Interrupt: Speak up against every bigoted and prejudiced remark—every time, in the moment, without exception. Think about what you’ll say ahead of time so you’re prepared to act instantly. 

Try saying
“Don’t like words like that.” Or “that phrase is hurtful.”

Question: Ask simple questions in response to hateful remarks to find out why the speaker made the offensive comment and how you can best address the situation.

Try asking
“Why do you say that?” “What do you mean?” Or “tell me more.”

Educate: Explain why a term or phrase is offensive. Encourage the person to choose a different expression. Hate isn’t behind all hateful speech. Sometimes the offensive comment is ignorant or due to a lack of exposure to a diverse population.

Try saying
“Do you know the history of that word?”

Echo: If someone else speaks up against hate, thank them and reiterate their anti-bigotry message. One person’s voice is a powerful start. Many voices together create change.

Try saying
“Thanks for speaking up, Allison. I agree that word is offensive and we shouldn’t use it.”