



*Hrithik Jariwala is a junior at Mission San Jose High School. Last year he participated in Next Generation Nations' Women's March about domestic violence and sexual abuse. He is passionate to end gender based abuse and violence.*

“It’s important to speak up against gender based violence and abuse. In many places around the world including India violence against women is normalized. I read many articles about how women are treated in India. I was appalled and disgusted reading those stories of Indian women who were mistreated and violated. I want to bring a change to stop violence against women. Men are expected to be dominant, strong and powerful and they are even allowed to hit their wives which is absolutely wrong. Studies show that many Indian men hit their wives and they think that it is their right. Surprisingly in some places in India women also believe that it is OK for men to hit their wives. We need to change this toxic culture where violence against women is normalized. It’s important that we talk about this issue and prevent gender abuse and violence. We should challenge those thoughts and actions that normalize gender based abuse. Violence against women is prevalent and growing all over the world but we need to speak up and stand firmly to eliminate this harmful attitude. I hope that one day women will not face any abuse and they will live happily in this world with dignity. “