

# Harmony

by Clarisse Carlos



A song is not considered music without the right tone and lyrics. If it is chaotic and leads to nowhere, maybe a song is just a poem or an allegory. And just like a song, an environment will be alluring if we have equality, in particular, gender equality.

Nowadays, I find myself watching stories from different experiences of different people from different races. All I think about is that, only women are harassed, and men are the harassers.

But as I go through these stories, a book in my life suddenly opened: a realization that everyone can be a victim, regardless of gender. It is just too disgusting to think.

Men, women, gays, and lesbians, name them all, even the children are part of this sickening situation. There's no place that we can consider as our "safe space". Even in places where we think we are being cared for, can change as time goes by. And it really makes me sad.

But come to think of this idea: a place where no one is harassed, no one is taken advantage of, isn't that charming, right?

An environment, just like in any classical music, pleasing to the ears, feeding the soul: harmony. Everyone can do whatever they like, without being assaulted, can dress in clothes that they find beautiful, and can work without being afraid.

The alarming thing is, the society we live in, also dictates our lives because of our gender. But the

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society that we always dreamed of, is a society where no one will look at us because of it; a woman being naturally fragile and a man being as hard as a stone. We all have feelings. But we must learn to accept that we must also adapt and change for the betterment of society.

I envision a society wherein everyone can control themselves and not be controlled by society. To control the thirst of lust, control our urges to touch anybody rather than ourselves, have a conscience, have second-thoughts in our actions. Or just a society where none of these exist at all. Then we are assured that we will not walk on the streets at night alone, feeling terrified.

Maybe the music produced from this vision somehow sounds like the ones where birds are chirping, a harp is playing, maybe without lyrics, maybe it has. But for sure, is harmonious.

*"Harmony" is one of the winning entries during the NFRDI's Essay Writing Contest to promote the 18-day campaign to end Violence Against Women for 2021. Clarisse is a science research assistant at the Integrated Research Laboratory of NFRDI.*