



#EngagingMenAndBoys

Men won't sit back and be silent in the movement to end gender violence and domestic violence. Men and Boys are raising awareness and working for prevention, and Akash is one of them. Here is a message Akash:

“At times, we internally feel separated from certain events of real time – we convey certitude to ourselves that those issues won't affect, or even can't affect us, and those around us.

To be honest, I never thought that South Asian women, especially those from my background, would ever be victims of domestic violence and relationship abuse – it simply did not cross my mind. What I had seen, heard, and even experienced did not contribute to my conceptualization of such an issue being existent.

However, upon waving goodbye to the world I had been wrapped in for so long, I tried to head towards a more candid reality. I learned of, read stories, saw the faces of those who had been made slaves in a situation that once demanded equality. I understood that an issue I had once thought was unrealistic and far-fetched, was actually embedded in a society I had thought to have been so aware of.

Domestic violence, especially amongst those from South Asia, has made itself clear as an issue deserving of attention. As God's children, as humanity's continuation, and as the world's citizens — it should be our life's ambition to seal everyone's safety. To help the helpless, to name the nameless, to represent those unrepresented.

Working to alleviate domestic violence and abuse is a firm commitment to the values ingrained in humanity's text, whose pages cannot be torn, and whose words cannot be erased.

I know, however, that individually working to alleviate these events won't be impactful; this is a team effort. It requires all of us to bring real progress – not just in the lives of victims, but in the ones of perpetrators, as well – for change in humanity requires universal realization.”

About the participant: Akash is a rising junior at Monte Vista High School, who, like a normal teenager in abnormal times, has not much of a clue as to what he would like to do in life. But, for one thing, he is hopeful about humanity, and the future it can bring.

#EndDV, #Maitri, #EngagingMenAndBoys