

G.B.S.H.

Not normal, not okay

by Francisco Egway, Jr.



“It’s just a joke, don’t take it too personally.”

“You’re just being sensitive.”

These are the words that we typically hear when someone makes unnecessary actions and comments towards another person that some may perceive as usual, but it is definitely not normal and, most importantly, not okay.

Living in a society where masculinity symbolizes being dominant, it is a hard and long-time struggle that sufferers of Gender-Based Sexual Harassment (GBSH) put up. The authority they exercise towards other people, or should we say, a person that tends to be weaker silences the victim. It has to stop. And it will have to start with you.

Safe Sp(ACE)s

Long-term plan should be implemented to have a community that is free from GBSH. But it should start with you. Be the “ACE” in ‘spaces’. Influence your colleague and lead by example towards achieving community without GBSH.

Acknowledge

Most of us have a habit of neglecting issues like GBSH since some may think it is grounded on sexual context. But it doesn’t work that way.

GBSH is actually a type of harassment that repeatedly troubles individuals because of their gender whatever is the identify. Offensive remarks, catcalling, misogynistic comments, homophobic and sexist smear, and

unsolicited remarks on individual and sexual jokes, regardless of the motives, are not okay. This behavior should not be exhibited, especially if we really want to have a safe space for everyone.

Correct

Now that we are more informed about the real issue, we must change the pattern, the flow and the culture of stopping GBSH in our community. Providing safe spaces for everyone is beneficial not just for today’s generation but to influence everyone to build a generation that is aware, informed, and has the ability address the problem.

Educate

It is one thing that we acknowledge and correct wrong mindset towards GBSH, but it’s another thing to speak up on this matter. We can lead by example, in our home, in our office, and in our community. In a broader platform, we can use social media by sharing and expressing our thoughts and actions to have a society without GBSH.

GBSH is not normal and not okay. What should be normal is a conscious effort to speak up and stand up to have a GBSH-free community.

“GBSH: Not Normal, Not Okay” by Francisco Egway, Jr., is one of the winning entries during NFRDI’s Essay Writing Contest to promote the 18-day campaign to end Violence Against Women for 2021. “Franz,” as he is known to friends, is an administrative officer at the Finance and Administrative Division of NFRDI.