



#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 Rohan Shah for joining this Maitri campaign

Here is a message from Rohan:

I think it's partially up to the victim to know what to do when in situations concerning domestic and dating violence, which is unfair. It would probably be more impactful if other men stepped up to help in these situations and provide a support system so that the victim wouldn't be alone. Men and boys who need to learn when they are younger what to do in these situations, how to model healthy relationships, and how to treat women respectfully. That way they can raise awareness on how to break the cycle of violence; not just the physical side of abuse, but all forms of violence against women. It should be up to men to educate themselves and for schools to also be involved. I think it should start earlier than high school so that men and boys are learning about these issues at a young age and that way, they will be more prepared to break

cycles of violence. Realizing how different forms of violence impact people is important as well in order to prevent abuse from happening.

I think I would probably say it boils down to men learning how to act in schools, like what is unacceptable in a relationship. I think home life definitely plays a role too. Parents' relationships impact how they see a relationship and what is healthy, so it's up to the parents to teach children how to be in a relationship and be a good role model. I don't really have an example of this having been raised by a single mom but I think in other homes it's important to model healthy relationships. That way, kids know what a healthy relationship looks like and can model that in their own relationships. I think learning on your own through personal research and experiences, schools, and parents are most important for learning what it means to be in a healthy relationship.

About the author: Rohan Shah is a senior in high school and enjoys backpacking and the outdoors.