**The Apathetic Bystanders**

Catherine “Kitty” Genovese was attacked and stabbed to death in 1964 in a highly populated area of Queens, New York. During the half-hour ordeal, 38 people heard Kitty’s screams for help and watched from their windows. Twice the killer was scared off by the sound of voices and the realization that he was being watched. However, both times, when it became obvious that nobody was going to call the police, the killer returned to finish off his victim. Rather than give any aid to Kitty, such as calling the police or an ambulance, all 38 bystanders chose to pull their shades, draw their blinds, and ignore Kitty’s urgent pleas for help as her life was taken by the deranged attacker.

**Questions:**

1. Why do you think the bystanders took no action?
2. Did the bystanders commit a crime by not acting? Give your reasons.
3. Did the bystanders do the right thing?
4. Should the law hold citizens responsible for not helping out in cases such as this one?

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