



[#EngagingMenAndBoys](#)

Through this social media campaign Maitri is starting a dialogue with men in our community to identify and eliminate the root cause of gender based violence and partner violence. [#EngagingMenAndBoys](#)

Thank you **Dhaval Brahmhatt** for joining us in this meaningful discussion.

Q: What is your experience as a language interpreter in court for DV cases? How has domestic violence and abuse evolved over the years?

A: As a language interpreter in court, I have a unique vantage point and insight on how families are destroyed due to domestic violence, sometimes masquerading as emotional abuse. Admittedly, due to stringent laws in this country and police records, a domestic abuse situation manifests in the form of displaying aggression by throwing things, locking out of the house and other emotional tactics-unlike earlier times when domestic violence was more overt.

Q: How are children affected during custody battles and other negotiations?

A: Let's face it, the biggest sufferers in a violent situation between parents are the children. Witnessing violent situations early in life, takes their trust away from healthy relationships and forms a permanent dent in their psyche. As adults they are unable to form lasting relationships as their reference point is only their parents' incompatible relationship.

Q: What is your experience about how emotional abuse is treated when it comes to court hearings?

A: In recent times, a lot of awareness is being spread about mental harassment which needs to be sensitively examined by the courts. Oftentimes, courts look for extreme cases of violence and trivialize the possibility of emotional abuse like gas lighting, using distorted arguments in terms of gender roles etc. More programs that create awareness about debilitating effects of domestic abuse need to be created.

About the author:

Dhaval Brahmhatt is a California registered language interpreter in 6 languages and is a California Notary with loan signing experience.