



## #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 Hrishi for joining this Maitri campaign

Here is a message from Hrishi:

I believe that domestic abuse and violence do not depend upon gender but mostly to do with 'power dynamics' in the relationship. Only the partners can judge the reasons that bind them to the relationship. Having said that, not all relationships are bound by love and trust, some relationships can take shape due to one person's emotional and physical vulnerability. For instance, in the US it could be visa issues or being laid-off and not having any means to live in a sheltered place. For some, it could be abandonment from their own families and emotional vulnerabilities arising out of the same. People who are emotionally vulnerable, may wrongly perceive their abuser as their savior with no one else to turn to.

Whatever may be the reason, I believe that one can refrain from getting into an abusive situation by building their own capabilities. That is the reason why we started PrideX where we carry out the work of upskilling members of the LGBTQ+ community so that they do not go on the path of vulnerability. Education is a very big leveler and by proper education a person always has something to fall back on, where life throws tough and unfamiliar challenges.

About the author:

Hrishi Sathawane is an alumnus of IIT Bombay and presently the Director of Product Planning at Samsung Semiconductor. Hrishi is a person inclined towards social change and reformation of social attitudes. He is the founder of PrideX, an organization which works towards uplifting the members of the LGBTQ+ community through training and upskilling members by pooling together, wealth of experience seen in this community. Apart from that Hrishi serves on the board of IIT Bay Area Alumni as its Sponsorship Lead.