



# ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP

## QUARTERLY REPORT

JULY- SEPTEMBER 2020

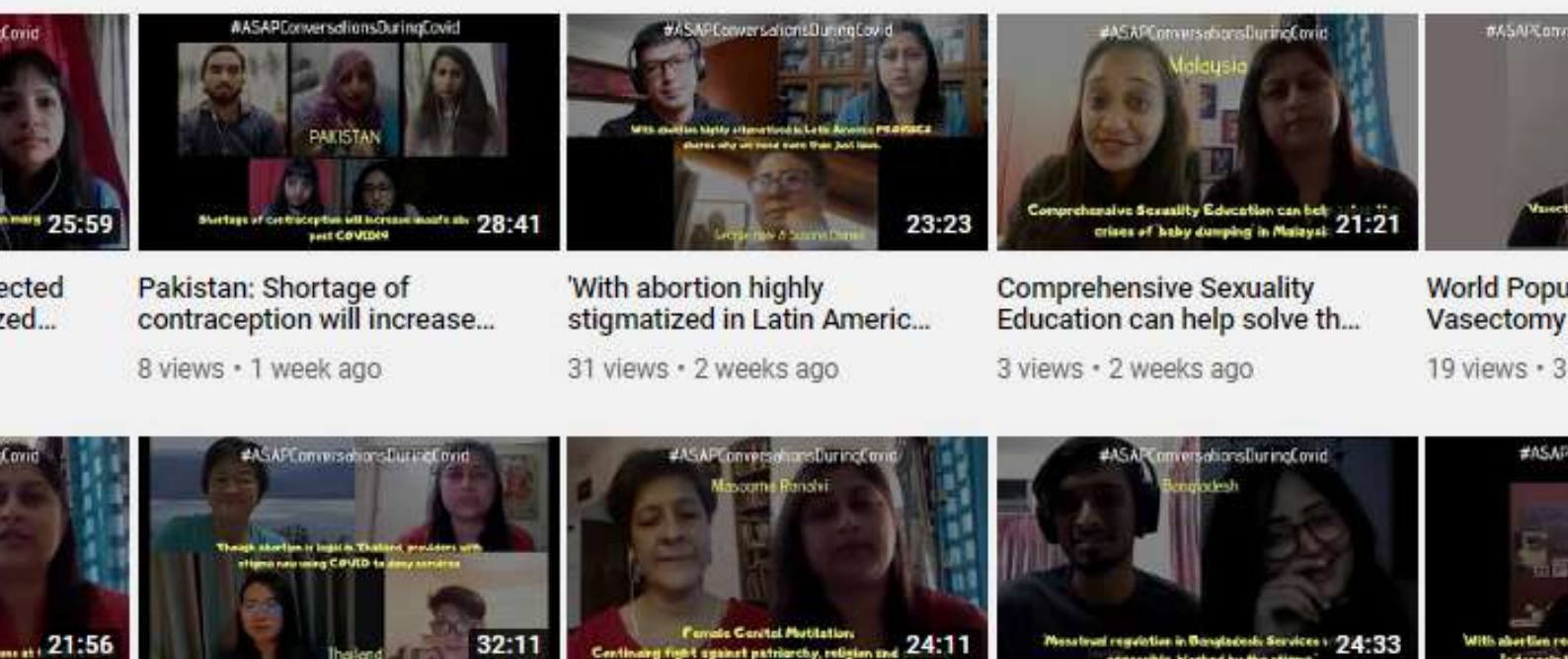
## INTRODUCTION

# GREETINGS FROM THE ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP!

Across the globe we have all been struggling these past few months, not only with the covid 19 pandemic but also with the collapse of health and welfare infrastructure that accompanied it.

In some countries Governments and political leaders added to the difficulties and troubles by insensitive and unjust policy and programmatic decisions, that unfairly affected vulnerable groups such as migrants, sex workers, women seeking safe abortion services.

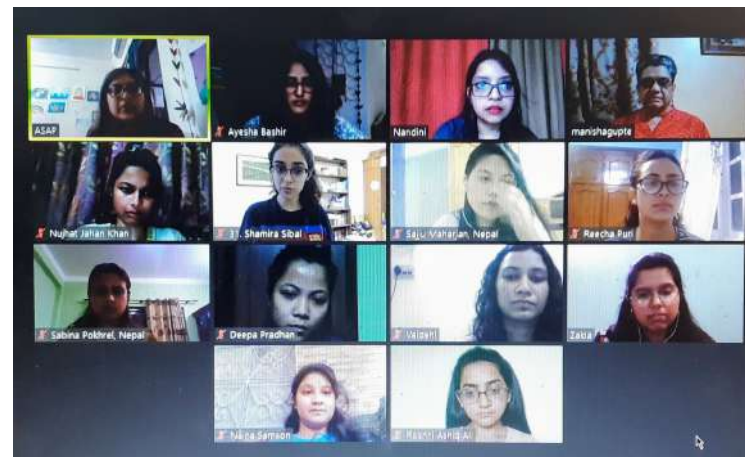
Although the virus is still active and the vaccine not yet ready, most countries have gone into their unlock phases in an attempt to recover the economy. In the meanwhile ASAP with our partners, Youth Champions and Country Advocacy Networks continued our advocacy of safe abortion access for everyone, under all circumstances-- pandemic or no pandemic. So do join us as we take you through the journey of our past quarter along with our brilliant partners and Youth Champions.



# ASAP ACTIVITIES

## 1st Online Regional Youth Advocacy Institute | ASAP | 18th July - 16th August.

This Youth Advocacy Institute was earlier scheduled to be held in Bangladesh, but due to COVID19 was converted to an online forum. The YAI saw participation from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal.



## Patriarchy 101

In September ASAP launched a series deep diving into the invisible and normalized framework of Patriarchy that starts affecting us from before we are even born right until the day we die. These conversations are excerpts from an interview conducted by Nandini Mazumder with Manisha Gupte, co- founder of Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM-an organization working for the past 32 years for women's rights in Pune, India) and Rola Yasmine, Founder of The A Project ( working on women's sexual and reproductive rights in Beirut, Lebanon.)

You can watch the videos by clicking on the pictures





## ASAP Conversations During Covid

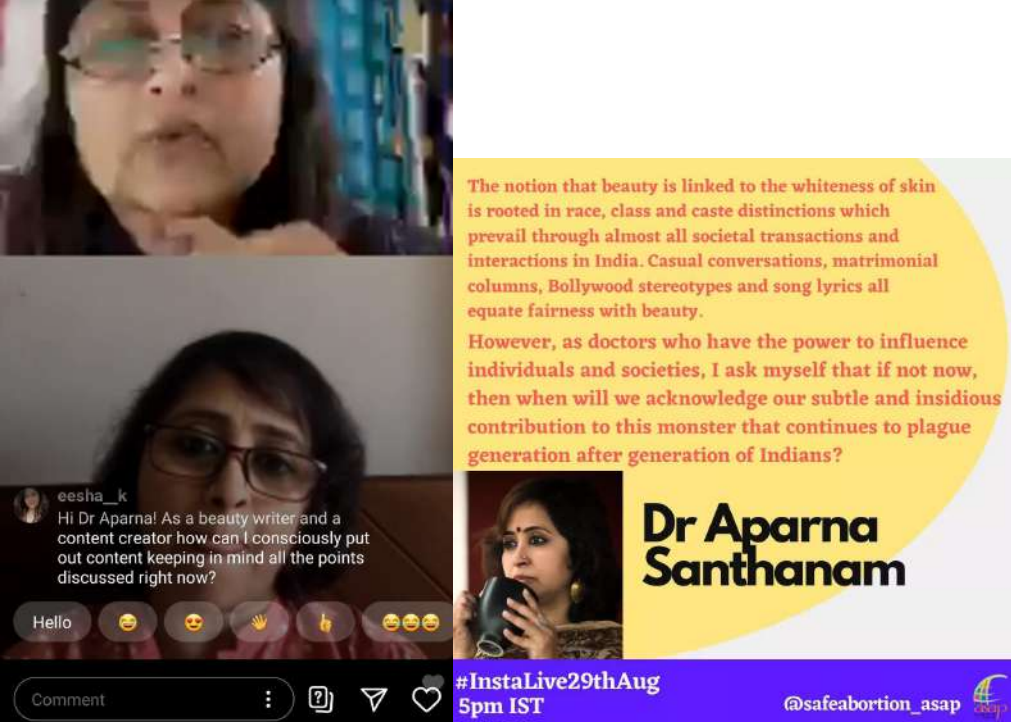
We launched this series in April with the aim to understand how the pandemic has affected safe abortion access for different countries and regions, and different communities, especially those who were already vulnerable and marginalized.

We spoke with Fara Rom from Malaysia Country Advocacy Network - For Youth Initiative Kuala Lumpur about the stereotypes and stigmas attached to abortion and reproductive health in the country. She shared how even before the pandemic, rising teenage pregnancies stemmed from the fact that the government or schools are reluctant to provide comprehensive sexuality education to all and instead focus on abstinence as the only method of birth control.



## First Insta Live on deconstructing beauty | 29th August

We held our first Instagram Live with Dr Aparna Santhanam who is a reputable dermatologist, cosmetologist, hair expert working in the field of beauty, health and wellness for over a decade and someone who describes herself as a 'a loud undefeated voice on non- invasive techniques and the need for working with a minimalist approach.' She along with Dr Dalvie held this live talk about the responsibility of people in the medical field to deconstruct notions of beauty while at the same time empowering someone who seeks it



The notion that beauty is linked to the whiteness of skin is rooted in race, class and caste distinctions which prevail through almost all societal transactions and interactions in India. Casual conversations, matrimonial columns, Bollywood stereotypes and song lyrics all equate fairness with beauty.

However, as doctors who have the power to influence individuals and societies, I ask myself that if not now, then when will we acknowledge our subtle and insidious contribution to this monster that continues to plague generation after generation of Indians?



**Dr Aparna Santhanam**

#InstaLive29thAug  
5pm IST

@safeabortion\_asap



## INTERNATIONAL SAFE ABORTION DAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER

#ICANMANAGE

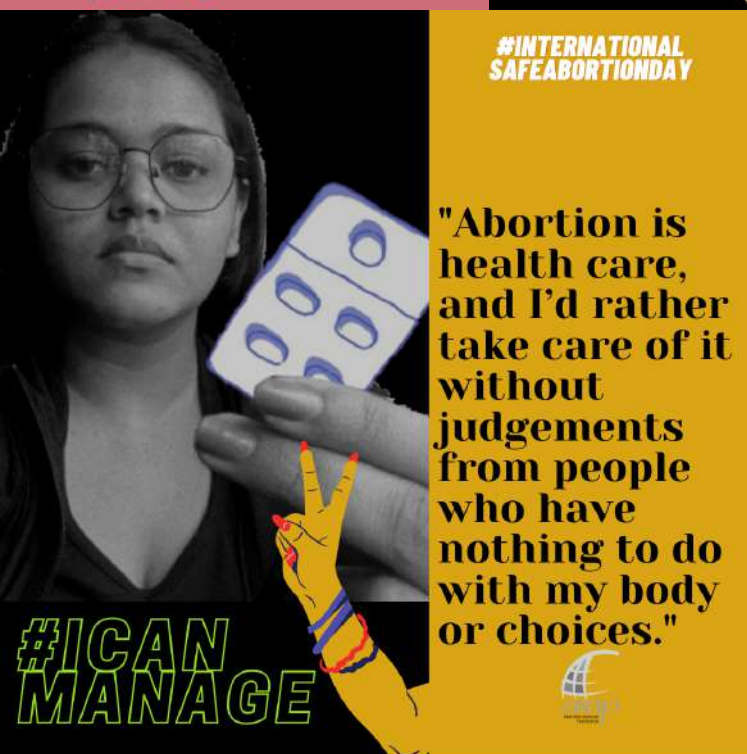
Celebrated across the world by reproductive rights and abortion rights activists & organizations, ASAP discussed and amplified the growing need of Self Managed Abortions across the world, especially in context of COVID19 and circumstances like the worldwide lockdown in 2020. Speaking truth to power were our Youth Champions across Asia with participation from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam who demanded the right to take decisions for their own bodies! Shared below are the images.

INTERNATIONAL  
SAFE ABORTION  
DAY 2020

#ICAN  
MANAGE



## Amazing campaign



You can view all pictures by clicking [here](#).

## Influencers talk about Safe Abortion!

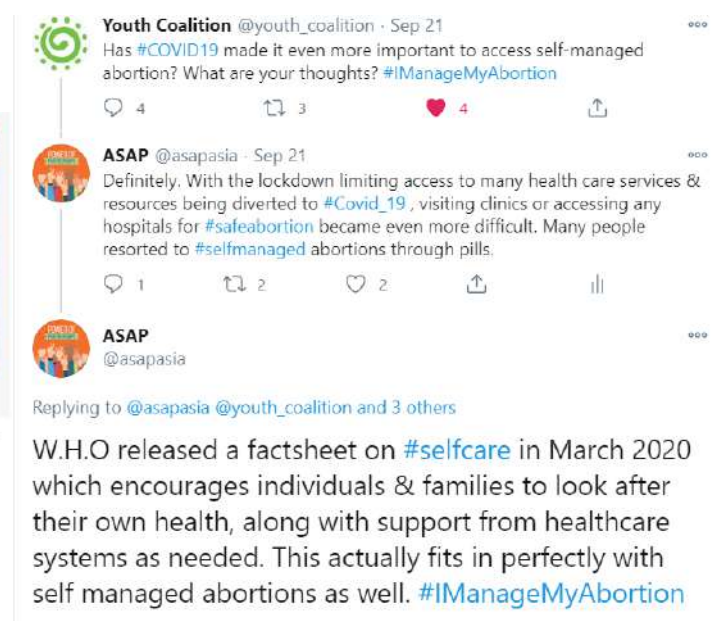
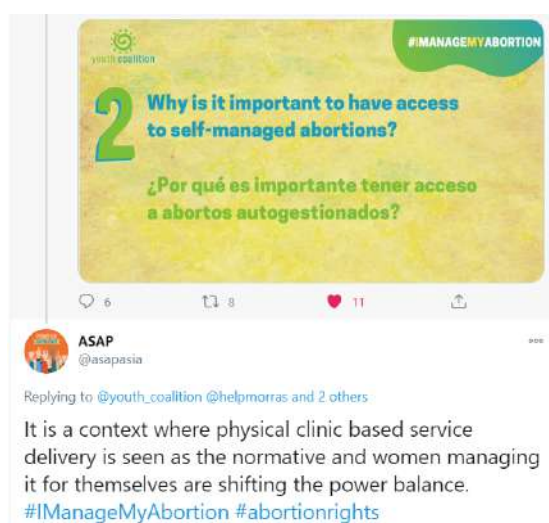
Even though having reproductive freedom brought about a revolutionary change for the feminist movement, even today there are women who die through unsafe, back alley abortions every day. All of this due to the stigma and myths regarding women's sexual and reproductive rights and choices. So in order to normalize safe abortion we collaborated with influencers like Esha Bahal and Aiman Sheikh on Instagram so that they too can share this information creatively with their followers. You can view the videos by clicking on the pictures.





## Tweet Chat with Youth Coalition | 20th September


In the lead-up to International Safe Abortion Day, Youth Coalition hosted a Twitter chat with expert panellists on self-managed abortions. Dr Dalvie was one of the panellists. Shared below are screenshots from the chat



## September 28th with Feminism in India


The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, earlier this year to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP), 1971. While the bill was supposed to be discussed in the Rajya Sabha, this has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.


The new bill has been deemed 'progressive' and 'liberal' by the government, but there are several issues with the proposed amendments as well. On International Safe Abortion Day FII and ASAP took a look at some of the issues with the MTP (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and why the new bill needs to have a rights-based approach to abortion and reproductive health. You can view all the pictures [here](#).




## THE MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020

The need for a rights-based approach to abortion and reproductive health.





- The Medical termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, earlier this year to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP), 1971.
- The bill was supposed to be discussed in the Rajya Sabha, but this has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- While the new bill has been deemed 'progressive' and 'liberal' by the government, there are several issues with the proposed amendments as well. Let's take a look at some of them.



THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT:	THE ISSUE WITH IT:
Aims to extend the period of allowed termination of pregnancy upto 20-24 weeks.	The new bill doesn't focus on the rights of the person who doesn't want to continue the pregnancy.
To terminate until 20 weeks, approval from one registered practitioner would be required, and between 20-24 weeks, approval of two medical practitioners would be needed.	A person still won't have the absolute right to terminate a pregnancy if they want to.

## #ArtWorkForAbortion | She Decides

ASAP as part of the regional network of She Decides connected them with All India Network of Sex Workers and Vikalp Sansthan from Rajasthan, India who submitted their brilliant artwork for #ArtworkForAbortion campaign for 28th September





# BLOGS

Over 1,000 baby-dumping cases from 2010 to May 2019, 64% died

NATION

Saturday, 03 Aug 2019 7:16 PM MYT

By Ashley Tang

ASAP Jul 10 • 5 min

**Teen Pregnancies and 'baby dumping' in Malaysia: We are failing t...**

I refer to the article: "Teen mum throws newborn from fourth floor flat, baby girl survives" published on May 13. In the first news, it wa...

5 views Write a comment

ASAP Jul 11 • 3 min

**'11 Thoughts On 11 July 2020 , World Population Day ' by Dr Suchitra Dalvie**

1: This day has been observed by the UN and its agencies since 1989. It was inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day on July 1...

16 views Write a comment

**PREGNANCIES**

According to a report provided by FRHS India, we can expect the following to occur as the pandemic continues as well as in the post-pandemic period:

- INCREASED DEMAND FOR STERILIZATION SERVICES
- INCREASED DEMAND FOR ABORTION SERVICES
- DECLINE IN CONTRACEPTIVE USAGE

Trigger Warning for Next Photo: Forced Pregnancies, Unsafe Abortion Complications

ASAP Jul 30 • 5 min

**The MTP 2020 Amendment Bill: anti-rights subjectivity**

In India, abortion has been allowed in limited circumstances since the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act 1971 was passed, creati...

3 views Write a comment

#ASAPConversationsDuringCovid

With Usha Choudhary

COVID19 has worst affected women from marginalized communities in rural India

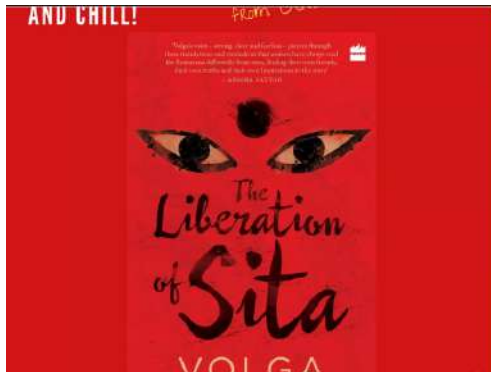
ASAP Aug 4 • 7 min

**Video Translation: COVID 19 has worst affected women from...**

As part of the series of ASAP Conversations we have been talking to our partners who are spread across the region and outside as well in ...

10 views Write a comment

# BLOGS



ASAP  Aug 5 • 3 min

## Volga's 'The Liberation of Sita'. Review by Aardra

The first time I took any active interest in Ramayana was in 9th grade. We were asked to study a one-act play called 'Raj Rani Sita' writ...

77 views · Write a comment



ASAP  Aug 22 • 5 min

## 'Freedom week musings.' By Nandini Mazumder

73 years ago, India and Pakistan was created, overthrowing two centuries of British colonial rule. Yet one wonders if the struggle for in...

27 views · Write a comment

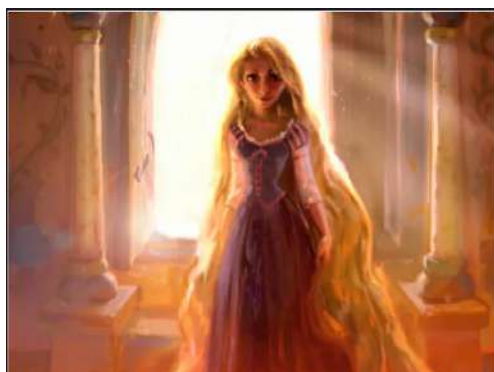


ASAP  Sep 10 • 3 min

## 'Is Parenting at the Root of all Inequalities?' By Naina Samson

One of the basis of all kinds of inequalities is culture and every culture emerges from parenting. Children inhabit cultural ecologies th...

119 views · Write a comment



ASAP  Sep 30 • 3 min

## 'Un- Becoming Rapunzel' by Sajju Maharjan

What comes to your mind when one says "Rapunzel"? Obviously, her beautiful long hair, isn't it? How should you feel when one calls you Ra...

51 views · Write a comment



# ONLINE WEBINARS

ASAP TEAM  
AS PANELIST

## **Rights Based Approach to Delivering Comprehensive SRH Services For All In The New Normal | UNFPA with Sri Lanka Medical Association | 26th July**

The annual conference of the SLMA had a focus on the need for comprehensive SRH services delivery applying equity in access, quality of care, without discrimination, accountability across implementation, what this would look like in the post-COVID context and create a policy dialogue that will inform and contribute to the larger advocacy on universal access to comprehensive SRHR service delivery through adopting a rights-based, inclusive, life-cycle approach for all in a normal and emergency/pandemic settings. ASAP Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie was one of the panellists and spoke about the critical need to address gender and sexism in medical education and clinical practise.

## **The Gender Politics of Medicine**

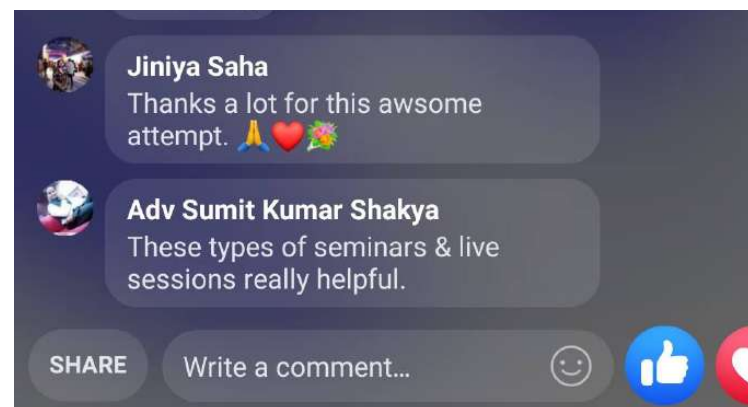
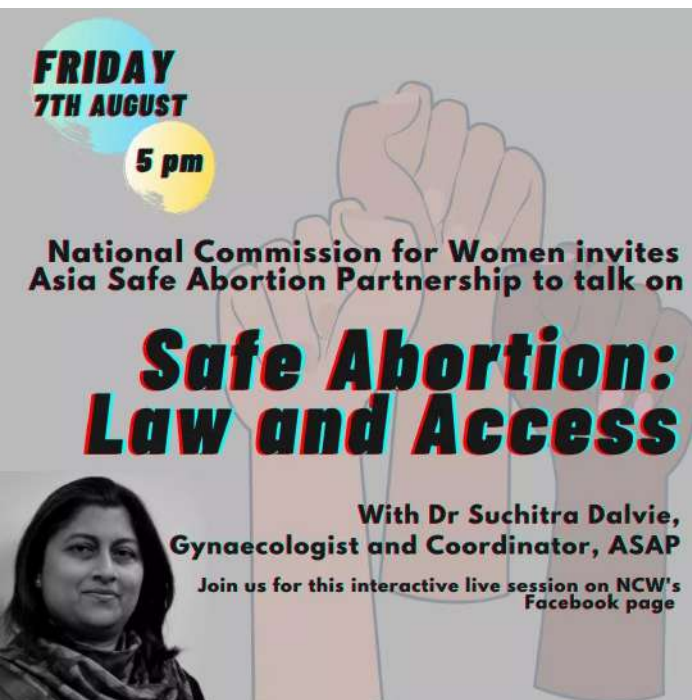


Dr Suchitra Dalvie MD, MRCOG (UK)  
Consultant Gynaecologist  
Coordinator ASAP



## Safe Abortion: Law and Access | Collaboration with National Commission for Women, India | 7th August

National Commission for Women in India invited ASAP to collaborate for a Facebook live to discuss the abortion laws in the country and the challenges people face in accessing safe abortion services despite it being legal in the country. You can watch the webinar [here](#).



## Access to Safe Abortion Care in South Asia amid COVID 19: Challenges and Opportunities | ASAP in collaboration with IPPF SARO, WHO, Guttmacher Institute | 13th August

COVID-19 has presented new challenges in access to safe abortion care in South Asia region. The webinar with its panel of experts from the region focussed on highlighting innovative approaches adopted by activists and organizations to combat its impact and use it as an opportunity alongside strategies for ensuring women can continue to access safe abortion services through telemedicine & harm reduction approaches..

### Meet The Speaker

Webinar On: Access to Safe Abortion Care in South Asia  
amid COVID-19 | Challenges and Opportunities



**Dr Suchitra  
Dalvie**

Co-founder and Coordinator of the  
Asia Safe Abortion Partnership

She leads safe abortion advocacy work of the network in the Asia region. Her work involves strategizing and implementing the online and off line programs and mentoring of the Youth Champions and the Country Advocacy Networks to create a movement for safe abortion rights. She has over 24 years of clinical experience and 20 years of development work experience. Dr Dalvie is a qualified and practicing Gynaecologist who is passionate about women's human rights and gender issues along with issues of social justice and equality.

Dr. Suchitra will discuss the models that meet women's needs and position self-care as part of a true continuum of abortion care, which includes access to non-judgmental and stigma-free abortion care. She will also facilitate a discussion with Women on Web (WoW) around harm reduction approach, telemedicine, online perceptions & web based solutions on safe abortion services.

## Alternatives and Innovative Approaches in Comprehensive Safe Abortion Care

Dr Suchitra Dalvie, MD, MRCOG  
Coordinator, Asia Safe Abortion Partnership



## Facebook Live on Safe Abortion Access | Rangeen Khidki with ASAP | 12th September

Leading up to the International Safe Abortion Day, Dr Suchitra Dalvie was invited by an organization working on raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights called Rangeen Khidki with primary focus on menstrual stigma, to talk about safe abortion access and challenges faced by women due to prevailing stigma and misconceptions around abortion rights despite it being legal in the country. You can view the full conversation [here](#).



## My Body My Voice:International Safe Abortion Day Briefing | Marie Stopes International | 28th September

On 28th September, MSI published an update on their annual My Body, My Voice report, launching new findings from interviews with over 1,800 women who accessed a safe abortion service with MSI. .

### The Political Significance of Self Managed Abortion



Dr. Suchitra Dalvie MD, MRCOG



Given the focus of this year's International Safe Abortion Day on self-managed abortions, the briefing included presentations on how we can support self-administration safely, including via pharmacy provision and accompaniment models. Dr Suchitra Dalvie was one of the speakers and spoke about the political significance of self-managed abortions

### **APCRSHR10 Virtual-8: Safe abortion and SRHR in Asia Pacific | APCRSHR10 | 28th September**

In the wake of COVID 19 the APCRSHR10 was transferred to fortnightly virtual sessions. On 28th September, Dr Dalvie was invited as a plenary speaker where she talked about the "Abortion and Reproductive Justice: The Unfinished Revolution"

**ASAP TEAM  
AS PARTICIPANT**

### **Abortion Laws in India: Perspectives from the margins | CHLET and The Y P Foundation | 1st July.**

The webinar focused on abortion laws and adolescents. As per the Protection of Child Sexual Offenses (POCSO) people below 18 cannot have consensual sex and any sexual activity is deemed as statutory rape against the girl and the accused in the boy or the male partner. This often hinders young people who are sexually active and have become pregnant from accessing services out of fear, shame, stigma and the possibility of criminalization. The webinar was attended by Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder.

### **Biopolitics & COVID 19 Pandemic: Feminist Perspective DAWN | 2nd July**

Attended by Nandini, this was one of the most informative webinars and shared below are some important points

- Gita Sen shared about how India handled the small pox epidemic - how people were paid to report on cases that ultimately led to eradication. The same strategy was used for the sterilization program during the emergency under Indira Gandhi which continues to haunt India's public health and family planning program till today.

- Sonia Correa - Revisited Foucault in the context of the pandemic (the failure of the western modernity). She also spoke of the normalization of regressive ideas of gendered norms or race superiority during the pandemic – she drew a parallel of the western race hegemonies with the way India is demonizing Muslims in the context of COVID19 which is similar to how the blacks are being treated in the USA.
- Gloria reminded us the plight of those engaged in informal economy or low paid jobs, such as, sexual workers and other informal low economic workers who are impacted adversely due to the pandemic and the way governments have dealt with the situation without any empathy.



## **Sexual And Reproductive Justice Webinar |People's Health Coalition South Africa | 23rd July**

The panel included, Dudu Dlamini from Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Taskforce /Mothers for the Future, Sharon Cox from the Triangle Project, Kgaladi Mphahele from Doctors Without Borders/MSF Southern Africa and Facilitator, Marion Stevens from Sexual and Reproductive Justice Coalition – SRJC. The webinar focussed learning from the perspectives of sex workers, clinical providers of contraception and abortion services, queer health services and responses as well as the sharing of experiences of compounded marginalisation. The closing remarks were made by Sr Judy Ranape RH trainer and manager in the W Cape. Please find the link to their Facebook page here for more information.

## Sex Ratio at Birth in India-Recent Trends and Patterns | United Nations Population Fund | 30th July

This webinar organized by the UNFPA left a lot to think about and critique. As a follow up ASAP organized a consultation on 4th August with a select group of activists and organizations. The purpose of the consultation was to deliberate on the findings presented at the UNFPA webinar and formulate an action plan. Some of the key points discussed were:

- Lack of clarity in the data usage: The UNFPA report data was sourced from CRS or birth registrations, SRS or continuous registrations, Census data of 2001 and 2011 with information from 2004 to 2011 or 7 years, NFHS and HMIS. The last one is only from rural India and the NFHS is probably the most comprehensive of all the sources. The report uses all these sources to estimate the sex ratio at birth in India and in other words the findings shared in the report are all estimates that can be debated further. There is a difference between sex ratio (between 0 to 6 years of age) and sex ratio at birth (0) but the UNFPA data has clubbed the two together without any explanation.
- Lack of clarity in the data analysis: The report does not explain if sex ratio is the most critical indicator of the gender discrimination. The report puts the focus of Gender Based Sex Selection (GBSS) on female fetuses and the scrutiny over them. It fails to clarify that the PCPNDT only talks about sex determination – therefore, those who find out it that the foetus is male and continue the pregnancy are also violating the Act. The usage of the phrase “missing girls” is problematic and personifies the foetus and is extremely anti-choice. How does one make sense of aborted fetuses in this context as all of them are missing birth?
- Usage of language: There was a mention of “marriage squeeze” in a conversation around women’s rights when marriage itself is a patriarchal construct with not much value for the woman –it incorporates problematic patriarchal practices such as dowry, marital rape, unequal inheritance, loss of career and education opportunities for women, child marriages, rape, violence etc. which adversely affect a woman.
- Lacking a feminist approach: While questioning the heteronormativity, there is a need to also question the gender binaries being used as a norm. The report mentioned dowry repeatedly but does not state that dowry is illegal in India. The report does not mention that abortion is legal in India



# PUBLICATIONS

## Medical Abortion Guidance Publication | Gynuity Health Projects and CEDES

Gynuity Health Projects and CEDES led the development of a Guidance for Providers Offering Misoprostol-Alone for Abortion Amidst COVID-19. This resource is for providers who have access to Misoprostol to ensure that safe medical abortion can still be offered during the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with social distancing practices. The guidance reviews the steps of providing Misoprostol medical abortion and makes evidence-based recommendations for limiting contact and reducing in-person visits. It was produced in collaboration with ASAP, CLACAI, REDAAS and Women Help Women.

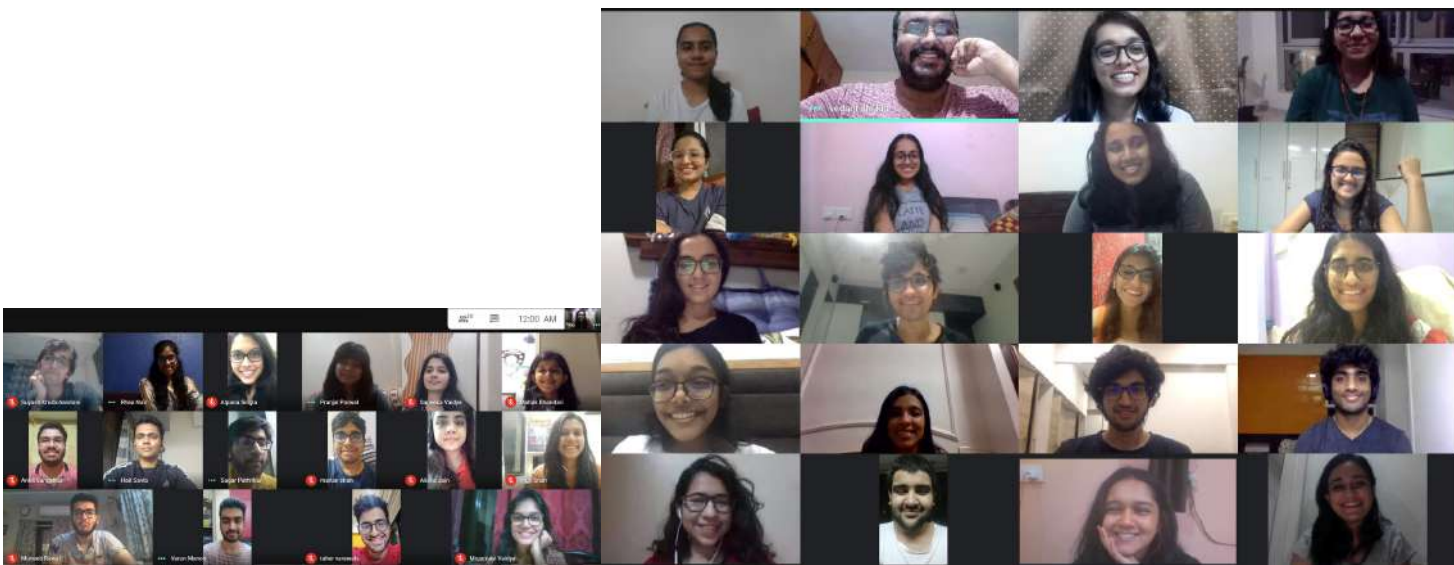


# CAN ACTIVITIES

INDIA - INDIA SAFE  
ABORTION YOUTH  
ADVOCATES (ISAY)

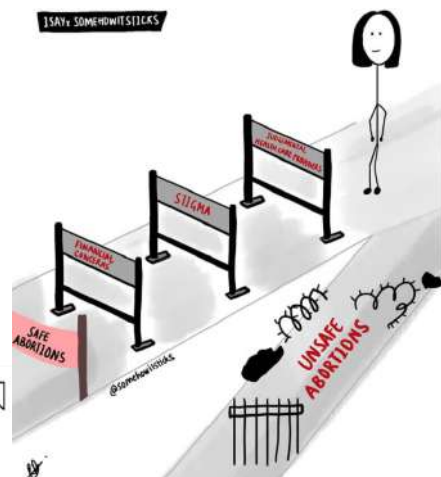
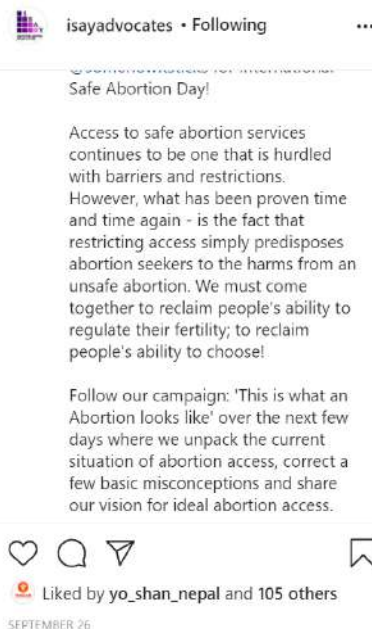
## The Abortion Curriculum | India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates |

TAC is an initiative by ISAY, which is rights-based, certificate-elective to establish an abortion-sensitive approach among medical students in Maharashtra, India . It comprises of a multilevel intervention beginning with an initiation abortion sensitization workshop – followed by a continual form of learning. In the last quarter they completed their 10 sessions which were attended by 147 medical students from more than 19 different medical colleges across the state of Maharashtra in India.



## International Safe Abortion Day | This is what an abortion looks like | 28th September

This campaign was launched by ISAY in collaboration with a participant from their TAC workshop, who runs an Instagram page called Somehow it Sticks, to unpack the current situation of abortion access in India, correct misconceptions and sharing a vision for ideal abortion access.

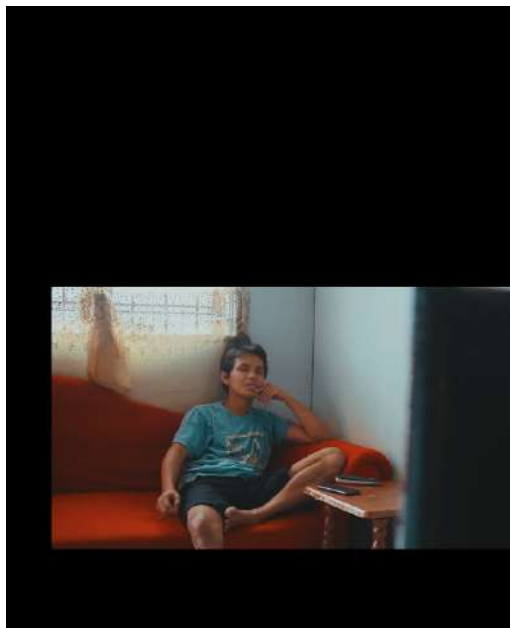


**MALAYSIA - FOR YOUTH  
INITIATIVE KUALA  
LUMPUR (FYIKL)**

## #GugurkanStigma Workshop 2.0 | FYIKL with Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance | 19th July

This workshop was designed to sensitize crew members who were involved in filming 3 short stories that were submitted and selected from Abort The Stigma event held in 2019. The workshop consisted of 5 sessions conducted by RRAAM, ASAP, FYIKL and a movie director. Dr Dalvie represented ASAP and was accompanied by Ayesha Susan Thomas who's an alumni Youth Champion and celebrated theater practitioner from India. You can watch the short stories by clicking on the images below





fyi\_kl • Follow



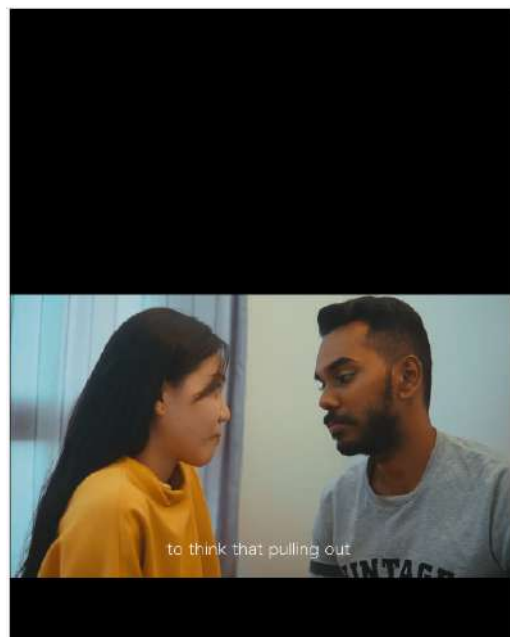
fyi\_kl \*\*TW: Abortion [XY - Episode 2]

"What if...?"

XY is a video project by FYIKL on the issue of abortion with the support of RRAAM & ASAP in conjunction with International Safe Abortion Day (28th September).

Watch, Like and Share this video to #AbortTheStigma on Safe Abortion in Malaysia!

Follow FYIKL on Twitter:  
<https://twitter.com/fyiKL>  
Like FYIKL on FaceBook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/fyiKL>



fyi\_kl • Follow



fyi\_kl \*\*TW: Abortion [XY - Episode 1]

"What if...?"

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fyi\_kl \*\*TW: Abortion [XY - Episode 3]

4w



wylfred 🥰🥰🥰



4w 1 like Reply

— View replies (1)



uvaunfiltered13 Pro-choice forever 🙋



4w 1 like Reply

— View replies (1)

## NEPAL - YOUTH LED SRHR ADVOCACY NETWORK (YOSHAN)

### Virtual discussion on SRHR effects during pandemic | YoSHAN with LOOM Nepal | 21st July

WHO has urged countries around the world to respect women's choices and rights to SRH care, regardless of COVID-19 status. YoSHAN joined hands with LOOM in organizing the panel discussions with the objective, by connecting the experts who have been active in the field of sexual and reproductive health for a long time with their expertise and suggestions through online medium.

The poster is titled "Virtual Discussion on SRHR effects during Pandemic" and features logos for YoSHAN and "RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW". It lists the following participants:

- Moderator:** Ursula Singh, LOOM (with a photo).
- Panelists:**
  - Bimala B.K, Youth Representative from Parliament (with a photo).
  - Dr Rajendra Bhadra, SRHR Expert/CSO (with a photo).
  - Durga Sapkota, Youth Advocate on SRHR (with a photo).

At the bottom, it states: "On Zoom and live on FB", "Meeting ID: 938 3096 1423", and "Tuesday, 21st July 2020 11:00 am".

### International Youth Day 2020 | YoSHAN with Family Planning Association of Nepal and Bhaktapur Youth Information Forum | 12th August

YoSHAN collaborated with these organizations to conduct a TikTok video contest in celebration of International Youth Day 2020. The video contests invited a TikTok video submission for young people on the theme "Youth Engagement for Global Action" or on Sexual and Reproductive health rights or comprehensive sexuality education issues. They received nearly 12 videos on various issues.

## Cut and Action! | YoSHAN | August

YoSHAN launched this campaign as a part of their social media activism in the month of August. They selected various scenes from popular Nepali movies and developed a dialogue between characters in the issues related to consent, sex, contraceptives and abortion.



INTERNATIONAL SAFE ABORTION  
DAY | 28TH SEPTEMBER

## Blog Series

YoSHAN for the month of September encouraged their youth champions from different cohorts to send their creative writings in form of blogs, articles, interviews, experiences, stories and poems delivering messages on Abortion is an Essential service in pandemic like COVID19. They received 15 blogs which were posted on their social media.

## Global Gag Rule and COVID19

### All Going To Be OK



Ms. Lirisha Tuladhar is our Youth Champion. Ms. Tuladhar is a passionate activist who works in women's right to safe and legal abortion service. Lirisha puts her writing into beautiful words to celebrate the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion.



Start writing or type / to choose a block

We had fallen in love...

Madly ... Deeply. Truly.



YoSHAN's co-founder Ms. Shreejana Bajracharya on the occasion of September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion shares her thoughts on how Global Gag Rule is affecting women in the pandemic COVID19.

Nepal has been adversely effected by the expansion of Global Gag Rule, now we are hit by a pandemic where sexual and reproductive health rights are ignored. Our healthcare system has been negatively impacted by the Global Gag Rule to expand the availability of health care services, created major funding gaps, halted the work of US-funded programs, dissolved collaborative partnerships, and silenced the voices of civil society organizations. The Global Gag Rule has



## **Animated Videos on Safe Abortion during COVID19 | YoSHAN with LOOM Nepal and Right Here Right Now Network**

The organizations together developed a script on safe abortion service availability and accessibility amidst of the pandemic. This video talked about the safe abortion laws in Nepal and where people who need abortion services can go to have quality and safe service.

### **Video Contest**

YoSHAN in September launched a video contest that promoted factual information about safe abortion. The important objective of this contest was to raise awareness on safe abortion as a human right and healthcare service.



## **Abortion is an essential service during COVID19 | Reproductive Health Right Working Group**

RHRWG organized this panel discussion where YoSHAN was invited as a panellist to provide insights on impact of COVID on young people and their activism towards ending abortion stigma.

## Meet and Greet with Youth Champions

There are around 75 youth champions in Nepal and due to extended lockdown the team was not able to meet in person and share updates on issues that we are fighting together. This was an informal meeting where YoSHAN encouraged youth champions to come -up with poems, songs and write-ups and share with the team.



## Safe Abortion Sessions

YoSHAN was approached by a youth from Rupendehi to facilitate a session on sexual and reproductive health rights for his youth group. Mr. Tara Puri started his SRHR journey as peer educator in the Family Planning Association of Nepal who realized the need of the youth for in-depth information on SRHR. YoSHAN led the session on safe abortion and orient the young people from Rupendehi on Safe Abortion is Human Right. There were 50 young people who participated in the online session.

## **Podcast on Viewing Safe Abortion Through A Gendered Lens**

YoSHAN reached out to Good Health, an initiative on social media to educate people on various aspects of health through inspirational stories. Recently, they aired their podcast on Sexual and Reproductive Health where issue of abortion was also discussed. YoSHAN on realizing the information on abortion was more through technical aspect they contacted them to work in collaboration for a podcast dedicated to safe abortion through gender lens. Core team member Anjila Thapa joined the Good Health team and recorded a podcast to discuss more on Safe Abortion with human right aspect. The podcast has 15,293+ views on Instagram.

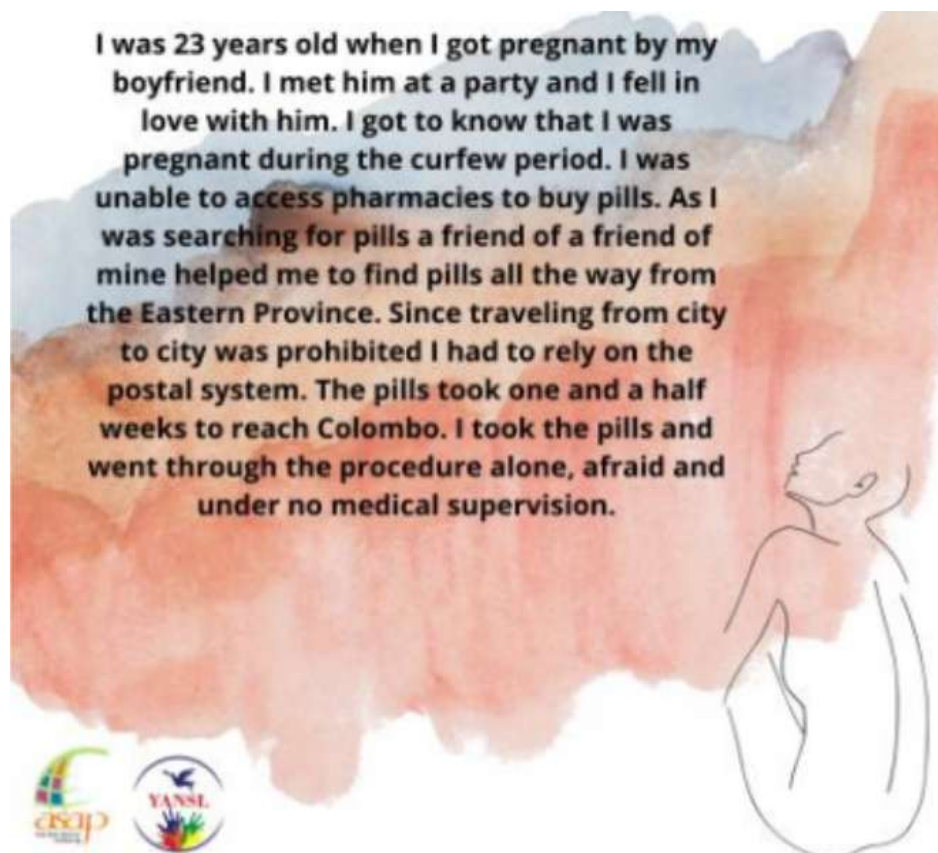




**ONGOING PROJECTS**

**Phase 03 - Historical and Political Trajectory of Legalizing Safe Abortion in Sri Lanka**

Phase three of the project was conducted and finalized during the past quarter. In this phase the project coordinators: Desaree Soysa and Tharindi Devasurendra collected five stories of unplanned pregnancies that were recorded during the lockdown period. These stories were also documented as blogs and social media posts in all the three major languages of Sri Lanka.



## ONGOING PROJECTS

### We Hear You

Project We Hear You is another major ongoing project conducted by Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka. Currently a website is being developed which will include data and information on sexual and reproductive health and rights and the website will also be friendly for people living with hearing disabilities.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS AND ON-GROUND PROJECTS

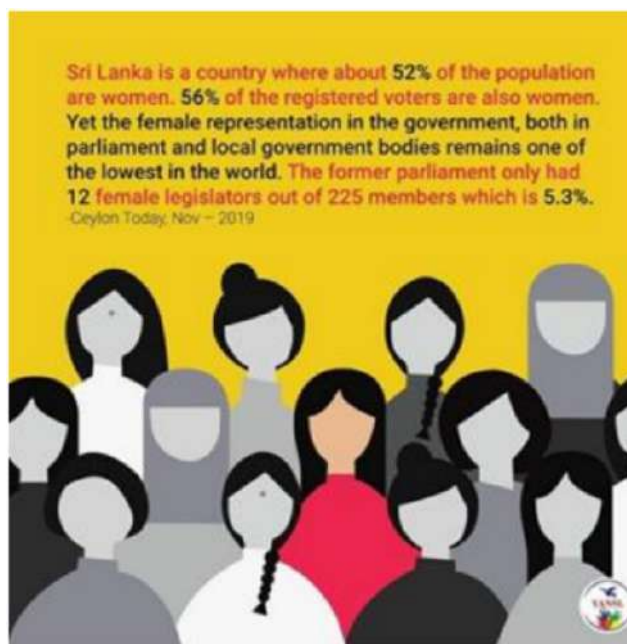
### Comprehensive Sexuality education.

In July YANSL conducted a social media campaign to raise awareness on comprehensive sexuality education. In these posts the common myths surrounding CSE were addressed in relation to statistical data and information.



## The Ministerial Election.

The ministerial election was held in August and a social media campaign was carried out to encourage women to vote. The importance of an individual's vote to bring positive change in the society and most importantly a positive change in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights was highlighted



## World Day against Trafficking of Persons.

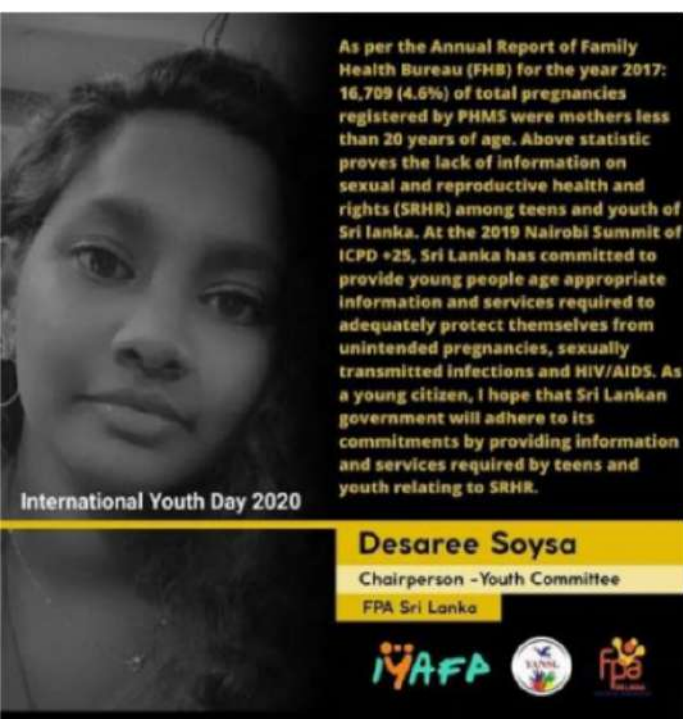
World Day against Trafficking of Persons falls on the 30th of July. On this day YANSL shared several posts to raise awareness on the issue both inside and outside the country as well as its legal consequences.





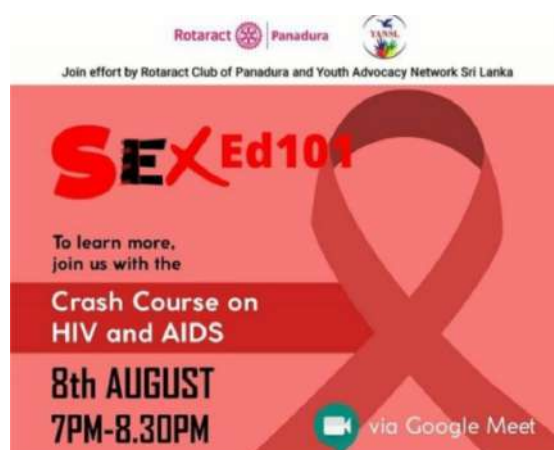
## International Youth Day | YANSL with Family Planning Association of India | 12th August

The International Youth Day falls on the 12th of August each year. YANSL partnered with Family Planning Association (FPA) of Sri Lanka and International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (IYAFA) for an online social media campaign. Youth members from the three organizations shared their thoughts on the topic youth engagement for the global action”.



## Sex Ed 101 Rotaract Club of Panadura with YANSL | 8th August

Sex Ed 101 is a project carried out by the Rotaract Club with YANSL. On 8th of August a webinar was conducted on the topic HIV and AIDS and the project was facilitated by Priskila Arulpragasm and Shelani Palihawadane of Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka.



## **International Safe Abortion Day | 28th September**

Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka conducted a social media campaign to advocate on the issue of unsafe abortions in Sri Lanka and across Asia.



## **Sexuality and Prevention of Sexual Violence | YANSL with The Foundation Institute for Sustainable Development**

Desaree Soysa from Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka conducted the sessions for children that were categorized into three groups according to their age. Two groups with children below the age of eleven years and one group with children between eleven to eighteen years. The sessions were conducted in Rambewa located in the district of Anuradhapura.



## **10th Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**

YANSL actively participated in the series of webinars conducted from July-September 2020 to commemorate the 10th APCRSHR. The topics that were discussed includes; Addressing Barriers to Accelerate progress on SHR in Asia Pacific, Accelerating Rights and Choices for all in a post-COVID Asia and Pacific and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Pacific.

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**THANK YOU!**

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