



*Adithya Rajendran is a senior at Irvington High School. Before moving to the Bay Area, Adithya lived in India and then in the UAE.*

Domestic abuse, no matter how much we tend to ignore it, is a real problem. Having grown up in India, in a culture where women are expected to be servile, domestic violence or abuse, particularly amongst married women, is not very uncommon. I have seen firsthand the effects of domestic violence. However, domestic violence is not limited to one place or one culture. It is also prevalent in countries such as the U.S., where a significant portion of the population is estimated to have been affected by intimate partner violence or domestic violence at some time in their lives.

Domestic violence does not only affect women and children, men can be affected too, but statistically men perpetrates violence in partner relationship more than their female counterparts. Domestic violence also results in serious consequences. Victims are psychologically affected and can have long lasting trauma, even they can face serious health problems. Women are the backbone of our society, if they are abused then it is harmful for the entire society. It is all our responsibility, whether male or female, to stand up against domestic abuse and violence against women and ensure every victim is heard and supported. To have a healthy society, we must prevent gender abuse and violence. If all of us are aware about it and do something to prevent violence against women then one day, I'm sure we will see a difference. Let's think about this issue seriously and do something about it.