves.
- **PERSONAL GAIN** — Some people see personal or economic gain in allowing others to be victimized.
- **BLIND OBEDIENCE** — Some individuals just do what they are told by authority figures.
- **PREJUDICE** — All too often, people are ready to believe propaganda because it reaffirms their own prejudices.
- **THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO** — Some people do nothing because they do not believe they can make a difference.
- **NO ONE ELSE IS HELPING** — If no one stands up, it's easier for others to justify doing nothing.

—Adapted from a display at the National Center for Civil & Human Rights, Atlanta, Georgia—