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**Group: No more 'girly' insults**

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With Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger back on the campaign trail, a group of Bay Area girls hopes he will refrain from repeating his infamous "girly-men" line.

The girls, part of the San Jose-based Girls for a Change, say the term is demeaning -- even if said in jest -- and have started an online petition asking the governor and others to stop saying it.

"It's still saying we're weak, and that's not true," said Dulce Valencia, 18, of San Jose, who just graduated from Independence High School. "We want to redefine the term to mean powerful, strong and brilliant."

Valencia and other members of the group's steering committee recently decided to tackle the issue and researched use of the term before writing public officials, asking them to keep their girly issues to themselves.

They also tried to reach Schwarzenegger by phone but never got through.

A governor's office representative said Friday that Schwarzenegger uses the term now only if he's telling a story "about breaking out of bodybuilding" or if asked about the tempest he ignited at the Republican National Convention in 2004. That's when he called some Democratic legislators girly-men.

The representative said the phrase is a reference to a "Saturday Night Live" skit and is not meant to be demeaning to girls or women.

Girls for a Change was founded to help girls become community activists and leaders.

To see their petition, view [www.petitiononline.com/girlyman/petition.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/girlyman/petition.html).

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