

RESISTANCE & PERSISTENCE

Global Day of Action for Access to
Safe and Legal Abortion

Celebrating
10 years of
Movement
Building



Acknowledgements

In gratitude to those whose selfless and steady support has helped us reach this milestone:

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Dr S.P. Choong, Malaysia, Founding Chair
Anand Tamang, Nepal
Dr Unnop Jaisamram, Thailand
Dr Katayon Sadat, Afghanistan
Anika Habib, Bangladesh

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Dr Milind Shah, India
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Shilpa Shroff, Assistant Coordinator
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S. Mungekar, Accounts and Finance Officer
Sarah Jane Biton, Communication Officer
Garima Srivastava, Programmes and Communication Officer
Lakshmi Anantnarayan, Communication Officer
Shweta Krishnan, Communication Officer

Gratitude to all the Youth Champions who have given selflessly of their time and passion and energy and taken on so many expert tasks at national, regional and global forums!



From the Desk of the Coordinator

The Power of Partnerships

While the ideas and ideologies for every revolution may have emerged from a handful of leaders, making the change real has been possible only when many people join in and it truly becomes a movement for change.

In this decade we have seen a range of such revolts and revolutions starting from Occupy Wall Street to the Arab spring to the recent # MeToo campaign.

We at ASAP have been working for the last 10 years to initiate and grow a regional movement that we hope will lead to a revolution for women and girls in our region.

A future where patriarchy is dismantled, where everyone has the right to live in a dignified way, making their choices for sexuality and reproduction of their own free will and without any fear of harm or punishment.

The revolution wants to shift control away from governments that decide your sexual and reproductive life, away from men who decide women and girls' sexual activity and reproductive milestones, away from religious and cultural practises that condone and reinforce misogyny, away from economic models that make it impossible to get safe healthcare if you are poor, away from a pattern of war where rape is a weapon, away from moral restrictions on education that prevent information being given on sex and sexuality, away from a world where small children are forced to have sex with older men in a system of legitimized rape aka 'child marriages'.

Preventing abortion access is the final control of the walled city of the patriarchy.

The first wave to break against the walls happened in the 1960s when the Oral Pill gave women the ability to control their fertility. It was promptly dubbed the 'sexual revolution' because that is exactly what the patriarchy has always feared---the ability for women to have sex the way men can---of their own choice and without fear of life threatening consequences.

The Medical Abortion Pill has been greeted with similar trepidation, and the deluge of mis-information, suppression and control is a reflection of the fact that once this wall breaks down and women can terminate an unwanted pregnancy early and even on their own, the final frontier would have been breached.

We are delighted to share with you some highlights of our 10 year journey, hand in hand with some amazing partners working towards the transformation of the world as we know it. Some come in the guise of funders, some as Country Network mentors, some as Youth Champions, some as trainers.

It is the Power of these Partnerships that has sustained us, helped us grow and evolve, ready to take on more challenges.

We welcome all of you to join us as we look forward to the next 10 years with gratitude for your support and a vision of a better life for all the women and girls in our region!

Suchitra Dalvie
Coordinator

Shifting the discourse and strengthening linkages

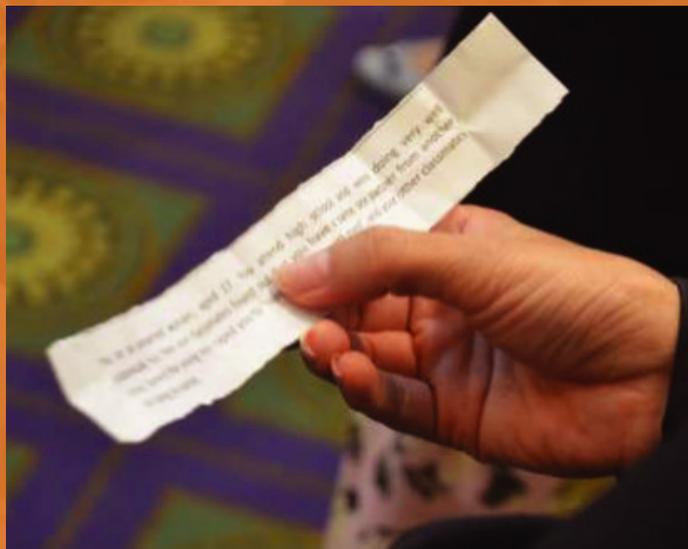
ASAP has always believed that safe abortion is not an advocacy agenda in isolation. It is part of the larger and broader canvas of women's rights, human rights, sexuality and gender identity issues. In fact it is difficult to imagine any movement against inequality injustice and oppression that cannot align with ours!

Migrant labour rights, sex workers' rights, right to comprehensive sexuality education, prevention of child marriages, contraceptive access, de-militarization, stopping FGM—each and every one of these movements and more have something to offer us and something to learn from us.

We believe that working together in partnership is the only way that our movements will evolve and grow collectively till they become a force no one can ignore or oppose.

It is with this ethos that we have also invested in growing programmes like the **Regional Youth Think Tanks**, working with **Healthcare Providers** as Agents of Change, supported **telephone hotlines** to provide women and girls with information on misoprostol and safe abortion.

Here are some photo highlights of all that work.



Afghanistan

Dr. Katayon Sadat conducted a two-day training programme for 15 obstetricians and gynaecologists at the Malalai Hospital, Kabul. They were oriented in post abortion care and gender and rights issues.



Bangladesh



First orientation meeting of ASAP was conducted by Bangladesh Youth Champions Network "Youth Advocacy School".



The project was undertaken by Krishti Aung with the Bangladesh Assembly of Youth Advocates (BAYA) to create social awareness about Menstrual Regulation (MR) amongst women residents of Dhaka slums and girls working in the garment factories.

Anika Binte Habib scripted, directed and produced a short film called The Drop. 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.





Yu Yang and Tang Tan conducted workshops with young factory workers and students on issues of unplanned pregnancies and safe abortion and provided information on medical abortion to students through existing university helplines. Six peer education sessions conducted under the project reached 53 workers and 273 college students. They also established Renren and Weibo as official social medium for advocating and sharing contraception and abortion information
Renren: www.renren.com/585708176/profile,
Weibo: www.weibo.com/u/3064994567

Yu Yang and Sun Xiaoting connected with feminists in Beijing to discuss the different perspective on abortion rights that may exist in their country. They also created a forum to increase and facilitate discussions on gender and women's rights issues in the country. About 12 participants participated in these discussions on NGOs integrating SRHR and women's rights into their current work.





Shweta Krishnan made an animated film in English with help from US-based Indian artist Shachi Kale. The film highlights the socio-cultural and legal factors that create barriers to access safe abortion or drive women to unsafe abortion. The film has since been made available with subtitles in Arabic, Hindi, Nepali, Sinhalese and Vietnamese. The film has been screened at various conferences and meetings including at the 7th Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Manila in Jan 2014 and at the World Youth Conference held in Colombo in May 2014.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwv81v96ick&t=110s>



Preet Manjusha conducted a research study to understand the impact of the law against sex determination on women's access to safe abortion in Maharashtra, India. The findings of the study have been published in the July 2015 issue of Reproductive Health Matters under the title, "[If a woman has even one daughter, I refuse to perform the abortion: Sex determination and safe abortion in India](#)".

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.



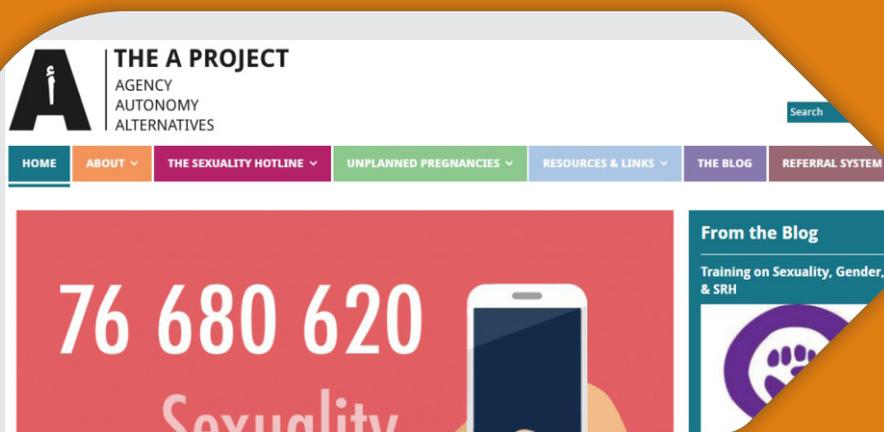
Indonesia

Ignatia Alfa Gloria conducted a series of workshops on introduction to sex and gender, gender based violence and media's portrayal of gender-based problems. 15 young participants joined the workshop, the participants were encouraged to deliberate on these topics and write their opinions and experiences in form of blogs and articles. This initiative succeeded in creating a Facebook group and planning a blog, "AYO NGOBROL" or 'Let's talk' in English.





Nikzad Zangeneh set up a website with the objective of making women aware of violence and reproductive health. The website is in Farsi and English talks about violence against women, unplanned pregnancies and abortions laws and regulations in the country. Visit here: iransac.com



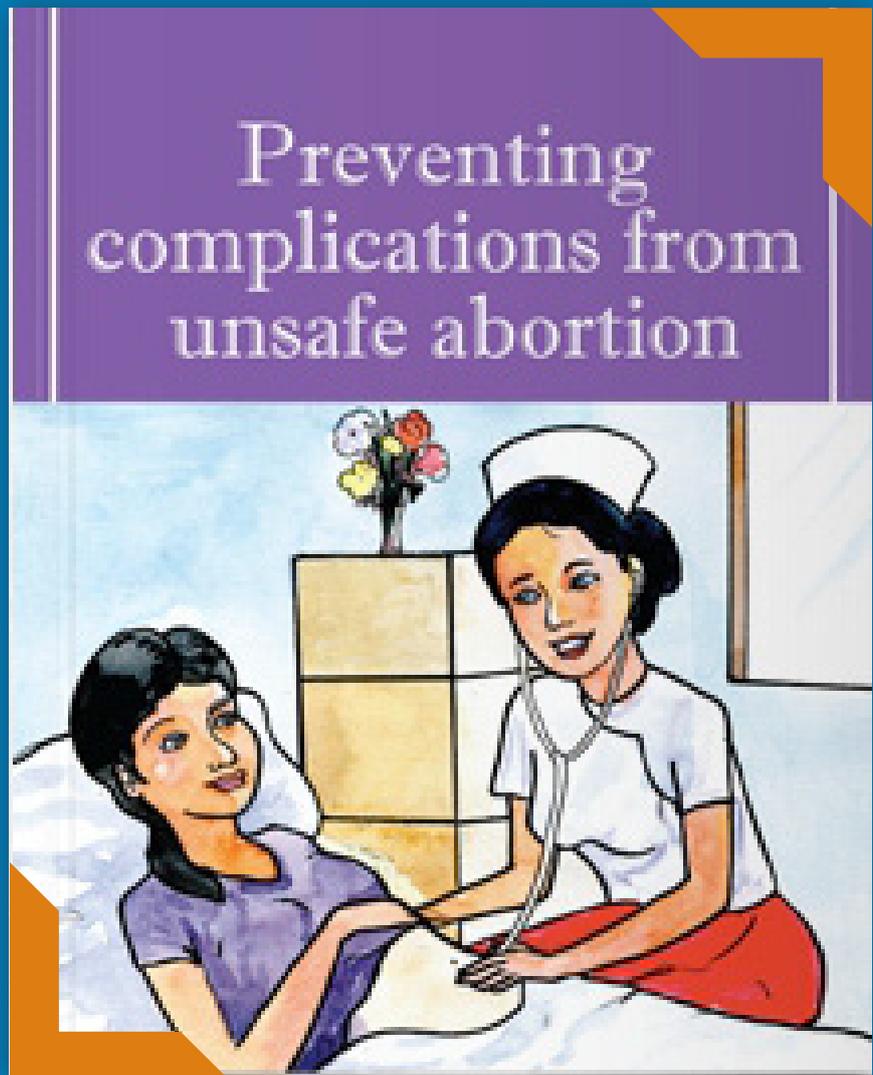
Rola Yasmine launched the [A project](#) in Lebanon with the specific purpose of seeking agency, alternatives and autonomy in sexuality, sexual health and gender. Community involvement workshops were conducted on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) among marginalised communities such as refugees, displaced citizens, and migrants. Rola's article recently got published in RHM journal, read here- [Systemic violence against Syrian refugee women and the myth of effective intrapersonal interventions](#). As a result of small grants the project received additional funding through SAAF.



Myanmar

Yadanar developed a comic book to help reduce the harms of unsafe abortion in Myanmar.

Read more here: <http://asap-asia.org/information/>



Nepal



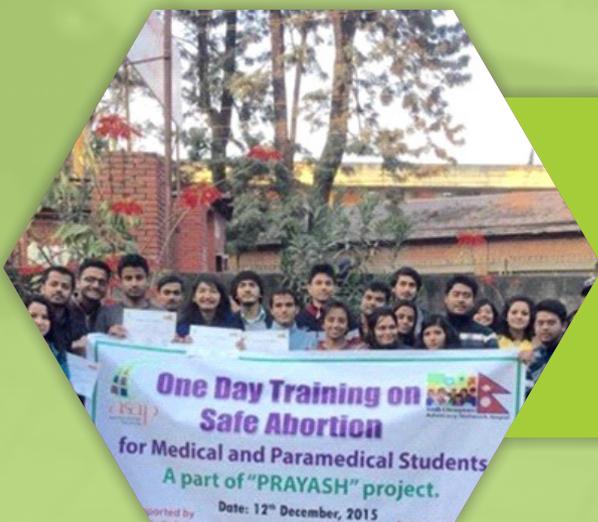
Saru Shilpkar and Shreejana Bajracharya launched a project to empower young people to make informed decisions and choices regarding their own sexual and reproductive health and rights. They conducted training of 15 young people who had the potential to become peer educators.

Minal Singh organized a workshop for interaction with journalists on safe abortion and women rights. The purpose of this workshop was to sensitize media to their role in promoting women's reproductive rights in Nepal.



Prabesh Singh and Sujiti Srivastava conducted awareness programmes about reproductive health amongst school students and advocate for safe abortion amongst medical and para medical students. They organised a one day training programme each for school students from 9th and 10th classes of a boarding school and for medical / para medical students (see more:

https://www.facebook.com/youthcann/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1508408726122286).





Smriti Thapa's project 'Safe Abortion through Gender Lens' was aimed at sensitising medical professionals. The project reached 89 school students and 29 medical / paramedical students. Read Blog here: <http://asap-asia.org/blog/safe-abortion-through-gender-lens/>



Bidhya Basnet and Bonita Sharma's project aimed to sensitise Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV). They conducted sensitization program for FCHVs in collaboration with Ipas Nepal and government bodies. Watch video here: <https://youtu.be/mrZhk0rodwE>

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/PTFUERGrIv0>

Naureen Lalani conducted a study to assess knowledge and attitudes of media personnel around abortion and its impact on safe abortion service provision in Karachi, Pakistan.

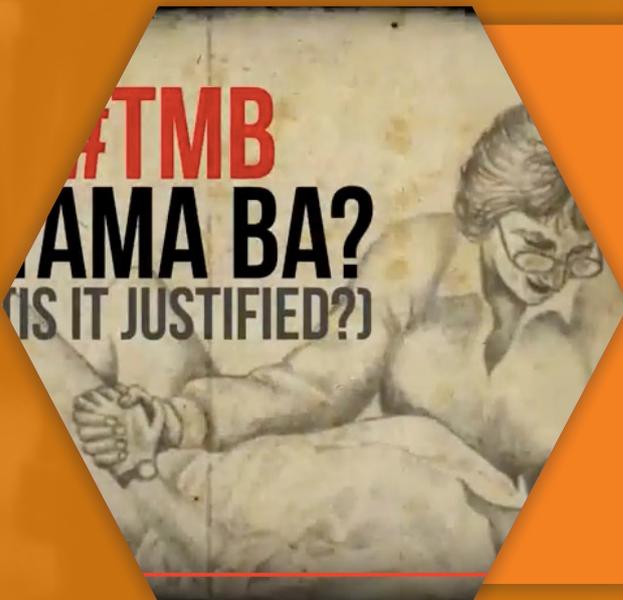
Neelam Punjani and Naureen conducted an advocacy workshop on “Safe Abortion as a Human Right” for health care providers that included nurses, midwives and lady health visitors. The objective was to sensitize them to see safe abortion through a rights based perspective. The workshop also included advocacy for including the topic of rights of women for safe abortion within the curriculum of nursing, midwifery and LHV programs.



Philippines



Sarah Jane Biton collaborated with local groups and mobilized post abortion care volunteers and safe abortion rights advocates by conducting Community Education Session (CES). The 19 CES in Philippines covered 223 adults and young people group.



Sarah Jane also used the grant to come up with short films on the situation with unsafe abortions and the attitude of the healthcare providers in her country. She and Lady Lisondra developed a documentary film on unsafe abortions and women's rights. It focuses on the plight of a woman trying to take care of an unwanted pregnancy in an environment where termination is illegal. The story highlights the helplessness of women, the risk of opting for clandestine methods and with denial of care for complications resulting in preventable morbidity and mortality amongst women. Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juPFcSR0XXY>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRMhoZPZOEU>



A group of Youth Champions of the Asia Safe Abortion and Young Peer Educators of Youth Peer Advocates Network (YPEER), Sri Lanka came together to form the Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka (YANSL). They conducted a national Think Tank on unsafe abortion and network building. The think tank had representation from medical profession, researchers, economists, journalists, lawyers, ministry and government, civil society organisations, national youth bodies and persons living with disability.

YANSL has also conducted a Youth Advocacy Institute in Colombo this year 13th-16th August 2016.

Sarah Soysa and Dakshitha Wickramaratne started a campaign on Facebook to provide visibility to SRHR issues. They produced a documentary that talks about the issue of safe abortion and the lack of information and stigma around it in Sri Lanka. The film was screened at the Beijing +20 film festival in Bangkok.

Its Her Right, a video prepared by Sarah Soysa , ASAP Youth Champion from Sri Lanka team was shown in the video festival and received compliments from Sri Lankan viewers as well as from various countries. In the Intergovernmental meeting she also got an exciting opportunity to speak in the opening ceremony for the ministerial meeting with three other amazing young women to tell their stories, reminding the governments what they promised and that they still have the responsibility to keep their word.



ASAP along with International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA) conducted a meeting on Preventing Unsafe Abortions on 26th November 2016 at Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University Bangkok, Thailand. Tunchanok Chutumstid helped organise the meeting which was attended by 25 university students along with local safe abortion activists.



Vietnam



San Minh Hoàng and Nguyen Thi Thao initiated, 3S (Smart, Sexy and Safe)-Valentinea communication campaign to raise awareness among young people about sexual rights and safe sex.

They also organised training for young people on interactive drama skills. Core group members and representatives from universities attended the training. At the end of the training 905 participants were found to have appropriate knowledge on gender, SRHR, contraceptive methods, access based on rights, counselling and communication skills.



A Group of Youth Champions from Vietnam along with our Steering Committee member have formed a local Youth Champions Network in Vietnam called 'The Vietnam Youth Action for Choice'. This network was recently set up and conducted its first Youth Advocacy Institute in September 2016.



RHRWG



सुरक्षित गर्भपतन नितान्त महिलाको अधिकार र चाहनाको बिषय हो ।

#IResistWePersist

#September28

28TH SEPTEMBER

#LeavingNoOneBehind
#IResistWePersist

"Hey... She is menstruating.
Why are you whispering? Say it loudly.
Yes, menstruation is normal and natural"

-
Jojief
Youth Advocate, YouthAID

INTERNATIONAL
SAFE ABORTION
DAY 2017



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ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP
Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion



When I resist,
we persist.
We are stronger
together in our fight
for access to safe
and legal abortion.

#IResistWePersist #LeaveNoOneBehind



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#IResistWePersist



“ TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE, LET’S GET OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONES, THINK, QUESTION, DEMAND ANSWERS & PERSEVERE!

- SURABHI
INDIA

**#ASAPCHANGEMAKERS
#BEBOLDFORCHANGE
#IWD2017**

www.asap-asia.org



Young women in **SRI LANKA** cannot be truly empowered until they can control their own bodies.



**#EVERYWOMANEVERYCOUNTRY
#MAY28**



ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP | WWW.ASAP-ASIA.ORG

#BUSTTHEMYTHS
THAT END UP
CRIMINALIZING
WOMEN WHO SEEK
ABORTIONS



Speak out against **#abortionstigma!**
#SEPT28





EVERYDAY HUNDREDS OF WOMEN & GIRLS ARE SUBJECTED TO HEALTH RISKS FROM UNSAFE ABORTION.

#May28 #WomensHealthMatters

Abortion is **black & white.** Women who need an abortion, should get safe abortion





The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership thanks



for their support in organizing this conference.

We also thank



for their support over the
last 10 years and beyond.





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