



*In November 2016, Ash Kalra was elected to represent the 27th Assembly District, which encompasses downtown San Jose, East San Jose, Evergreen and parts of South San Jose. He is the first Indian American elected to the State Legislature. Ash is a passionate advocate for environmental protection and has been recognized as a leader on issues surrounding sustainability and conservation. See more here: <https://a27.asmdc.org/about>*

“Over the years, we have seen awareness of domestic violence on the rise, and an increase in cases involving role models, celebrities, and people in our own communities. Domestic violence is a sensitive topic of conversation, but it is something that is pervasive in all communities, despite their education, age, economic status, sexual orientation, race, gender, religion, or nationality. Each day, women and men become victims of domestic violence, which includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and emotional violence. As a community, it is important to come together to bring awareness to reduce the number of victims that fall into abusive relationships, especially for those who lack the voice.

Domestic violence impacts all communities regardless of wealth or education, which threatens public safety and health. Many people don't know the signs of abuse, and in some cases, the abuse goes unheard until something life threatening occurs. This not only affects the individual but it also impacts their family, friends, and community.

However, men tend to be the aggressors and perpetrators in most domestic violence cases. Men have the opportunity to break the cycle, and the most effective way to is to take responsibility for our actions and recognize that many of our actions, including our silence, contribute to a culture of male aggression and abuse. As an elected official, I am asking men to start with addressing their own behaviors and attitudes to stop the violence in our communities. By recognizing our individual responsibility and accountability for our behaviors, we can begin to change the way men behave and interact with one another.”