# Student Calls Out Pope On Offensive Language Against LGBTQ Community



Pope Francis was urged to "stop using offensive language" against LGBTQ people by Jack Lorenz Acebedo Rivera, a Filipino student at Ateneo de Manila University, during an online video panel themed "Building Bridges." This was after reports that the pope used a highly offensive slur regarding gay men in a private meeting with bishops. The Vatican apologized, stating there was no intention to offend.

The student, who wore a rainbow-colored sash and shared his experiences of being bullied due to his bisexuality, requested the pope to refrain from using hurtful language. Rivera also advocated for allowing divorce in the Philippines, emphasizing the nation's unique position alongside Vatican City in banning divorce.

The pope, responding through a translator, focused on broader themes, advising Rivera to "always pick true love" and highlighting the strengths of women, whom he called "the best people." He recounted a conversation with a female European leader who spoke of the "maternal ability" providing an edge over men.