



ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP

JULY- SEPTEMBER 2019

# QUARTERLY REPORT



Greetings from Asia Safe Abortion Partnership! It's the second last quarter and so much has happened in the short year that 2019 has been. Join us as we recall some big moments for ASAP from the past quarter!

---

---

## PACKARD FOUNDATION YOUTH CHAMPIONS INITIATIVE | 8TH-15TH JULY 2019 ORGANISED BY DAVID LUCILE & PACKARD FOUNDATION



Our Youth Champion from India, Suyash Khubchandani and from Pakistan, Naureen Farhan and Sarmad Soomar participated in the Rise Up's Youth Champions Initiative which invests in powerful young leaders ages 18-29 who are leading the sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice movement in Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, Rwanda, and the United States.

## NATIONAL CONSULTATION | 29TH JULY ORGANISED BY THE YP FOUNDATION

ASAP was invited for recommendations by PFI and TYPF are organizing a National Consultation to accelerate adolescent & youth health with participation from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India.

## SEX SELECTION, MEDICAL ETHICS AND POLITICS | 29TH JULY ORGANISED BY CREHPA



The meeting was organized by ASAP SC member Anand Tamang and attended by UNFPA Nepal and Ministry of Health Nepal, as well as YCs from YoSHAN--Pushpa Joshi, Durga Sapkota, Anjilla and Elisha Joshi. Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie spoke about the lessons we have learnt from our struggle with the issue in India. And how important it is to separate the issue of sex determination as a gender discrimination issue while continuing to ensure safe abortion rights as a women's rights issue

---

---

## SHEDECIDES PARTNERS MEETING | 29TH JULY ORGANISED BY SHEDECIDES

Assistant coordinator Garima Srivastava represented ASAP at SheDecides at their partners meeting. The goal was to strategise how Shededices can build movement in India and partner with the ongoing work organisations are doing around SRHR. She suggested that a forum like Shededices can create space for more youth representation on global platforms and key policy making spaces.

## UNPLANNED PREGNANCY AND ABORTION CONFERENCE | 1ST- 2ND AUGUST ORGANISED BY CHILDREN BY CHOICE

The conference comprised of plenary sessions with experts and concurrent sessions, including a clinical stream for health practitioners providing or assisting in abortion care. Dr Phan Bich Thuy (Chair, ASAP), presented in 2 sessions. One on "Asia Safe Abortion Partnership" and another on "The conflict in young people's sexual life in Viet Nam".



## SOCIAL MEDIA FOR EMPOWERMENT AWARD | 2ND AUGUST ORGANISED BY DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION



ISAY, The India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates's campaign That's What She Said was one of the finalists for the Social Media for Empowerment Award. Though Feminism in India won the award for their brilliant campaign, it was an honor to be sharing the stage with some great change makers of the country..



---

## YOUTH ADVOCACY INSTITUTE | 2ND- 4TH AUGUST ORGANISED BY ASAP & RRAAM

ASAP organized a YAI in collaboration with RRAAM in Malaysia where several artists and abortion rights advocates came together to discuss the path to safe abortion rights in Malaysia and in the world



## YOUTH ADVOCACY INSTITUTE | 19TH AUGUST ORGANISED BY ASAP, MSAI & ISAY



ASAP, ISAY and MSAI collaborate to conduct a YAI with medical students from across the globe. Germany, India, Italy, Portugal, Romania, UK. Manisha Gupte talks to them about the social construct of gender and the way these expectations shape our entire lives!



---

## MASSIVE VICTORY FOR UNMARRIED WOMEN | 19TH AUGUST ORGANISED BY HAIYYA FOUNDATION

The event was attended by Ayesha Bashir as a member of the core team for Health Over Stigma Campaign. The event was organized as a celebration of Delhi Medical Council and Delhi Medical Association coming on board with HOS and extending support in ensuring that the campaign's 10 commandments for Gynaecologists in Delhi to provide stigma free services, are implemented. It was also an opportunity for dialogue between srhr advocates and doctors.



## MATERNAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN ICPD | 26TH AUGUST ORGANISED BY SAHYOG & NAMHHR

The event was attended by Assistant Coordinator Garima and it intended to review implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action by the government of India, in relation to Maternal Health and Reproductive Rights and also to examine equity issues including budget allocations and the role of the private. The Convention culminated with the developing of a Call to Action, to urge the Government to take appropriate action to ensure that human rights principles enshrined in the ICPD POA are upheld towards achieving the highest quality of maternal and reproductive health for the marginalized in India.

## SHEDECIDES CORE GROUP AND PLANNING MEETING | 27TH AUGUST ORGANIZED BY SHEDECIDES

The meeting was organized by SheDecides at Population Foundation for India to discuss issues like implementing SDG goals at national level, explore networking opportunities and future plans. Meeting was attended by Assistant Coordinator Garima Srivastava.

---



---

## WHO TECHNICAL CONSULTATION | 2ND - 3RD SEPTEMBER ORGANISED BY WHO

ASAP was invited and represented by Dr Suchitra Dalvie. The event was about group work and discussions and also to create a plan for being able to identify the values and preferences of different categories of stakeholders and constituencies. The groups proposed creating a task force or working group that could work on checklists for the same. These checklists could be applied to systems in order to ensure inclusion. Some checklists could also be used at services to ensure that all possible vulnerabilities are looked out for when assessing persons who seek safe abortions.



## YOUTH ADVOCACY INSTITUTE | 16TH - 18TH SEPTEMBER ORGANIZED BY YOSHAN & ASAP

YoSHAN organized its first National Youth Advocacy Institute (YAI) on safe abortion rights. Twenty one participants from medical and paramedical background from diverse geography were selected after the rigorous process. Within these three days they talked about safe abortion rights from various perspectives including sexuality, patriarchy, economy, politics and so on. We look forward to the new youth champions contributing to the movement. As youth champions, they will be engaging with YoSHAN in various local level activities.



---

## JASHN E REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS | 28TH SEPTEMBER ORGANISED BY HAIYYA & LOVE MATTERS

The event was attended by Communications Officer Ayesha Bashir and it was a day long fest to increase awareness and celebrate reproductive rights for all, including the right to access safe and legal abortion. The fest entailed informative sessions about abortion and reproductive health, along with a range of other educational and fun performances such as spoken word poetry, street theater, musical performance, etc.



## GENDER EQUALITY AND SAFE ABORTION REPORT | 28TH SEPTEMBER ORGANIZED BY PRATIGYA

ASAP Assistant Coordinator, Garima Shrivastava attended launch of a report by Pratigya Campaign on 28 th September 2019, at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The report was a study on accessing the judiciary's role in access to safe abortion in India. ASAP was the only organization present at the event working directly to promote access to safe abortion through rights based perspective.

---



---

## YOUTH ADVOCACY INSTITUTE | 28TH SEPTEMBER - 1ST OCTOBER ORGANIZED BY YOUTH NETWORK INDONESIA (YONI) & ASAP

Country advocacy network YONI organized their first Youth Advocacy Institute, understanding gender, patriarchy and the politics of abortion and reproductive rights in Asia and Indonesia in detail over a period of 3 days. The participants were very eager to take the movement forward in the country with one of the most restrictive abortion rights in the world.



---

## COUNTRY ADVOCACY NETWORKS IN ACTION!

GUFF4YOUTH- PROTEIN, VITAMIN AND ESTROGEN | 27TH JULY

ORGANIZED BY YOSHAN AND LOOM NEPAL

On 27th July YoSHAN held a session in partnership with Loom Nepal, which was hosted by Youth Champion Bonita on how nutrition affects our reproductive health and can be understood in relation with abortion.



---

## INTERACTIVE YOUTH FORUM | 29TH JULY

ORGANIZED BY YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK PAKISTAN (YANP)

Youth Advocacy Network Pakistan – YANP and Institute for Social and Youth Development - ISYD conducted an Interactive Youth Forum under the project entitled “Breaking stereotypes and to advocate for enforcement of SRHR” to disseminate information, knowledge and understanding of importance of SRHR and Family Planning education for adolescents and youth and to promote health based awareness and initiatives.



## TEAM RETREAT AND BONDING | 4TH AUGUST

ORGANISED BY DRUK-YISA

The retreat was an opportunity to understand self-care, and each other better for the Bhutan team. A hike was also organized which was walked while at length discussing the importance of self love and mental health leading on to the importance of safe abortion

## SENSITIZATION PROGRAM- INTRODUCTION TO GENDER, FEMINISM & ABORTION | 10TH AUGUST

ORGANISED BY DRUK-YISA



One of the members of the network, and Youth Champion Ugyen Dema organized a sensitization program for students of her class. The session received a good feedback, one of them being that it was the first time the participants were attending a session which talked about feminism in such detail and it helped them give a new perspective.

---



---

## GUFF4YOUTH | 28TH SEPTEMBER

ORGANIZED BY YOSHAN AND LOOM NEPAL



Country Advocacy Network YoSHAN collaborated with LOOM and organized Guff4Youth to mark #28september. They talked about safe abortion through rights based approach and identified gaps in the current laws in Nepal followed by an artistic exercise to show solidarity for the global pro choice movement.

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT DAY | 28TH SEPTEMBER

ORGANIZED BY VIETNAM YOUTH ACTION FOR CHOICE (VYAC)

VYAC collaborated with the Students' Association of Hue University of Sciences in Thua Thien Hue province to organize a Youth Engagement Day on International Safe Abortion Day. This event aimed to sensitize key youth leaders and connect youth networks in Hue city towards future activities on SRHR. More than 60 individuals from nine networks, clubs and organization engaged through this initiative.



## #SEPTEMBERWITHASAP | ASAP CAMPAIGN 28TH SEPTEMBER

From 1st to 13th September, partnership celebrated September With ASAP where we re-shared some of our earlier shot documentaries by our Youth Champions, in context of the abortion rights debate today, especially with a recent shift to a more anti-choice standpoint.

One of the most widely shared and seemed to stand true even today was the story of Ms A and her journey to get an abortion.

To see all of our videos visit [#SeptemberWithAsap](#)



## #SAFEABORTIONBECAUSE | ASAP CAMPAIGN | 28TH SEPTEMBER

ASAP in 2019 also emphasized why safe abortion is an absolute necessity by talking about 5 developing countries from Asia that even today provide extremely limited or no provision for a safe abortion for their citizens, leading to declining health and rights for a large portion of their population. Having said that its important to remember that while country wise statistics of deaths or complications due to unsafe abortions matter and need to be monitored, it's equally important for us to zoom in and understand that abortions don't happen in isolation. We need to hear these stories and understand that anyone choosing to get an abortion could be doing so for any reason and that should require nobody's certificate of approval.



To view all our campaign pictures visit our website.