

One million men. One million promises.

On December 16, 2012, six men gang-raped and murdered Jyoti Singh Pandey, a medical student in Delhi, India. Protests erupted in India and around the world, with men and women standing together.

Breakthrough asked young men protesting in Delhi what *they* plan to do to help stop the violence. Here is what they said.

“For everything happening in our society today, we often blame outside cultures and people. **But the root of this mentality is in our homes.** First we have to change the treatment of girls as second-class citizens. We have to end that behavior and understand that women and men are equal. **I spoke to my father about this, and he said, ‘Yes, I was wrong. My thinking was like that because of tradition.** What you are saying makes sense.” — Shubham

“Our politicians say that if women dress decently then they won’t get raped. A girl of three years: what’s she wearing that she’s being raped? **This problem has nothing to do with clothes. It is about our way of thinking.** For this, the biggest change must be about the guys we hang out with. Most men would treat their own sister with respect, but if they see a different girl, they start making comments. It starts with this kind of harassment, and can escalate into dangerous acts like rape.” — Shovit

“From when they are young, women are taught what to wear, what to eat, what to drink, don’t climb the tree, don’t go there, be home by six. But this never applies to men. We always see this at home, whether it’s mom or dad, that’s what they’ve learned, and that’s what they teach their kids. **Change has to start at home.**” — Anuj

“**We should not be a mute spectator.** When you see an incident taking place, on a bus, or in a public place, don’t ignore it and leave, thinking, ‘Who’s going to get into such a complex situation?’ This is my commitment to myself.” — Bharat

“Someone might ask why am I here, as a man. But this unequal society is as dangerous for a man. It creates as punishing a situation for men as for women. **Men can’t be happy in a society in which women are treated unequally.**” — Pranshu