



#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 Srikar Bhuvan for joining this Maitri Campaign.

Here is a message from Srikar:

Teen dating violence has been and continues to be extremely prominent in our society. Most of the dating violence I have personally seen men perpetrating violence against women so that is what I am going to focus on, but this violence obviously exists in all types of relationships. One way that many men justify their abuse and controlling behavior is by stating that they do not trust their partner and their intentions. This in no way makes it right to do any of the weird things they do such as controlling who their partner can and cannot be friends with, constantly checking their partners personal belongings and mentally harassing their partner. I personally believe that if someone knows that they even have a small chance of being insecure and acting on their insecurities, they are not ready for a relationship and should not be in one.

For a relationship to work, both partners have to trust each other. Another thing that I have noticed is that boys/men who tend to be violent towards their partners are usually a part of similar friend groups. Many

of them know each other and often cover for each other when someone else does something to their partner that will be looked down upon. I would say that more than half the girls I know have experienced some sort of abuse in past relationships and it has affected their physical and mental wellbeing tremendously. Many of these girls suffer from eating disorders, depression and most of them have a lot less confidence than they used to have in themselves. Initially, I used to be shocked by how common these problems are but it makes a lot more sense now. When someone constantly endures physical and mental torture, these problems are almost bound to happen. Many people I know try to justify these abusers' actions by saying that these people are not aware about the consequences of their actions but I can assure you that 98% of them are completely aware. The only solution to these problems are speaking up against them and actually confronting these abusers.. They deserve every single consequence that comes at them so we shouldn't be scared to stand up against these abusers.