



#EngagingMenAndBoys

Men won't sit back and be silent in the movement to end gender based violence, domestic violence and abuse. Maitri is engaging men and boys through this social media campaign so that together we can raise awareness and work toward prevention.

Thank you Jaspreet Singh for joining this Maitri Campaign.

Here is a message from Jaspreet Singh:

--- I believe that from a very young age, boys are given so much power over their fellow girls that it leads them to think that they are superior to their fellow women. From the day they are born, male children are treated differently with privilege. Not only that, their physical capabilities that tower over women's physical strength leads them to think they have the right to suppress women emotionally and / or physically. Another point that I would like to add which makes this world an even more unfair place for women, is the societal taboo against divorce for women that is more prevalent in South Asian culture. This makes it harder for victims of domestic abuse to leave their abusive relationship or seek help. As educated individuals it is our responsibility to change the perspective around divorce and revitalize it to be a symbol of empowerment for our women instead of that of shame and burden.

Looking back at our ancestors' generations, we have undoubtedly come very far away as a society in terms of women's status but we need to progress more in changing harmful cultural and social conditions for women. It's good that today's youth are dating and marrying into other cultures which exposes them to new cultures and norms that promote gender equality. This exposure helps them to identify the oppressive cultural conditions in their own culture that they grew up with. As our generation grows up and navigates their way through their lives, it becomes our responsibility to make sure that this cycle of unjust and vicious discrimination towards our precious women ends with us. This is our duty to make sure our next generations live in a just, healthy and safe environment for all genders.

About the participant: Jaspreet Singh is majoring in Finance. He has a very unique and empowering take on the connection between Gender Inequality and Domestic Violence.