

Silent Protest Organized by the Staff and Students of SJU, Shift III

On the evening of August 27th, 2024, at 6:30 PM, the staff and students of St. Joseph's University, Shift III, organized a solemn silent protest and candlelight vigil at the university campus to honor victims of gender-based sexual violence. This gathering was a direct response to the recent tragic incident in Kolkata, where a young doctor was sexually assaulted and brutally murdered, adding yet another case to the rising tide of gender-based violence in the country. The protest sought to commemorate her and countless others who have faced similar atrocities.

The event drew an overwhelming response, with more than 1,500 students participating to express their solidarity with the victims and their grieving families. The atmosphere on campus was poignant and charged with emotion, as students stood united against the pervasive issue of sexual violence in society. Carrying placards with messages advocating for women's safety and gender equality, participants also conveyed their emotions through songs and thematic skits. These artistic expressions not only raised awareness about the serious issue of gender-based violence but also emphasized the urgent need for change.

The management of the university joined the protest, demonstrating their full support for the cause. Among the prominent figures present were the Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Victor Lobo SJ, and the Director of Shift III, Rev. Fr. Francis Pinto SJ, both of whom addressed the gathering briefly and underscored the university's commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all. Their presence and words further reinforced the significance of the event, creating a sense of unity between the students, staff, and the leadership of the institution.

The silent protest and candlelight vigil not only served as a platform for expressing grief and frustration but also aimed to shed light on the broader issue of women's safety in India. In a country where such incidents are all too frequent, the event reflected the collective determination of the youth to bring about change. It also marked an important step in encouraging open conversations about the importance of gender equality and justice.

In conclusion, the silent protest organized by the staff and students of St. Joseph's University, Shift III, was more than just a symbolic gesture. It was a powerful expression of solidarity, empathy, and a call to action against the alarming rise of sexual violence in India. The university community came together not only to honor the victims but also to raise awareness and demand an end to such heinous crimes. The event left an indelible mark on everyone present, reinforcing the belief that together, we can work towards a safer and more equitable society.

For the Images of the Silent Protest Organized by the Staff and Students of SJU, Shift III, kindly refer to the Photo Gallery: <https://sju.edu.in/gallery/102>