



## CONFERENCE DECLARATION

### The Power of Partnership

*Celebrating 10 years of movement building for Safe Abortion Advocacy*

Bangkok, Thailand || February 24th—25th, 2018



We have gathered here at the *"The Power of Partnership: Celebrating 10 years of movement building for Safe Abortion Advocacy"* event in Bangkok on the 24th and 25th of February 2018. Although a diverse group of activists, advocates, and sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) professionals, we are united by our understanding that safe abortion is a fundamental human right of women and is unavoidable, essential, and is key to advancing gender equality and in recognizing sexual and reproductive health and rights. We are committed to

- forging partnerships to work together for gender, sexual and reproductive, economic, and social justice and political transformation,
- achieving the goal of ensuring safe, legal abortion access as part of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services
- ensuring that all women regardless of age, ethnicity, gender identity, geographic location, marital status, race, religion, socio-economic status or migration status have access to their sexual and reproductive health and rights to make further progress toward gender equality.

Recognising that change in national policy can be supported through consistent, international, feminist activism, over the past ten years the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership has taken progressive steps to strengthen youth-led country networks, ensure that the discourse of gender equality includes and addresses women's right to safe abortion, and provide intergenerational mentorship. This has helped deliver effective local and national advocacy campaigns that challenge gender discrimination and discriminatory laws against women in Asia, and seek to hold governments and communities accountable. Youth activism has played a critical role in the rise of movements working for gender justice throughout the years. It is vital that we support and empower young feminist leaders, especially women, and enable them to claim their rights, make their own choices, and access the services that they need.

#### **We reaffirm**

- That access to safe and legal abortion is an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of human rights of women.
- The need to ensure comprehensive access to safe abortion and defend women's bodily autonomy — in policy, practice, and funding.
- Our recognition of the central role that SRHR plays in health equity, human rights, and development, while ensuring the inclusion of these rights in all national policies and emergency response strategies.
- That the participation and contribution of all stakeholders, including both civil society and government, are important for the effective implementation and advancing safe and legal abortion.

#### **We call on**

- Legislators to push for rights and evidence based legislations; and repeal discriminatory laws and policies, such as those that criminalize safe abortion, including spousal and parental consent for accessing abortion services, and laws that criminalize individuals on the basis of age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sexual practices, HIV status and transmission, and labor choices, including sex work.
- Healthcare providers to ensure that all SRHR-related service provision is youth, adolescent and women friendly, and to provide accessible spaces which deliver needs based services in a sensitive, holistic, non-stigmatizing and non-discriminatory manner.
- Advocates and activists to encourage South-South capacity building and cooperation towards ensuring meaningful participation of civil societies and individuals especially young women in all actions advancing safe and legal abortion.
- Governments and donors to recognise and ensure that priorities for the post-2015 global development framework incorporate safe, legal and accessible abortion as an integral component of gender equality and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Educators to implement Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) as a cross-cutting component, to respect and guarantee the rights of all young people and to push for programmes that are receptive to youth needs and efforts intensifying supportive policies and financial commitments.
- States to ensure the provision of youth friendly, accessible, affordable and comprehensive SRHR services to all young people; including youth living in or fleeing from fragile and humanitarian/emergency settings.

We, as members of the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership network - as Youth Champions, mentors, partners and peers - pledge, individually and collectively to mobilize our knowledge, resources and networks toward achieving these goals. We call on the global, regional and sub-regional community to join us in holding governments, institutions and donors accountable for respecting women's rights to make choices when faced with unwanted and unplanned pregnancies, and to fulfill their obligations to women.