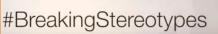


ANNUAL REPORT 2016



The goal of Asia Safe Abortion Partnership is to promote, protect and advance women's sexual and reproductive rights and health in Asia, by promoting access to comprehensive safe abortion services and by reducing unsafe abortion and its complications.

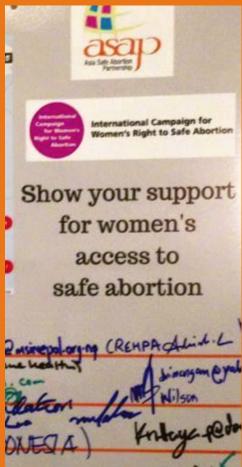














From the Coordinator's Desk

Meet the ASAP Team

Steering Committee

Phan Bich Thuy (Chair) Vietnam

Anand Tamang Nepal

Anika Binte Habib Bangladesh

Katayon Sadat Afghanistan

SP Choong Malaysia

Dr. Unoop Jaisamrarn Thailand

Staff

Suchitra Dalvie Coordinator

Shilpa Shroff Assistant Coordinator

Garima Shrivastava Programs and Communications Officer

Sunita Mungekar Accounts Officer

Souvik Pyne Intern As one more year comes to an end, we reflect on what happened in these 365 days around the sun. Globally women's reproductive rights had ups and downs but at ASAP we made some great strides forward towards achieving our vision and goal.

The report you are reading is just a snapshot of the energy and creativity and enthusiasm as well as hard, very hard work put in by so many ASAP members and partners and staff!

The **Youth Champions** in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and then Bangladesh formalized advocacy networks and will be working together to create a strong voice of young people advocating for safe abortion as a right! Similar work is getting done in Bhutan, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Philippines and we hope that next year will bring more consolidation of the work in these countries.

While our work with young people has been front and centre, we have also been working closely with **healthcare providers**. Doctors and nurses can be the frontline workers in this struggle since they are often the first and sometimes the only witness to signs of violence, sexual assault, burns, unsafe abortions. It should be a moral obligation of such witnesses to ensure that justice is obtained. We have been working with doctors, nurses as well as medical organizations that work in refugee and humanitarian crisis settings. This year we have also done some exciting work with medical students and conducted sensitization workshops in India, Thailand and Vietnam.

We are looking forward to another challenging and fulfilling year ahead. As we all hold our breaths to see what the new President in the USA will mean for our work, the reality is that in the villages and small cities in all our countries in Asia, be it Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, or Myanmar, the decision making still rests with the men-- in the family and society, in academia, in religious groups and in parliament.

So the struggle to **subvert the patriarchy** will carry on and we will continue to place safe abortion as an issue central to women's agency and autonomy and as an issue that cannot be spoken of in a vacuum without speaking of women's empowerment, sexuality, choices, freedoms and human rights.

Thank you to all our partners, members, collaborators, funders and supporters for walking this difficult road with us and giving us strength!

Looking forward to working together in 2017!

ASAP Heat Map



The ASAP heat map plotting all ASAP activities over the last one year See the interactive map here-https://asiasafeabortionpartnership.crowdmap.com

Table of Contents

Background	1
Key Organizational Events	2
Networking and Advocacy Highlights	9
Social Media Updates	10
Small Grants	12
Campaigns	15

Background

Each year, almost one-third of the deaths worldwide from unsafe abortion occur in Asia. 30 percent of unsafe abortions are among women under 25 years of age and 60 percent are in women under 30, the region accounts for 45.7 percent of all unsafe abortions among women aged 15-24 that occur yearly in the developing world.

Every year over 28 million women and girls in Asia have unwanted pregnancies and 10.8 million of them seek abortions.

Who Are We? www.asap-asia.org

In March 2008, 37 participants from 13 countries met in Kuala Lumpur and formed the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP), facilitated by ICMA. ASAP is the only such network in Asia and we work on south-south capacity building and providing a forum for experience sharing and interactions. Members and partners at country level are supported in their advocacy work through small grants, networking and capacity building opportunities.

ASAP is one of the co-founders of the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion.

Goal

To promote, protect and advance women's sexual and reproductive rights and health in Asia, by promoting access to comprehensive safe abortion services and by reducing unsafe abortion and its complications.

To increase the availability of evidence based and scientific information on safe abortion, including medical abortion and to facilitate its dissemination and use among members and other relevant stakeholders.

01

To increase the capacities of the network and its members to advocate and network for access to safe abortion as a human right.

02

ASAP's Objectives

To promote technologies and service delivery systems (to include mainstream and alternative) for safer abortion access.

03

To increase visibility of a right based approach to safe abortion at local, regional and global forums (physical as well as media spaces).



Key Organisational Events

ASAP 2nd Regional Youth Think Tank

25th-26th Jan 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



28 participants from 17 countries across South and South East Asia, as well as the Middle East attended the 2nd Regional Youth Think Tank. See Report here: http://asap-asia.org/pdf/2nd-YTT-report-2016.pdf

The 3rd International Congress on Women's Health and Unsafe Abortion

26th -29th Jan 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



ASAP Coordinator Dr. Suchitra Dalvie was one of the main speakers at IWAC 2016. Youth Champions Smriti Thapa, Sarah Soysa, Katayon Sadat, Sarah Jane, Minal Singh, Preet Manjusha, San Minh Hoang, Ignatia Alfa Gloria, Neelam, Shreejana and staff members had presentations and posters accepted by the organizers.

8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights

23rd-26th Feb, 2016 Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



Youth Champions Anika Binte Habib, Sarah Soysa, Smriti Thapa, Shreejana Bajracharya, Souvik Pyne, San Minh Hoang, Thao Vi Dang participated at the conference and presented papers, films and posters. Read Here: http://asapasia.org/blog/the-youth-declare-their-rights/#sthash.02C05WNo.dpbs

4th Youth Advocacy Institute - Refresher

28th-30th March 2016 Mumbai, India



This was a special Refresher Institute since we had invited some of the Youth Champions from the YAI held in Nepal by YCANN to also join in. Seventeen youth champions from the previous batch who had implemented small grants and showed remarkable progress were invited to participate. These participants were from Bangladesh, India, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka. Read Report Here: http://asap-asia.org/pdf/YAR4 Report single-v2.pdf

Objectives:

- To strengthen the capacity of the Youth Champions to be peer trainers in understanding access to safe abortion as a gender and sexual and reproductive rights, as well as human rights issue.
- To consolidate the mentoring for utilization of social media by the Youth Champions for online thought leadership and advocacy.
- To support the ongoing engagement of the Youth Champions, within and outside there community to ensure implementation of the above strategies in order to advocate effectively for improved access to safe abortion services including medical abortion.

"Addressing Challenges & Exploring Opportunities on Safe Abortion Advocacy" Country seminar Organised by YouthCANN and ASAP

20th May 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal



With the support from Asia Safe Abortion Partnership, Youth Champions Advocacy Network Nepal (Youth CANN) organized its first country seminar on 20th May, 2016 in Kathmandu to bolster Youth CANN mission in advancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women with especial focus on promoting access to safe abortion services as human right in Nepal.

This seminar aimed to build an important platform to bring together youth women activists, organizations and other diverse stakeholders, including government representatives at national level to discuss on addressing challenges and exploring opportunities within Safe Abortion Advocacy. Read Report here: http://asap-asia.org/pdf/FINAL-REPORT-COUNTRY-SEMINAR.pdf

Country Level Youth Advocacy Institute Colombo

12th-15th August 2016, Colombo Sri Lanka



The Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka (YANSL) organized the Youth Advocacy Institute in Sri Lanka as a collaborative program along with Asia Safe Abortion Partnership's (ASAP) guidance, support, resources and financial assistance. YANSL and ASAP came together in organizing this training to train and sensitize youth champions who have a basic understanding about access to safe abortion as an essential component of ensuring gender equality and as a sexual and reproductive right, as well as human rights issue.

Read Report here: http://asap-asia.org/pdf/REPORT-LOCAL-YAI.pdf

Vietnam Safe Abortion Stakeholder Meeting

1st Sept, 2016 Hanoi, Vietnam



The objectives of this meeting were to:

- Build a network of stakeholders who care about safe abortion in Vietnam
- Introduce Vietnam Youth Advocacy Network for Abortion to this stakeholder network
- Discuss about the problems related to safe abortion access
- Find solutions for these problems. Establish an initial mechanism to work together.

Read Report here: http://asap-asia.org/pdf/Stakeholder-Meeting-in-Hanoi-Sep-2016.pdf

5th Regional Youth Advocacy Institute

29th Aug- 1st Sept 2016, Hanoi, Vietnam



20 participants from 13 countries Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Nepal, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Philippines participated in the Institute. The institute introduced the participants to concepts like Gender, Patriarchy, Human Rights, Sexual and Reproductive Rights and helped understand their linkages with safe abortion issues. Sessions also explored issues related to reproduction, contraception and safe abortion from a rights based perspective. Read Report here: http://asap-asia.org/pdf/5th-YouthAlHReportfinal.pdf

Objectives:

- To create a community of trained and sensitized Youth Champions who have an understanding of access to safe abortion as a gender and sexual reproductive and human rights issue.
- To facilitate the utilization of social media and other community level networking and communication by the youth champions through capacity building and ongoing mentoring.
- To support the ongoing engagement of the Youth Champions, within and outside their community to ensure implementation of the above strategies in order to advocate effectively for improved access to safe abortion services, including medical abortion.

Youth Advocacy Institutes for Medical Students

2016 Mumbai India



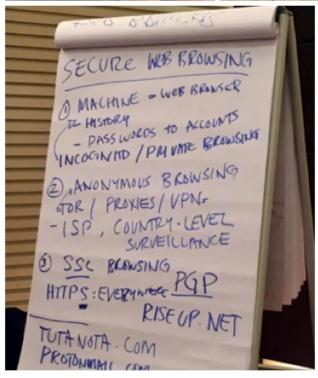
ASAP conducted two Youth Advocacy Institutes with medical students of Grant medical and other colleges in Mumbai in October and November 2016. The institutes aimed at creating a community of trained and sensitized youth champions who will be doctors and have an understanding of access to safe abortion as a gender and sexual and reproductive rights, as well as human rights issue. The sessions ranged from understanding the social construct of gender, to patriarchy and power and helped the participants think through the legitimacy that the rights-based framework & language lend to achieving gender equality. Read reports here: http://asap-asia.org/pdf/MSYAl-Mum16.pdf

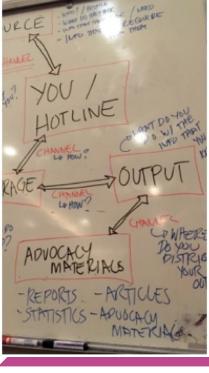
'Digital security for Advocates of Safe Abortion'

8th - 10th Nov 2016 Kuala Lampur, Malaysia









A three-day workshop was organized by ASAP from 7th - 10th Nov 2016 at Swiss Garden Residences. Kuala-Lumpur to provide hands-on training on digital security and brainstorming on issues concerning online security with respect to our work, activism and data. The workshop was organized keeping in mind the security concerns of our Youth Champions operating hotlines and giving information on safe abortion through websites and blogs in countries where access to abortion is restricted by law.

The workshop covered a range of issues addressing increasing online threats to the freedom of expression and association. Some of the key discussions focused around tracking via mobile phones, restrictions on access to content pertaining to data, computer confiscation, censorship etc. that can prevent us as activists from working safely. The response revealed that the most pressing needs are for training in secure social networking in order to protect online identities, data and privacy in online campaigning.

Integrating Gender into Healthcare Education

23rd- 24th Nov, 2016 Hanoi Vietnam





The International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership, and Global Doctors for Choice plan to collaborate to build the capacity of healthcare providers to deliver optimal sexual and reproductive health services to girls and women by strengthening or adding currently weak or absent components to medical school curricula and orienting the biomedical components modules within a gender and rights framework. Medical school provides the perfect opportunity to give future providers the skills and awareness to not only deliver optimal services to girls and women but also to become advocates for them in the medical arena and beyond. We held a meeting in Hanoi and a visit to Thai Binh Medical and Nursing Colleges.

ASAP IFMSA meeting in Chulalongkorn University

Sat 26th Nov 2016 Bangkok, Thailand



A one-day meeting was organized by Tunchanok Chutumstid on behalf of IFMSA and ASAP to discuss prevention of unwanted pregnancy. 25 university students along with local safe abortion activists attended the meeting. Read report here: http://asap-asia.org/pdf/ASAP-IFMSA-meeting-in-Chulalongkorn-University.pdf

Networking and Advocacy Highlights

ASAP Staff, Steering Committee Members and Youth Champions participated in:

ASAP Coordinator Dr. Suchitra Dalvie was invited by IWHC and PPFA to speak on their panels at Women Deliver on behalf of the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership. May 15th 2016, Copenhagen, Denmark

12th and 13th of July 2016.

Dr. Shilpa Shroff was invited to attend a two-day digital security workshop called the Safety Net, in Mumbai organised by Point of View and the Association for Progressive Communications held on the

Dr. Suchitra Dalvie was invited to participate in the international conference "Abortion and Reproductive Justice: The Unfinished Revolution" hosted by the Institute of Research in Social Sciences (IRiSS) Ulster University, Belfast 2nd – 3rd June, 2016

Dr. Shilpa Shroff represented ASAP at the AWID Forum in September 2016 held in Brazil and spoke on a panel organised by CREA.

Youth Champions from Pakistan partnered with the National Forum for Women with Disabilities (NFFWDs) and conducted a workshop to educate Women with Disabilities (WWDs) about safe abortion, reproductive rights and healthy sex life and to train them to become peer educators for other disabled and non-disabled women in the community. Watch the video here-https://youtu.be/PTFUERGrlv0

Youth Champions from Vietnam have formed a local network called 'The Vietnam Youth Action for Choice' VYAC. They conducted their first Youth Advocacy Institute in September 2016.

Youth Champion from Bhutan is working towards establishing "Druk – Youth Initiative of Safe Abortion" (D-YISA) as a network of ASAP in Bhutan. Institute in September 2016.

Anika Habib, Youth Champion from Bangladesh conducted an orientation meeting in Dhaka with young people in November 2016.

Young Women for Change, Mongolia, collaborated with ASAP to organize a full day workshop to raise awareness on abortion rights and SRHR among Mongolian women in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Social Media Updates



facebook.com/AsiaSafeAbortionPartnership

ASAP Facebook page has **5753 likes**



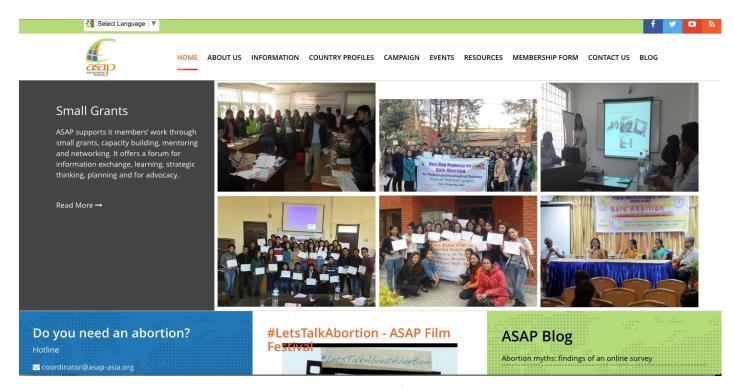
twitter.com/asapasia www.asap-asia.org

ASAP Twitter has **1811 followers**



ASAP Listserve has over 530 members from over 20 countries

Starting in June 2012 ASAP has had a robust online presence through its website, listserve, Facebook, Twitter and Blog. In addition, the organization also has had a YouTube page with original videos, and an e-newsletter to share information with its wide audience.



www.asap-asia.org

In 2016 the website had a total number of 10,281 page views

The ASAP website, which was redesigned in 2016 and launched on 01 Sept includes the following features:

Country Profiles for all member nations | The campaigns page has been updated to include information on all campaigns of ASAP on women's day, May 28th and Sept 28th | The ASAP website can be read in smart phones and tablet devices, and in 11 regional languages of the Asia-Pacific.

The ASAP Blog



asap-asia.org/blog

The ASAP launched its blog in June 2012. We cover a range of topics including sex selection, gender, women's rights, Involving men, stigma and sexuality.

The blog has had over 58,000 visits.



youtube.com/user/ASAPasia

Following original videos were uploaded during 2016:

Lets Talk About Abortion https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= v-kgw3968w

Abortion is Black and White https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF6N6eOkjUI ASAP Monumental Campaign

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpofssKUHSQ



Small Grants

ASAP has supported 28 Youth Projects through its Small Grant Programme in the last 5 years.



Bangladesh: Anika Binte Habib scripted, directed and produced a short film called <u>The Drop.</u> The film is based on experiences of a woman who was forced to seek an unsafe abortion despite menstrual regulation being legal in Bangladesh. The film was screened at the 8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive & Sexual Health & Rights (APCRSHR) in February 2016, at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

India: Mubasshir Babar conducted safe abortion advocacy workshop on 20th - 22nd May 2016 at D. Y. Patil School of Medicine, Navi Mumbai. Spread over 3 days, for a span of ten hours in total was a massive success this year at Mumbai at the 3rd National General Assembly of the Medical Students Association of India. Details see:

https://issuu.com/msa.india/docs/scora booklet 02





Pakistan: Naureen and Neelam organized a **Country Level Meeting on Safe Post Abortion Care** on 2nd October 2016. The meeting was held in Karachi, objectives of the meeting was to:

- Creating a forum for engagement with the issues of safe abortion
- Building awareness about the law and the impact on maternal mortality
- Expanding the range of constituencies involved in advocacy for reducing unsafe abortion
- Discussing strategies for ensuring acceptance of key messages.
- Initiating a youth led network for safe abortion advocacy in Pakistan.



Pakistan, Tanzila Khan: partnered with National Forum for Women with Disabilities (NFFWDs) and conducted a workshop to educate Women with Disabilities (WWDs) about safe abortion, reproductive rights and healthy sex life and to train them to become peer educators for other disabled and non-disabled women in the community. Watch Video here-

https://youtu.be/PTFUERGrlv0

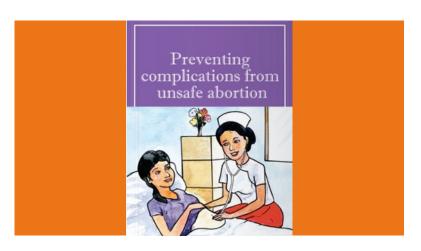
Phillipines

Sarah Jane: For Sept 28th International Day for Safe Abortion Sarah Jane created a video along with other Youth Champions from Youth Advocacy Institute. The video highlights the stigma and barriers to safe abortion access in Asia and underscores the need for more positive conversations around abortion. Watch here-Lets Talk About Abortion



Danica Magtubo conducted focus group discussions to assess knowledge, attitude and practices related for teenage pregnancy and abortion amongst young people. The objective was to provide an evidence-based study to develop IEC and campaign materials based on the study conducted

Dawn Macahilo initiated discourse among selected student and youth leaders through the project titled "Youth+ Discourses+ Action: A Youth Mainstreaming Workshop and Training on SRHR in the Philippines".



Myanmar: Yadanar developed a comic book to help reduce the harms of unsafe abortion in Myanmar http://asap-asia.org/information/

Mongolia: Youth Champion Sanchirmaa organized a full day inclusive approached training to raise awareness on abortion rights and SRHR among Mongolian women in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The training covered the following topics such gender, patriarchy and its linkage to abortion issues, human rights, sexual and health reproductive rights, conceptions and contraception, safe abortion and also what does it mean to be pro-choice. As a result of the training we created supportive team, empowered 30 young women to speak and advocate further our activities.





Campaigns

September 28th Campaign

#LetsTalkAbortion-ASAP Film Festival

This year in a prelude to Sept 28 we launched a month long Film Festival "Lets Talk Abortion". Abortion related films were showcased on our social media followed by engaging and lively conversations around these films.

The overall objective was to create awareness around the issue of abortion access and stigma in general and to give space to voices of youth from Asia in particular. The intention was to increase the visibility and encourage dialogue on women's bodily autonomy and rights. Watch the promotion trailer #LetsTalkAbortion

Conversations about Abortions from Asia

During the film festival we launched a video series titled 'Conversations about Abortions from Asia. In these videos our Youth Champions talk about the situation of law and abortion access in their countries and share their experiences about working to challenge the stigma and barriers to safe abortion access women face. Watch Videos here: http://asap-asia.org/youth-champions/

Lets Talk About Abortion

For Sept 28th we launched a video created by ASAP youth champions. The video highlights the stigma and barriers to abortion access in Asia and underscores the need to have more positive conversations around Abortion. Watch the video here https://youtu.be/R8i2qvGrtIU



Activities by Youth Champions





<u>Youth CANN</u> Youth Champions Advocacy Network Nepal Conducted a Flashmob along with <u>Bhaktapur Youth Information</u> For Universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including safe abortion, that respects their rights to privacy and confidentiality and are easily accessible, elimination of violence, coercion and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.





Youth Champion Advocacy Network Nepal (Youth CANN) also participated in the candle light ceremony organized on the special occasion of International day of action on safe abortion $\frac{\#\text{sept28}}{\#\text{sept28}}$, remembering all those who lost their lives due to unsafe abortion. $\frac{\#\text{solidarity}}{\#\text{solidarity}}$



YANSL - Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka conducted an online campaign busting myths that surround abortion and also joined #StepintoOurShoes Campaign calling upon women ad girls to voice their struggles for the reproductive justice. They invited quote emphasizing the importance of safe abortion, stats in SL, real stories related to unsafe and illegal abortion.

Dr. Souvik Pyne organized a small event at Indian Institute of Public Health, Bhubaneswar (IIPHB), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). It was an attempt to reiterate the public health importance and spread awareness about issues pertaining to safe abortion. The events comprised of a briefing session, public awareness drive, safe abortion related film screening and discussions, power walk and shoethon.



Blogs by Youth Champions:

Anika Habib: http://asap-asia.org/blog/menstrual-regulation-in-bangladesh-is-the-law-effective-enough-2/#sthash.jkPvTrpq.dpbs

Bidya and Bonita: http://asap-asia.org/blog/talking-about-abortion-with-nepals-female-community-health-volunteers/#sthash.UMpcOFTP.dpbs

Sarah Jane Biton: http://asap-asia.org/blog/from-scepticism-to-hope-the-60th-commission-on-status-of-women/#sthash.MkiL6EAw.dpbs

Souvik Pyne: http://asap-asia.org/blog/abortion-myths-findings-of-an-online-survey/#sthash.H2qoBz3v.dpbs

Shreejana Bajracharya: http://asap-asia.org/blog/abortion-myths-findings-of-an-online-survey/#sthash.H2qoBz3v.dpbs

Suhanya Naidu: http://asap-asia.org/blog/morals-choices-and-the-rainbow-of-illusion-by-youth-champion-suhanya-naidu/#sthash.MhKbVg29.dpbs

Wangchuk Dema: http://asap-asia.org/blog/happiness-index-and-womens-reproductive-rights-in-bhutan/#sthash.4YFfZ0kj.dpbs



Yashoda Dhakal: http://asap-asia.org/blog/abortion-stigma-a-bitter-truth-by-youth-champion-yashoda-dhakal/#sthash.6sc3nrL3.dpbs

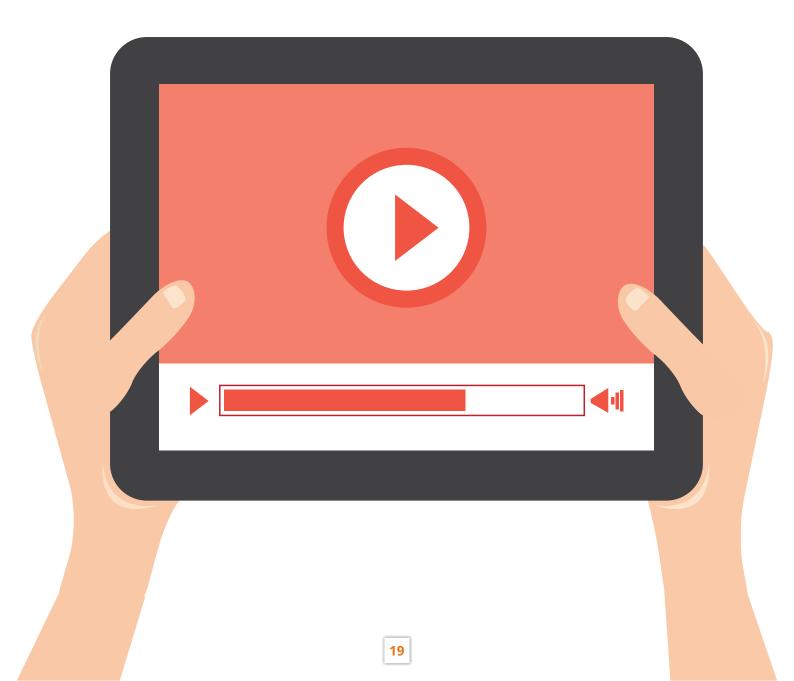
Video Series

YANSL Be the Change- Be the Change is a series of interviews done with young men from Asia Pacific supporting the women's bodily rights. We believe that in order to achieve equality for women, men need to be part of the solution. Equality is only achievable if we work together.

Watch here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocXDa7HetB4

Videos and Campaigns

ASAP Youth Champions have actively been contributing to International Campaigns and Events, following is some of the advocacy materials developed for <u>March 8th International Womens Day, May 28th International Day of Action for Womens Health and September 28th International Safe Abortion Day</u>



ASAP Monumental Campaign #IWD2016



On International Women's Day ASAP along with its Youth Champions led a monumental campaign, calling upon our Governments to recognize that women have needed to and have had abortions for longer than these famous monuments exist!

We created beautiful images from across Asia and a very powerful video urging to saving lives and preventing the monumental tragedy of women and girls from dying due to unsafe abortions!

Watch Video here-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpofssKUHSQ

May 28th 2016 – International Day of Action for Women's Health



"Abortion is black and white. Women who need an abortion, should get a safe abortion."- Youth Champions did a photo shoot and created a video, the idea was to stress upon the fact that women need abortion and laws restricting abortion do not stop women from getting one. The video underscores the need to make abortion safe, legal and accessible for all. Watch Video here: https://youtu.be/pF6N6eOkjUl

September 28th International Day for Safe Abortion



ASAP youth Champions have been contributing to September 28th International Day for Safe Abortion by organising various activities both virtually and on the ground in their respective countries. In the past years Youth Champions have organised flash mobs, posters, videos and photos. For details of past campaigns visit: http://asap-asia.org/september-28/

#LetsTalkAbortion: For Sept 28th 2016 ASAP Youth Champions created a video titled "Lets Talk About Abortion" highlighting the need to have more positive conversations around abortion. Watch video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8i2qvGrtlU

We also launched a video series called 'Abortion Conversations from Asia'; where the youth champions talk about their work and experiences in fighting abortion stigma and enabling access to safe abortion in their countries. Watch here: http://asap-asia.org/youth-champions/





Email: discussions.asap@gmail.com coordinator@asap-asia.org

Website: asap-asia.org

Facebook: <u>facebook.com/AsiaSafeAbortionPartnership</u>

Blog: asap-asia.org/blog

Twitter: twitter.com/asapasia www.asap-asia.org