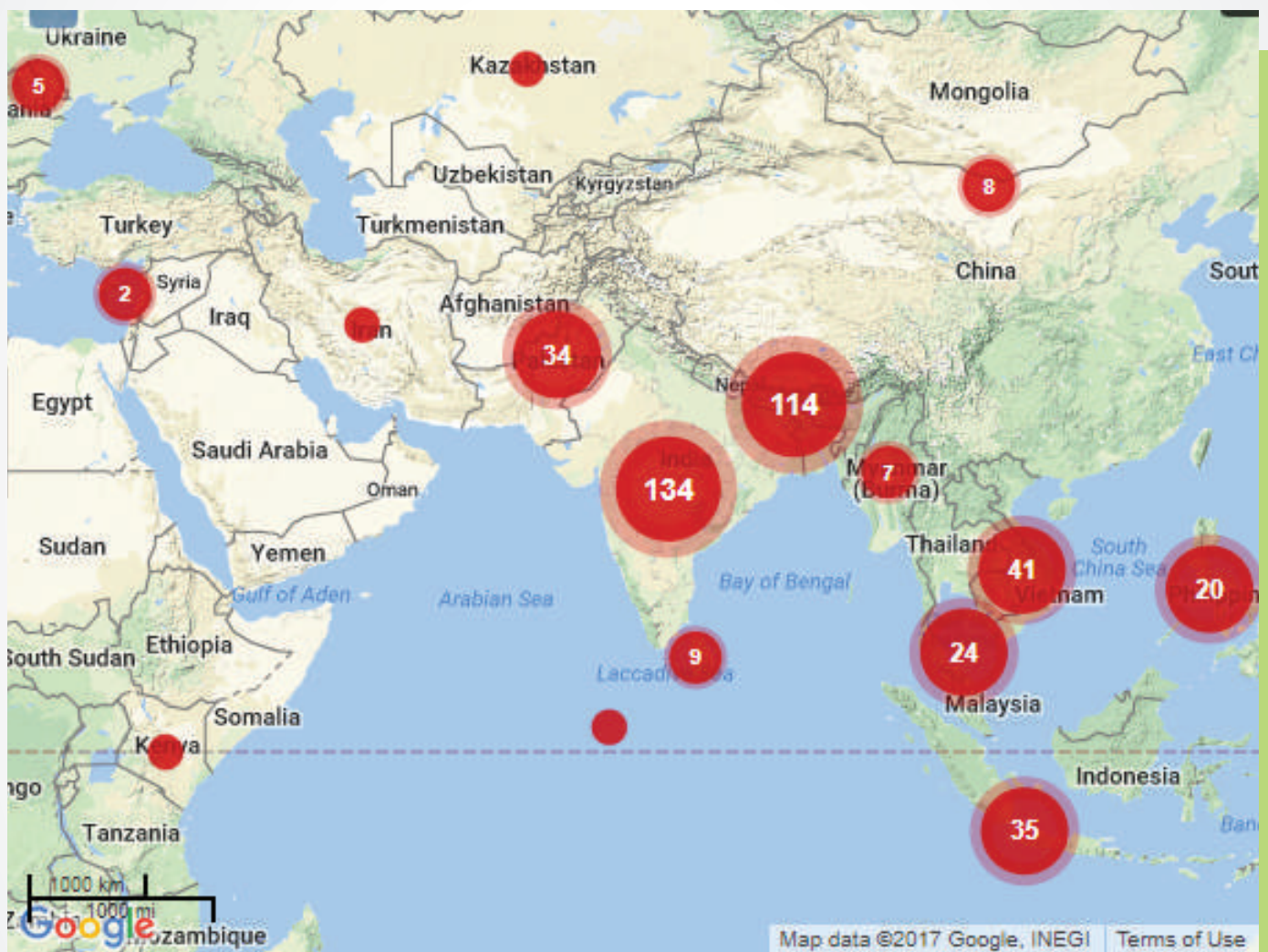




ASAP Heat Map



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

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/ Swetha Sridhar
Programs and
Communications Officer

Sunita Munekar
Accounts Officer

As we all know, nothing is permanent except change!

The year 2017 has been one where we have seen this come true in every possible way.

Global politics took a huge step back with the Global Gag Rule, but She Decides emerged. The resistance to injustice is increasing everywhere and activists like us will resist and persist!

At the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership we have been nurturing and mentoring and supporting a new generation of changemakers, to build a movement for safe abortion advocacy as a woman's right.

We want to bring about change

- ***From unwanted pregnancies to fertility control***
- ***From unsafe abortions to safe abortions***
- ***From social stigma to right to information***
- ***From lack of choices to informed choices***
- ***From lack of safety and dignity to sexual and reproductive rights***
- ***From patriarchy to gender equality***

ASAP and all our members, partners, supporters and well-wishers are going to be the power behind and within this tidal wave of change !

As you will read in the following pages, we have been taking small steps and big strides, in making the issue visible, in building thought leadership and in speaking out and bringing to the regional and global platform the critical voices of women and girls and insisting that the time for negotiation is over.

Safe abortion as a woman's right is an idea whose time has come and we are building a movement that will make it a reality.

Do join us, cheer us on, support us and be the change you want to see in the world.

Looking forward to meeting and working together in 2018!

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Background

Who we are

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.



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.



Vision

A society in which Asian women live with dignity and with sexual and reproductive rights and health fulfilled



Objectives

- >> 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
- >> To increase the capacities of the network and its members to advocate and network for access to safe abortion as a human right
- >> To promote technologies and service delivery systems (to include mainstream and alternative) for safer abortion access
- >> 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

Youth Advocacy Institute

Date: 24th – 27th January, 2017 | Location: Jogjakarta, Indonesia



Team Indonesia (Ignatia Alfa Gloria and Ajar Pamungkas) organized a local YAI with 16 participants from across all the islands. Despite some thunderstorms and many translations from English to Bahasa and back, we managed a great three days of rich learning and sharing and made some exciting plans for future action!

Workshop with Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM)

Date: 9-11th February, 2017 | Location: Pune, India



We collaborated with MASUM to conduct a workshop on understanding safe abortion as a gender and rights issue. We also discussed and debated the nuances between sex determination, sex selection and safe abortion access. It was attended by 76 participants from various grassroots organisations working on women's rights, reproductive health and rights from 21 districts in Maharashtra.

Key Organisational Events

5th Youth Advocacy Refresher Institute

Date: 27th Feb – 2nd March, 2017 | Location: Bangkok, Thailand



18 Youth Champions from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam got an intensive update on issues ranging from the politics of the internet to sexuality, ethics, and political economy. The objectives were to share experiences and progress since the YAI, learn about a wider range and more in-depth aspects of safe abortion advocacy, assess the value of mentoring and strengthen the alumni network and strategize for future work.

6th Youth Advocacy Institute

Date: 1st - 3rd March 2017 | Location: Bangkok, Thailand



We were joined by a rocking group of 20 committed young persons from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. We built capacity to advocate for safe abortion as a right by learning about gender, power and patriarchy, laws and policies around abortion, technical details of menstruation, contraception and safe abortion.

Key Organisational Events

Youth Advocacy Institute with Medical Students

Date: 27th – 29th April 2017 | Location: Mumbai, India



We were joined by an enthusiastic group of 20 Medical Students from Mumbai. The objective of the institute was to create a community of trained and sensitized Youth Champions who are also medical students and future providers, to have an understanding of access to safe abortion as a gender and sexual and reproductive rights, as well as human rights issues.

6th Youth Advocacy Refresher Institute

Date: 7th – 9th September, 2017 | Location: Mumbai, India



We were joined by a dynamic group of Youth Champions from Bhutan, India, Nepal and Thailand. The objectives of the Institute was to refresh our knowledge on contraception and safe abortion and to also dive deeper into relevant issues such as sexuality and its connection with abortion stigma, to reflect on the history of medicine and the misogyny it engenders, to understand the different ethical positions around abortion and to explore alliances with those working on community theatre, multimedia and the feminist internet.

Networking and Advocacy Highlights

Meetings and Workshops Attended

[Advancing measurement of abortion quality](#)

Date: May 2017 | Location: West Sussex, England

Organised by: Metrics for Management, Ipas, and Ibis Reproductive Health
ASAP Representative: Dr. Suchitra Dalvie, Coordinator, ASAP

We agreed that the two main domains of any such quality measurements would be clinical service checklist vs. women's expectations. The meeting also raised questions such as 'We speak of post abortion contraception but what about post contraception abortion?', 'Why do large funded programmes like FP 2020 assume that receiving contraception is the full stop?? Don't even the best contraceptives fail?' and 'What do we do to ensure that those women have a back- up service so that she does not have an unwanted pregnancy?'

[SARJAI Regional Workshop 2017](#)

Date: 22-23 May, 2017 | Location: Kathmandu, Nepal

Organised by: South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability (SARJAI), Centre for Reproductive Rights
ASAP Representative: Anika Binte Habib, ASAP Youth Champion and Member, Steering Committee

The Center for Reproductive Rights started its regional network called the South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability (SARJAI) in 2012 to build partnership with lawyers and to develop and undertake strategic litigation aimed at addressing women's rights. Every year, they organize a workshop with lawyers from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Philippines. This year, SARJAI Regional Workshop was organized to share information on existing efforts and kick off a new round of legal advocacy efforts including evidence gathering on reproductive rights violations and legal and policy mappings, litigations, legislative and policy advocacy, and engagement with national human rights institutions.

Networking and Advocacy Highlights

Difficult Conversations around Abortion

Date: August 2017



Organised by: Inroads, Abortion Conversations Project
ASAP Representative: Dr. Suchitra Dalvie, Coordinator, ASAP

ASAP collaborated on a webinar which explored practical approaches to situations and conversations where the response to issues that come up aren't intuitive. Participants learnt about why these conversations are so hard, some practical tips for how to navigate them, and shared some real-life examples with other participants.

Realizing the Bombay High Court's Judgment on The Right to Medical Termination of Pregnancy: Next Steps for Implementation and Extending the Positive Jurisprudence

Date: September 2017 | Location: Mumbai, India

Organised by: Tata Institute of Social Science, in collaboration with Centre for Reproductive Rights

ASAP Representative: Dr Shilpa Shroff, Assistant Coordinator, ASAP

Dr Shilpa Shroff represented ASAP at a consultation meeting organized by the Tata Institute of Social Science, in collaboration with Centre for Reproductive Rights, to discuss the implementation of the Mumbai HC judgement given on September 19 2016. The landmark judgement ruled that imprisoned pregnant women should have complete right to make motherhood choices and should not be treated any differently from other pregnant women. The meeting was to determine the way forward to develop a strategy to expand and implement this judgement to other women with vulnerabilities in custodial settings.

Articles Published

[Abortion rights: past, present and possible future](#)

Publication Details: The French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs, 28th September, 2017.

Dr. Suchitra Dalvie, Coordinator, ASAP traces the historical trajectory of the debates around the issues of contraception and abortion, and reflects on what the need of the hour is, in order to ensure every woman has the right to safe abortion.

Dr. Dalvie writes ***"Due to the lowering of the age of menarche in recent years, girls are getting their periods from the age of 10 while the age of menopause continues to be around 50. Thus, a girl who is 10 today will have to deal with around 480 menstrual cycles and face the potential likelihood of a pregnancy 400 times as long as she is sexually active. Given that most women would want to have only one or two children by choice, she needs a contraception that will protect her 398 times, without fail."***

['Right to Safe Abortion'](#)

Publication Details: Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 52, Issue No. 32, 12 Aug, 2017.

Dr. Suchitra Dalvie, Coordinator, ASAP, was invited to write a commentary on a 10 year old denied an abortion by the Supreme Court of India. She writes ***"The case of the 10 year old victim of rape who is pregnant and awaiting delivery after being denied permission to abort by the courts is an urgent indication that all stakeholders must come together and find a solution for unwanted pregnancies which present after 20 weeks."***

[Why are Women still Dying from Unsafe Abortion?](#)

Publication Details: ARROW for Change – SRHR in the Era of the SDGs, Vol. 23 no. 2, 2017.

Dr. Suchitra Dalvie, Coordinator, ASAP, contributes to the ARROW for Change Publication where she reflects on how control over abortion access has been part of a long historical struggle, with the patriarchal culture, glorification of motherhood, religion, politics, and economics playing as big a role in every phase.

Dr. Dalvie writes ***"We need to place safe abortion within the spectrum of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and advocate for decriminalisation, legalisation, and accurate information on availability of abortion. We need to address stigma on sexuality and abortion, and bring in discussions on patriarchy, which leads to gender inequality and subordination of women to the extent that they do not have control over their sexuality and body."***

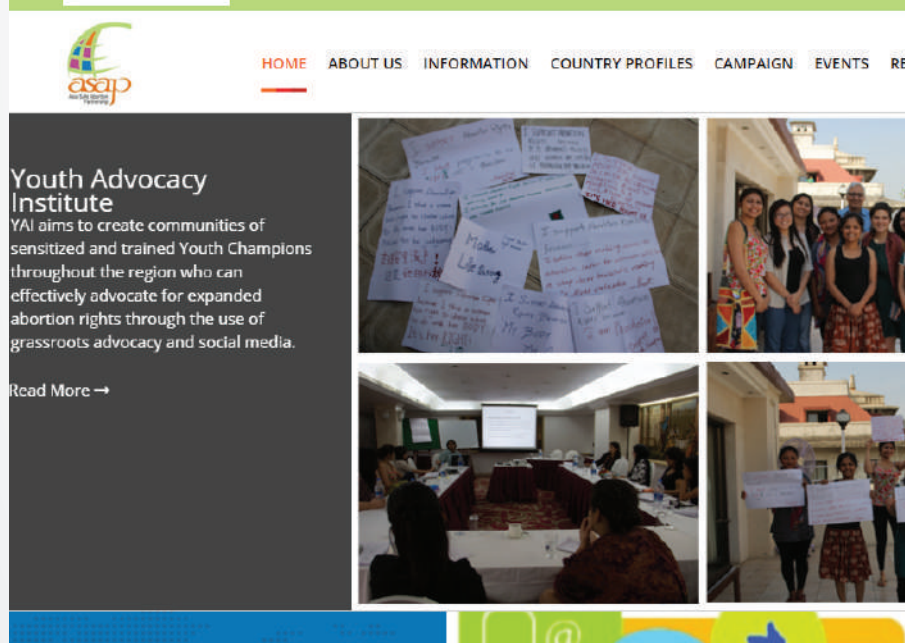
Social Media Updates

Starting in June 2012 ASAP has had a robust online presence spread across a range of digital platforms such as its website and a blog, and various social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. In addition, the organization also maintains a YouTube page which hosts original videos by ASAP and our Youth Champions, and an e-newsletter to share information with its wide audience.



Digital Media Statistics

[Website- asap-asia.org](http://Website-asap-asia.org)



Launched in September 2016, after a redesign, the ASAP website looks to provide an introduction to the organization and the work that it does to further the issue of the right to safe abortion. The website features country profiles for all member nations, details on the campaigns and projects run by the organization and our Youth Champions, as well as resources for those looking for information on the issue of safe abortion. The ASAP website can be read on smart phones and tablet devices, and in 11 regional languages of the Asia-Pacific.

[Blog- asap-asia.org/blog](http://Blog-asap-asia.org/blog)

The ASAP Blog



Launched in June 2012, the blog covers a range of topics including sex selection, gender, and women's rights, mobilizing allies, stigma and sexuality. The blog saw 14,476 visitors in 2017 across 23 published posts.

Social Media Updates

A comprehensive list of all the blogs by our Youth Champions can be found below:

Every woman on every planet should have the right to choose!

by Rajvi Goradia from India published on 15th June 2017

Women's Rights- A biophylogenetic perspective

by Nitish Nandkarni from India published on 22nd June 2017

Who has the Answers?

by Rajvi Goradia from India published on 5th July 2017

Heal Your Hymen

by Shrishti Mainali from Nepal published on 13 July 2017

My Journey Towards Becoming an Agent of Change

Shreeya Mashelkar from India published on 4th October 2017

Saima's Dilemma

by Naureen Lalani from Pakistan published on 11th October 2017

Let's get our medicines from the pharmacist!

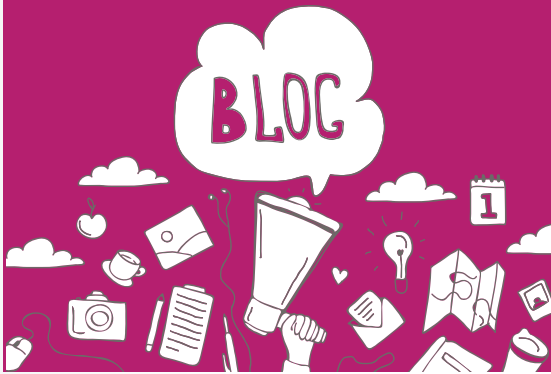
by Sreejana Bajracharya from Nepal published on 17th October 2017

Power to Rape

by Shrishti Mainali from Nepal published 25th October 2017

Removing Abortion Stigma among Young People

by Rupesh Thapa from Nepal published on 1st November 2017



13,325 likes and 13,306 followers

[@AsiaSafeAbortionPartnership](#)



2,292 followers

[@AsapAsia](#)



167 followers

[@SafeAbortion_Asap](#)



97 subscribers

[@AsapAsia](#)

Campaigns

International Women's Day Campaign: #ASAPChangemakers

In celebration of International Women's Day 2017, ASAP celebrated the work of our young women champions in promoting women's access to safe abortion in their region. We conducted a photo campaign to recognize the very challenging and commendable work being done by the ASAP Youth Champions and promoted them under the #IWD2017 and #ASAPChangemakers. Photos from the campaign can be accessed [here](#).



In addition, we also hosted a blog series to highlight their work which can be read [here](#).

Campaigns

International Women's Day Campaign: Writing Competition

Be BOLD for CHANGE
International Women's Day - March 8th

Writing competition for youth organized by D-YISA to celebrate
WOMANHOOD SISTERHOOD

Druk - Youth of SEXUAL D-YISA Initiative ADVOCACY

For the age group of 10-17 years old, the precise topic is "A woman in your life who has been bold enough to bring a positive change in her own life or your life or in the society".

For the age group of 18-25 years old, the precise topic is "There can be true change only when women are bold enough to stand for themselves starting with having a control over their own bodies and lives without any external control".

Two categories of writing competition, i.e., poem category and essay category with no word limit for poem and a word limitation of 1900-2000 words for essay.

Please submit your entries to gyusaanip@gmail.com before 6th March. The winners will be awarded with...

As part of the campaign for International Women's Day, the Bhutan Druk-Youth Initiative for Sexual Advocacy organized a writing competition. The competition was open to two age groups: the 10-17 year olds wrote on the topic "A woman in your life who has been bold enough to bring positive change in your own life or society" and the older group of 18-25 year old wrote on the idea that "There can be true change only when women are bold enough to stand for themselves starting with having a control over their own bodies and lives". Participants were allowed to turn in both prose and poetry submissions.

Campaign for the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia: #coloryournails

Vietnam Youth Action for Choice led a campaign celebrating May 17th as the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. To join in the IDAHOT movement globally and emphasize the message of love and family: "Love makes a family", VYAC conducted the #coloryournails campaign which asked all members and other friends in Hue and Hanoi to color their nails with 6 colors that represents LGBT flag. After that VYAC had collected all the photos and posted them on VYAC fanpage.



Campaigns

VYAC Campaign for [The International Day of Action for Women's Health: #may28](#)

To join in the #May28 global campaign, VYAC conducted the photo sharing activity which asked all members in Hue and Hanoi to write down their message on safe abortion, family planning and gender-based violence against women. Subsequently, VYAC collected all the photos and posted them on the VYAC social media pages. Select photos were chosen and posted to Facebook to emphasize women's health and rights to sexuality and reproductive health.



The International Day of Action for Women's Health: #EveryWomanEveryCountry

Celebrating May 28th as The International Day of Action for Women's Health we launched a [photo campaign](#) using #EveryWomanEveryCountry. The campaign aimed at highlighting obstacles and stigma women face in accessing safe abortion services and reminding the policy makers that women everywhere have the right to SRHR, which includes access to safe abortion.



Campaigns

We also released an advocacy [video](#) on the day



International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe and Legal Abortion

As co-founders ASAP has always been active in promoting and supporting the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe and Legal Abortion.

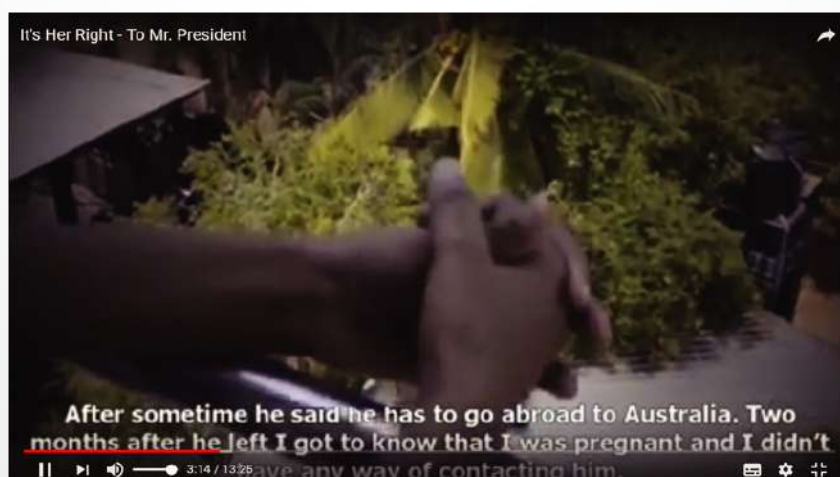
We launched a [photo campaign](#) on 28th September with the themes: #iresistwepersist and #leavenononebehind.



Campaigns



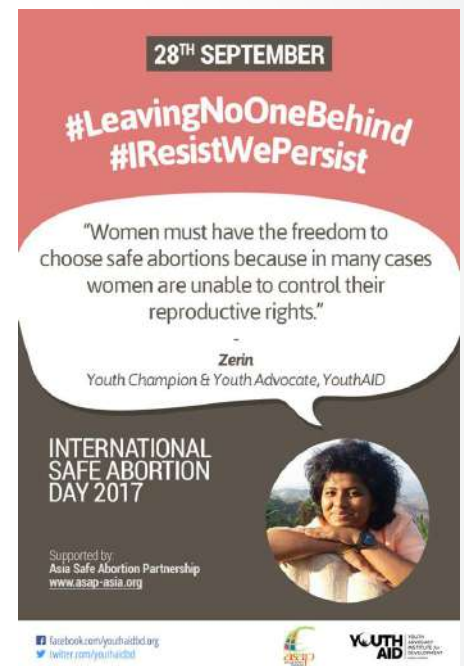
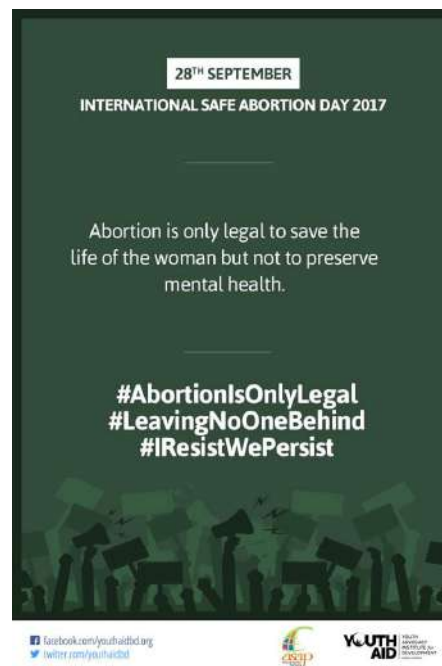
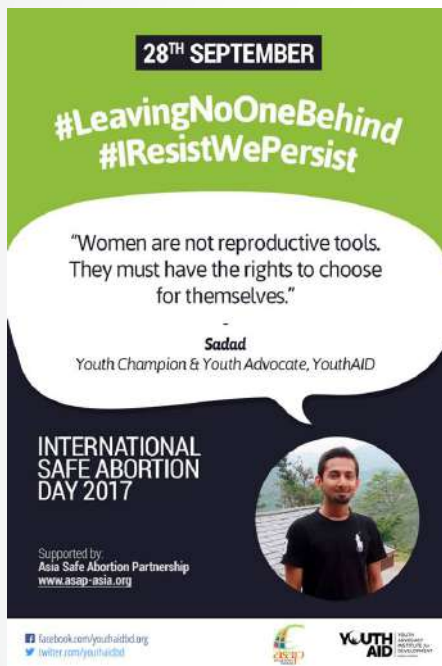
In addition to the photo campaign, ASAP also held an online [film festival](#) throughout September where we showcased a series of short films and videos made by ASAP and members, to highlight the difficulties women and girls face in obtaining a safe abortion across our region.



Campaigns

Parallel to ASAP's campaign for the 28th of September, various Country Advocacy Networks also conducted their own photo campaigns on the theme of #iresistwepersist and #leavenonebehind. All of these campaigns were shared across multiple social media platforms.

Bangladesh



Sri Lanka



Campaigns

Nepal



Country Advocacy Networks



Bangladesh: Youth Advocacy Institute for Development (YouthAID)

Formalised in Bangladesh, YouthAID aims to build a social movement to address women rights, gender equality and youth friendly health services. YouthAID released a short film of their Youth Advocacy Institute for Development. The film can be accessed [here](#).



In addition, YouthAID also launched a newsletter that will provide updates on YouthAID's and Asia Safe Abortion Partnership's work and help you to connect with Youth Champions of Asia Safe Abortion Partnership all around the world. The first newsletter can be accessed [here](#), and you can subscribe to their forthcoming editions [here](#).



Bhutan: Druk Youth Initiative of Sexual Advocacy (D-YISA)

After having renamed themselves to the Druk-Youth Initiative of Sexual Advocacy from Druk-Youth Initiative of Safe Abortion, the network successfully established itself in Bhutan as an ASAP network.

Discussion Meeting

Date: January 2017 | Location: Thimphu, Bhutan

The first meeting was held with college students to create a context and understanding of the need for SRHR discussions in the country. Specifically, the meeting was held to highlight the need for access to safe abortion in the country.

Country Advocacy Networks

Meeting with Health Personnel

Date: January 2017 | Location: Thimphu, Bhutan

A meeting was held with health personnel from the Jigme Dorji National Referral Hospital as well as staff of the Adolescent Friendly Health Services (AFHS) program. The purpose of the meeting was to sensitize health professionals to the issue of safe abortion and counter the stigma attached to it by religious practice.

Sensitisation Workshop

Date: January 2017 | Location: Thimphu, Bhutan

A half-day sensitization workshop on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including abortion was conducted amongst young people. As resource people for the workshop, we invited practicing nurses to talk to the participants on the issue to give them accurate and complete information.

Reproductive and Sexual advocacy workshop

Date: February 2017 | Location: Thimphu, Bhutan

A workshop was held for 18 young people to enable them with the information and skills required to advocate effectively on the issue. Participants discussed issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, patriarchy, gender inequality, as well as addressed the biological aspects of pregnancy and abortion.



Country Advocacy Networks



India: India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates (ISAY)

The Indian Country Advocacy Network formalised its presence in October 2017. They are looking to establish themselves as an advocacy group working to sensitize key stakeholders (primarily medical students, other health care workers involved, later – youth from other professional backgrounds) on sexual & reproductive rights and the understanding behind why safe abortion (and it's access) must be a human right.

3rd Youth Advocacy Institute:

Date: October 2017 | Location: Mumbai, India

The team conducted their third Youth Advocacy Institute with 21 medical students. The objective of the workshop was to provide participants with credible information around issues related to SRHR but also broadly around questions of sex, gender, and patriarchy. The workshop also had participants engage in a range of activities such as having the women go out and buy condoms from a chemist and men buy sanitary napkins!

Participants used their learning from the workshop to develop a range of viral digital content such as memes. The team released a video to highlight the event, which you can watch [here](#).



Country Advocacy Networks

Indonesia: Safe Abortion Working Group

Strategic Planning Meeting

Date: September 2017 | Location: Jakarta, Indonesia

The Safe Abortion Working Group, Jakarta, Indonesia, held a discussion meeting to develop a strategic plan and guidelines for the network going forward. The plan was designed around the Group's commitment to fostering sustainable grassroots movements for SRHR, and particularly, youth action for access to safe abortion services for all.



Nepal--Youth Advocacy Network

2nd Youth Advocacy Institute

Date: September 2017 | Location: Kathmandu, Nepal

YouthCAN conducted their second Youth Advocacy Institute (14-16 September) with some wonderful young people. The workshop was organized by YouthCAN as a means for promoting credible and complete information on the issue of sex, and its impact on gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights. It was attended by 16 participants who represented both medical professionals and public health professionals.

2nd Country Seminar

Date: September 2017 | Location: Kathmandu, Nepal

They also hosted their second Country Seminar (17 September) on 'Safe Abortion through Gender Lens'. 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. This was attended by Dr Kiran Regmi, Director, Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Nepal. Two participants from the YouthCAN Female Community Health Visitors programme also composed and sang a song about safe abortion as a women's right.



Country Advocacy Networks



Sri Lanka, Youth Advocacy Network (YANSL)

Training and Awareness Program in Sri Lanka,
Location: Across Sri Lanka

Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka (YANSL) with support from ASAP conducted SRHR training and awareness programs with youth from five districts in North Sri Lanka. The main activities conducted were group consultation meetings in the project areas and capacity building training for PYEN active members.



Vietnam: Vietnam Youth Action for Choice (VYAC)

Training Course and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Date: March 2017 | Location: Da Nang, Vietnam

A workshop was conducted with medical students at the Danang Technical University of Medicine and Pharmacy with the intent of enabling students with the skills to communicate with community respectfully and effectively on the question of SRHR. The workshop also offered participants knowledge on the field SRHR and allied issues, as well as a safe space for medical students to discuss these issues. Participants also learnt how to integrate SRHR information into life skills.

Country Advocacy Networks



Summer Camp

Date: September 2017 | Location: Lang Co

VYAC, Vietnam conducted a summer camp from 25 – 27 September, on network and youth engagement strategy to strengthen the network and provide core members with advanced knowledge on sexuality, communication and leadership skills. Using sports to demonstrate and emphasize the message on safer sex is one of the unique learning from Mr Cong (FFAV). The ball is consider as our effort which is supporting women's health and choices, to kick the ball into the goal, young people and activists struggles a lot of difficulties and barriers, only having strategy, plan and good leadership can help us unite and make the goals come true.

In 2 days, VYAC members also gained more skills on communication and how to use Facebook effectively to make change. In addition, Mai Thuy and Mrs Bich Thuy also conveyed amazingly the leadership skills session which helped all members have a productive discussion on country network strategy.





The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership
asap-asia.org



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