# Spectrum of Allies

Easy Read guide 2023

The Commons Social Change Library

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The Commons librarians wrote this guide.

We wrote this guide in an easy to read way.

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Contact details are at the end of this guide.

You can ask for help to read this guide.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

## Spectrum of Allies

### What is a Spectrum?

A spectrum is a range of opinions.

On one end of the spectrum is someone with a strong view.

On one end is someone with the opposite view.

For example:

Opinion A loves bananas

Opinion B hates bananas

The people in the middle do not have an opinion.

### What is a Spectrum of Allies?

An **ally** is a person who supports your cause.

For example a disability ally supports disability rights.

On one end of the spectrum are people who strongly support your cause.

On one end are people who strongly oppose your cause.

A spectrum-of-allies shows which **social groups** may help us.

### What are social groups?

A **social group** is a collection of people.

For example a **social group** may include:

1. Students or
2. Workers

A **social group** should be specific.

For example

1. Students from specialist schools or
2. Disability Support Workers.

### How to Make a Spectrum-of-Allies

1. Draw a “half-pie”
2. Divide the half-pie into 5 slices
3. Label each of the 5 slices

You can find the labels on the next page

### Spectrum-of-Allies Labels

**Active Allies** are people who agree with you and are fighting alongside you.

**Passive Allies** are people who agree with you but are not doing anything about it.

**Neutrals** are people who are not involved or do not know about the issue.

**Passive opposition** are people who disagree with you but are not actively trying to stop you.

**Active opposition** are people actively organising against you.

### How to Use a Spectrum-of-Allies

Write your social groups into the correct slice.

For example, disability support workers would be **active allies** of disability justice.

Disability support workers are **active allies** because they fight for the cause.

The goal is to move **passive allies** into **active allies**.

And to move **neutrals** into **passive allies**.

### How to Target Each Group

**Active allies**

Celebrate your active allies.

**Passive allies**

Encourage them to be active in their support.

**Neutrals**

Focus on teaching them about your cause.

**Passive Opponents**

Show how active opponents arguments are not true or weak.

**Active Opponents**

Prove their arguments are not true or weak.

## Contact us

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## More information

**Source**

This Easy Read guide is based on the article [Spectrum of Allies by Nadine Bloch](https://commonslibrary.org/spectrum-of-allies/) in the Commons Library.

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