## Horrific crime in India should not be taken lightly by anyone

By Shailee Koranne Grade 11, White Oaks S.S.

horrifying crime occurred in India just days before Christmas. A 23-year-old student, a few months away from her marriage, was gang raped by six men, brutally beaten and then thrown out of the bus she and her male friend were riding in. She, and the friend who was beaten while trying to protect her, lay naked and bleeding for hours on the road before someone stopped to help them.

I arrived in India for a family vacation a few days after the crime occurred. By then, the victim's story had become national news. I am very sure if the case had not received so much attention, proper justice would not have been served.

The incident caused uproar in India. The girl has become a figurehead for feminism in the country and around the world. Many protests were sparked around India. People everywhere prayed for the well-being of the victim, but she died from her severe internal injuries.

Rape has become an ignored criminal offence in India. Victims are often themselves blamed for the things that happen to them, igniting debates over whether it is a woman's fault if she is mistreated. The societal response to sexual harassment has led many victims to never even report what happens to them. In fact, there have been many reports about being harassed by the very authorities that are supposed to protect people.

Sexual harassment and rape are not "becoming" big problems in India, they already are big problems. When I was there four years ago, just 12 years old, I was teased by a group of males about 12-18 years old. Eight months ago, I read a post

online written by a young Caucasian girl who was going to vacation in India. She wrote about how she was terrified by the stories she had read about foreigners and local girls alike being mistreated by males in India. I was immediately offended because it was my home country she was talking about.

Now, having seen how lightly sexual harassment and rape are handled by the Indian govern-

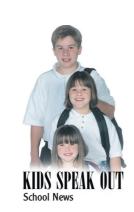
ment, I feel no pity towards the country or its reputation.

to stay indoors during all hours. This is the 21st century. Women are advancing, and people like that politician are the ones slowing it down.

Are we really going to revert back thousands of years into history and slow down the incredible progress of women to date? If India wants to uphold a good reputation internationally, things need to change as soon as they possibly can.

I am an Indian, but I am also a woman. Although what happened to this innocent girl happened in a country miles away from where I was born, I am still frightened for women everywhere and embarrassed for humanity.

If you are a teacher/student interested in sending a Kids Speak Out-School News column, please e-mail Tom Dykes at ellergreen58@gmail.com.



The sad truth is, it will be near impossible to convince some males in India and other places around the world to treat women as their equals, as evident by a male Indian politician, who while speaking on the safety of women, said they should "just stay indoors."

You cannot be serious. In Ancient Greece, Athenian women were forced



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