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“Emma Watson once opined that it is impossible to “effect change in the world when only half of it is invited or feels welcome to participate in the conversation.” This reflects the reality that sexual harassment and domestic violence is not only an issue that affects a woman or a family. It is a cancer that affects an entire community. One must only look to the #MeToo movement that has swept across every sector and division of public life imaginable: politics, Hollywood, business, the tech industry, and

more.

The attitudes that drive harassment reduce women to mere objects that can be tossed around conveniently, and denying them the respect that is due. When we allow women to be oppressed, we deny them their humanity and their most fundamental rights as people. These attitudes and behavior patterns can be passed onto the next generation tragically, and can also prevent women from reaching their true potential in contributing ideas to our economy and public discourse, which leaves a compromised society that is falling short of true progress. The norms and attitudes that lead men to beat or harass women are not just “bad”, they are poisonous, despicable and cancerous to harmony in a civilization. Many thriving civilizations of the world were known to take great care and respect for the women of that era.

But even such a consequential issue can be combated and debated by individual men, finding enough excuses for justification for such violent behavior. Recognizing a problem is half way to finding a solution. We all have power and the ability to make change happen. We must together stop such conduct, in our neighborhood, our community and our workplace. Domestic violence is not something that we can condemn in the abstract while turning a blind eye to it when difficult to confront or act upon. Each of us has to recognize that it is our responsibility to condemn such happenings around us and seek to overturn such deplorable behavior.

But we cannot just stop there. We also must make sure that we do not find excuses to blame the victims of these horrific events for the reprehensible actions of their harasser. We must set an example for ourselves, our family, our friends, and the next generation: a powerful NO to the maleficent forces that lead someone to commit such a deplorable crime, domestic abuse. This is our responsibility as men and as human beings. A home, a community and society without domestic violence and such abuse becomes one that can only thrive and prosper.”