

ASIA SAFE
ABORTION
PARTNERSHIP

HALF-YEARLY REPORT

JANUARY - JUNE
2023



GREETINGS FROM ASAP!

2023 Started on a great note as we celebrate the 15th year anniversary of ASAP this year! We marked this celebration by announcing the Abortion and Reproductive Justice Conference: An Unfinished Revolution IV, which will be organized by us in Bangkok, Thailand in February 2024.

If you are interested in attending or finding out more, do check out our [website](#) and sign up for a monthly update newsletter!



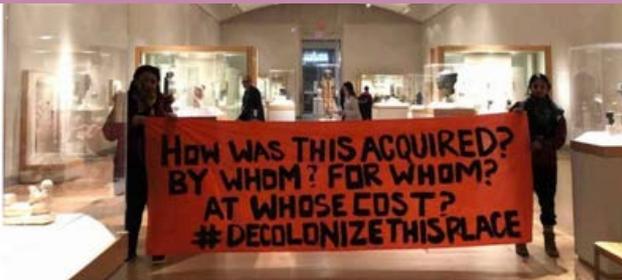
ASAP ACTIVITIES

ASAP LEARNING RETREAT | 27TH JANUARY | ONLINE

As part of building our organizational effectiveness ASAP undertook an initiative in 2021 called the 'ASAP Learning Retreat'. This space was created initially by the ASAP team for internal learning, but over the years has been opened up to our Country Advocacy Networks and other partners as well. These retreats are focused on encouraging self-learning within the team and building our capacity as advocates.

In this session we discussed the following issues:

- Decolonizing - understanding the process and purpose by Dr. Suchitra Dalvie
- Colonization and how it affected sexual practices by Ayesha Bashir
- History and Evolution of Belly Dancing by Nandini Mazumder



Decolonize this Place activists stand in the Egyptian galleries of an art museum with a banner questioning and protesting the museum's continued ownership and display of artifacts.



Decolonizing dance – towards revisiting, redefining, reclaiming belly dancing or 'Raqs Shargi'
ASAP Team Learning Retreat
27th January 2023

Sexuality as a marker of ethnic identity – John Millar expanding Adam Smith's Theory

- John Millar expanded Adam Smith's theory of economics to include sexuality as a marker of ethnic identity, by which ideologically constructed races of the world were determined as more or less advanced based on European standards of sexuality.
- The classification of the world's races into a hierarchy can be traced back to Carl Linnaeus's *Systema Naturae* (The System of Nature)



ASAP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING | 3RD FEB | ONLINE

ASAP organized a Steering Committee (SC) meeting with new members from Australia, China, Pakistan, South Korea, and Sri Lanka.



15 YEARS OF ASAP | 3RD - 18TH MARCH | ONLINE

This year on 18th March, ASAP completed 15 years of advancing SRHR and safe abortion rights in Asia. From 3rd to 18th March we ran a 15-day campaign on our social media, revisiting some important milestones of our work as well as moments of our journey along with our brilliant Youth Champions, partners and allies.

#ASAPTurns15



Looking
back
at



15
YEARS

Of advancing SRHR and safe abortion rights in Asia.

#ASAPTurns15



CHOICE AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Published in 2012



“Choice” is not bereft of a moral force, but simply unapologetic. It delivers absolute power in the hands of a woman: grants her unequivocal rights over her body, and allows her to choose the course of her own reproductive life.

#ASAPTurns15



FROM UNWANTED PREGNANCIES TO SAFE ABORTION

Published in 2013



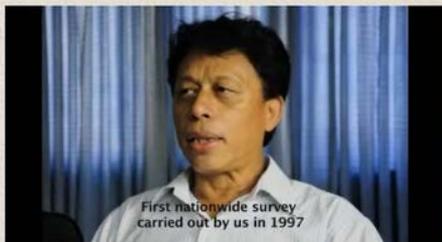
This video showed the various social and legal barriers that women seeking abortion in Asia face & unfortunately the reality hasn't changed much. Over the years we released this video with Sinhalese, Nepalese, Hindi, Vietnamese & Arabic subtitles.

#ASAPTurns15



Decriminalisation of Abortion in Nepal Part 1

Published in 2012



Decriminalization of Abortion in Nepal - Part 1

In this Interview, Dr. Anand Tamang, director of CREHPA Nepal, talked about the situation before abortion was decriminalized. He elaborates the stories of the women who were arrested and prosecuted for seeking terminations.

#ASAPTurns15



Decriminalisation of Abortion in Nepal Part 2

Published in 2012



Decriminalization of Abortion in Nepal - Part 2

Here Adv. Sapana Pradhan Malla of Nepal reveals the legal battles fought to make abortions legal in Nepal.

Nepal has been one of the most inspiring examples for Asia, which shows what sustained feminist activism can lead to.

#ASAPTurns15



Young China Needs More Information About Pregnancy and Abortion

Published in 2013



"The "normalization" of abortion as a method of contraception causes high rate of repeat abortions. These may not always however be safe, even though abortion is legal and available in China "

It was in November 2013 when China relaxed it's one child policy, allowing couples to have two kids but conditionally.

#ASAPTurns15



The Female Migrant Worker: What Are Her Reproductive Rights

Published in 2013



Published in 2013, this blog gave a nuanced perspective of the barriers particularly faced by the one of the most vulnerable women across the world - The female migrant worker.

Over the years we've tried to have various conversations with members from the community to truly understand their challenges & how can we support them

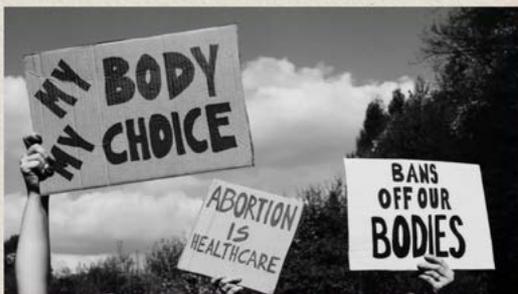
#ASAPTurns15

#ASAPTurns15



Abortion Narratives: Stories and Testimonials

Published in 2012



ASAP partners & allies on 28th September 2012, shared some thought provoking testimonials as they tried to highlight how much access to safe abortion is related to stigmatizing the freedom to reproductive choices.

10 years later similar patriarchal ideologies prevail, seriously risking lives of various individuals.

The Drop

Published in 2016



The Drop

At that time in Bangladesh, an estimated 572,000 women suffered complications from unsafe abortion, but only 40% of those who need treatment actually receive care from a facility.

This powerful documentary made by our Youth Champion from Bangladesh highlighted the complications women face in accessing services.

ANNOUNCING THE 'ABORTION & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE IV THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION' | 18TH MARCH | ONLINE

At the culmination of our 15- year celebration, we were delighted to announce the upcoming Abortion and Reproductive Justice Conference IV: 'The Unfinished Revolution', which will be hosted by ASAP.

This conference was initiated in Canada at the University of Prince Edward Island and has since then been hosted by Ulster University, Northern Ireland, and Rhodes University, South Africa. This conference aims to bring together academicians and activists and provide a forum for shared learning and strategizing as well as networking on the issues of abortion and reproductive justice.

Reproductive Justice is a theory and framework created by 12 Black women in 1994 to address the multitude of oppressions impacting their lives, and how they intersect and overlap.



Intersectionality is a term coined by attorney Kimberle' Crenshaw which states that people have different life experiences and opportunities based on how identity categories, such as race, class, gender, and sexuality, interact with each other. Reproductive justice explains how people oppressed by their intersectional identities also experience higher levels of reproductive oppression.

This means that it is often harder for oppressed people to access healthcare because of factors such as education, income, geographic location, immigration status, and potential language barriers.

We at ASAP are honored to carry on the legacy of this important conference, bring the conversation to Asia & create a space that is safe, feminist, political & addresses region specific barriers to abortion & reproductive justice, in context of our post- colonial & very diverse lives.

Watch this video of ASAP partners coming together to welcome everyone to the conference



Introducing The Abortion & Reproductive Justice Conference 2024

Throughout this year we will be releasing information about the conference on our social media. In order to stay regularly updated you can register on the ARJC website for more on the themes, venue, registrations..

FOS FEMINISTA PARTNERS MEETING | 21ST FEBRUARY | MUMBAI

ASAP and our country advocacy network India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates organized an in- person meeting with one of our donors - Fos Feminista. It was an important catch-up as we discussed not just our future plans but possible strategies that can lead us towards helping shape the Global South Feminist leadership landscape.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY | 8TH MARCH 2023

As part of our 15 Year celebration, this International Women's Day we looked back at all of ASAP's previous online campaigns which were contributed & organized over the years by our brilliant_Youth Champions from across_Asia and the globe!

Join us down this powerful memory lane!

#ASAPTurns15 

It's Her Right
2013



One of our first photo campaigns, was led by our Youth Champions from Sri Lanka where many young people unapologetically demanded the right to safe abortion

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ASAP Myth Buster Superheroes

2015



ASAP Youth Champions came together in 2015 to bust myths and stigmas that limit access to safe abortion services

#ASAPTurns15

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Save Women Not Monuments

2016



In 2016 ASAP #YouthChampions called upon their governments to recognize that women have needed to and have had abortions for longer than these world famous monuments exist

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Abortion Is Black and White

2016



ASAP Youth Champions took to social media in 2016 to amplify that safe abortion should neither be conditional nor based on the reasons for abortion. It is a right every person has over their bodies.

#ASAPTurns15

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ASAP Change Makers

2017



ASAP Youth Champions have always been change makers in their small and big ways. So in 2017 they shared with us how they're challenging status quo and changing things for the better, one step at a time.

#ASAPTurns15

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Every Woman Every Country

2017



#EVERYWOMANEVERYCOUNTRY
#MAY28

ASAP has always emphasized the need to look at individuals not just as statistics for a country, but as human beings who should have full control over their bodies and decisions

#ASAPTurns15



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ASAP has always emphasized the need to look at individuals not just as statistics for a country, but as human beings who should have full control over their bodies and decisions

#ASAPTurns15



I Make History

2019



#IMakeHistory when I openly talk what we are told not to talk about!

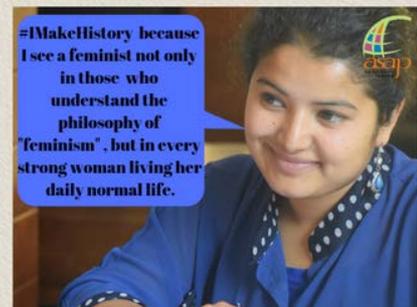
As part of Women's History month celebrated each year, ASAP YCs told their stories and how they are making history each day by challenging stereotypes & stigma around them.

#ASAPTurns15



I Make History

2019



#IMakeHistory because I see a feminist not only in those who understand the philosophy of "feminism", but in every strong woman living her daily normal life.

As part of Women's History month celebrated each year, ASAP YCs told their stories and how they are making history each day by challenging stereotypes & stigma around them.

ASAP AS PANELLIST

FOS FEMINISTA PARTNER FORUM | 28TH - 29TH MARCH | ONLINE

This partner forum was an initiative designed by Fos Feminista to be an interactive and engaging experience for their partners across the Alliance. Through this they created a space where participants had opportunities to share their experiences, ask questions, and connect with each other. In addition to the live sessions, there were many ways to engage on the platform, including the chat topics in the Networking Area, the Partner Booths in the Partner Area, and downloading useful documents from the Resource Center.

ASAP team represented by Nandini Mazumder, Assistant Coordinator and Ayesha Bashir, Communications and Networking Officer joined in. We joined the breakout rooms on strengthening feminist movements. We also shared about ASAP's experience of working with women with disabilities and trans and non-binary men as a part of our building inclusive movement strategy and reiterated the need for building solidarities across allied movements.

One day 2 Fos Feminista team had speakers who shared about their work and the models they presented explored for-profit ventures for SRHR issues. These were thought provoking as they challenged us to see beyond the traditional donor-grantee models and think of rights work from a for-profit perspective. Overall, the 2 days meeting was extremely fruitful to meet the Fos team and their other grantee partners, share and learn together, explore online platform for partners that was extremely well-done and engaging and leave the forum with several new ideas and thoughts.

ASAP AS PARTICIPANT

IPPF SUMMIT ON SRH | 19TH - 20TH JAN | KATHMANDU, NEPAL

Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie attended this South Asian Regional Summit on Sexual and Reproductive Health organized by IPPF SARO.



SHAPING SAFER ONLINE SPACES

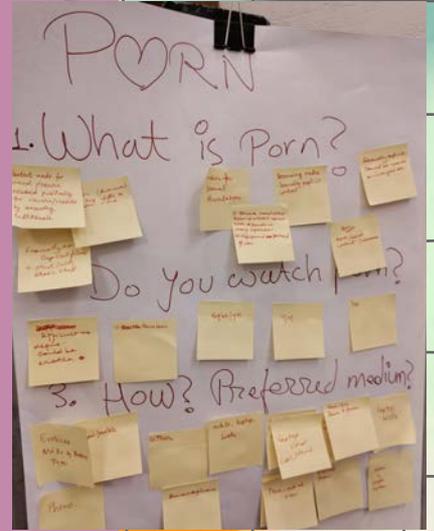
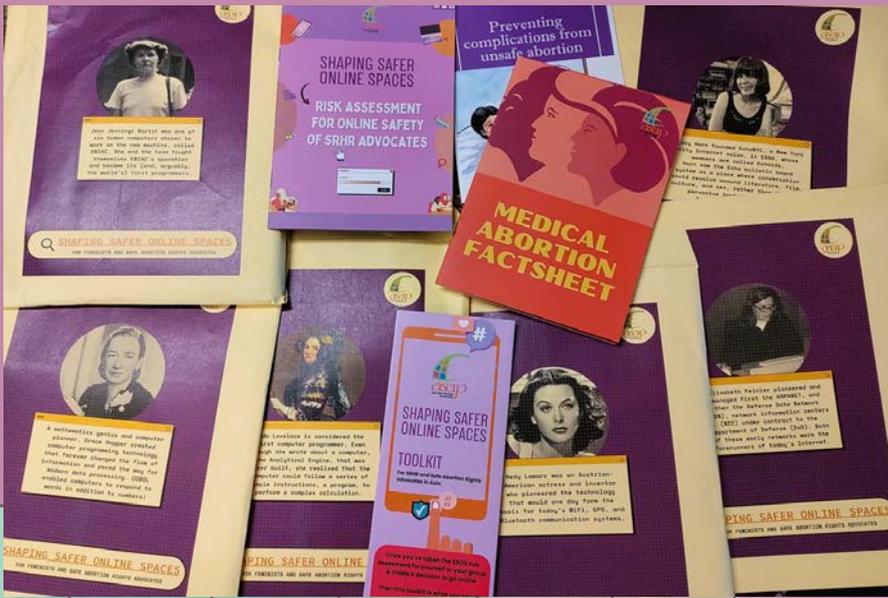
FOR SAFE ABORTION RIGHTS ADVOCATES | 12TH - 13TH APRIL | NEW DELHI

ASAP in collaboration with the Family Planning Association of India, organized the first in – person meeting of our ongoing campaign to raise awareness and build capacity within the SRHR and safe abortion rights advocates regarding our online security and data safety.

SSOS is a regional initiative focusing on Asia, which we launched in 2022 and have been working over the past 2 years on gathering information and understanding the unique challenges that advocates in the region face when it comes to advocating for safe abortion.

This first meeting was organized in India with our country partner, where we shared the results of the survey, we conducted with network in order to understand the challenges they're facing and also delved deeper into adopting some important security tips as the communication and network manager Ayesha Bashir did a quick hands – on session to make our mobile phones more safer.





ASAP TOOLKIT MEETING

ASAP | 2ND – 4TH JUNE 2023 | MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

ASAP organized a follow up meeting of the toolkit planning team consisting of our partners from India – Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal which is a grassroots organization, predominantly working in rural areas of Pune, India ; KathaSiyah – An Indian performing arts group; The QKnit – Working on increasing awareness on social and health rights of LGBTQIA+ communities and India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates (ISAY) – our country advocacy network from India, which is a medical student led collective working on sensitizing doctors and addressing patriarchy in medical infrastructures.

ASAP since 2022, has been working towards using creative mediums like videos, theatre and games to raise awareness and facilitate discussion on otherwise controversial or taboo'd subject of abortion and sexual health and rights across Asia. For the same we have all been working together to create a facilitator's guidebook on how most effectively can advocates use these tools.



YOUTH ADVOCACY INSTITUTE

ASAP AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ADVOCACY ALLIANCE MALAYASIA (RRAAM) | 17 TH – 18 TH JUNE 2023 | KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

ASAP in collaboration with RRAAM organized the 2 ND YAI in the country. The institute was quite successful as it saw the participation of young people from all religious and ethnic backgrounds of the country. We also had a diverse group of people working in different sectors ranging from lawyers to journalists as well as social media influencers, all of whom have been in one way or another working towards increasing awareness on SRHR and right to safe abortion for all in the country.



FROM PERIODS TO PREGNANCY

ASAP AND IPPF SARO | 28 TH MAY – 1 ST JUNE 2023 | ONLINE

ASAP came together with International Planned Parenthood Federation South Asia Regional Organization to commemorate the Menstrual Health Day, celebrated across the globe on 28th May.

We ran an online campaign addressing and highlighting the stigma and restrictions placed on women's bodily autonomy right from teenage when they experience menstruation, until they face unintended pregnancy and want to seek a safe abortion service.

The campaign culminated with a tweetathon which saw participation from ASAP country advocacy networks from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, who shared their experiences of dealing with stigma around women's bodily autonomy and accessing SRHR services in their respective countries.



TWEETATHON

asap IPPF South Asia Region

COUNTERING STIGMA
#FROMPERIODSTOPREGNANCY

1st June, Thursday
04:00 PM (IST)

Watch out for more details!

#MYBODYMYCHOICE #MHDAY2023



asap IPPF South Asia Region

COUNTERING STIGMA
#FROMPERIODSTOPREGNANCY

What are the two most common stigmas attached to menstruation and abortion?
Why do you think society avoids discussing these topics openly?

#MYBODYMYCHOICE #MHDAY2023

ARJC VIDEO – DR S. P. CHOONG AND DR. SUBATRA JAYARAJ TELL US WHATS IN STORE FOR ARJC 2024!

For the second video of our ARJC series First Chairperson & one of the founding members of ASAP as well as the Co-founder of Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM), Dr. S. P. Choong came together with ASAP's current Chairperson and President of RRAAM Dr. Subatra Jayaraj to share what we mean by 'Reproductive Justice' and the importance of making sure that safe abortion stays in front & center of this conversation!



Dr SP Choong and Dr Subatra Jayaraj from Malaysia tell us what's in store at ARJC 2024!

[WATCH FULL VIDEO HERE.](#)

Join us next year at **ARJC 2024** from 16th to 18th February in Bangkok, Thailand and to stay tuned for all updates about the conference, you can subscribe to our monthly newsletter by visiting the ARJC Website here !

BLOGS



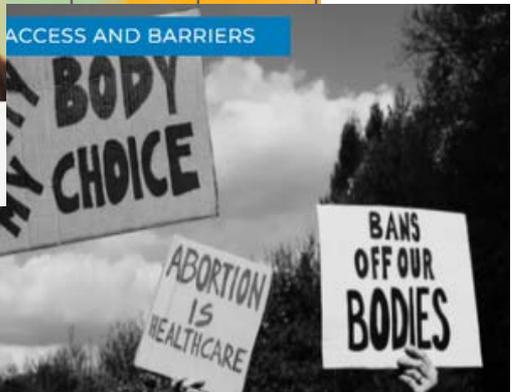
Looking Back at 2022 for ASAP



Female Genital Mutilation- Continuing fight Against Patriarchy, Religion and Politics. Conversation with Masooma Rana



Lilith and Eve



Abortion Narratives: Stories and Testimonials

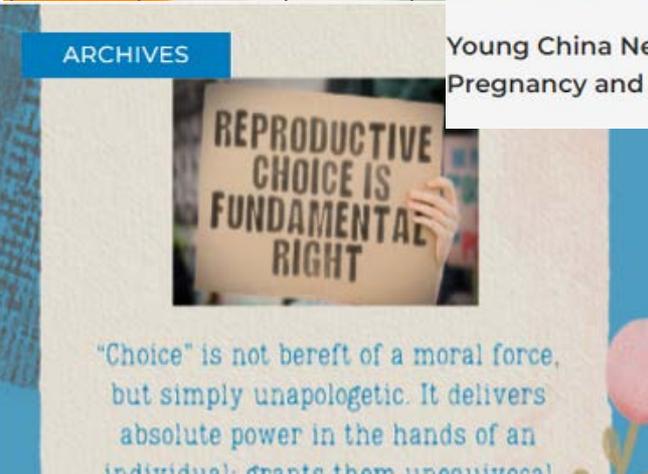
BLOGS



The Female Migrant Worker: What Are Her Reproductive Rights

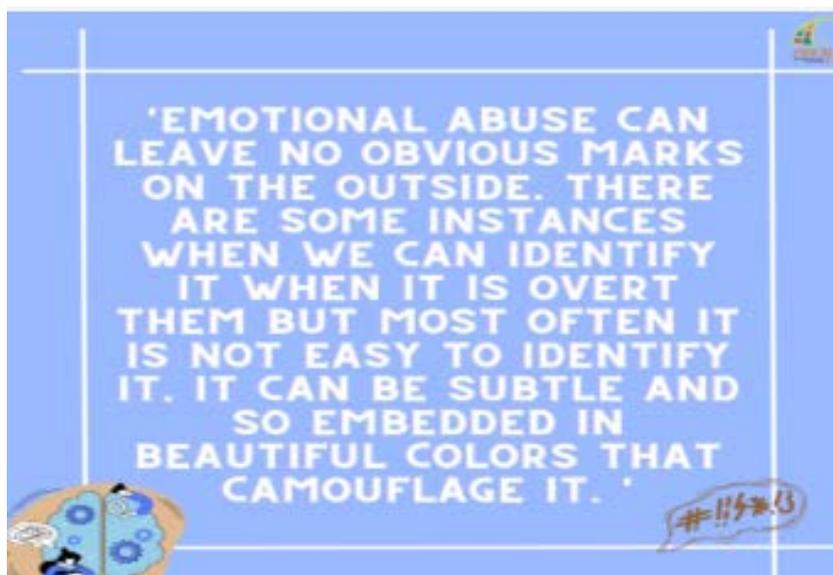


Young China Needs More Information About Pregnancy and Abortion



Choice and Reproductive Justice

BLOGS



The Invisible Violence- By Priskila Arulpragasam



Debunking Abortion Myths About Mothers For Mother's Day

PUBLICATION

The
NEWS
Minute

India has a liberal abortion law – then why are unsafe abortions so rampant?

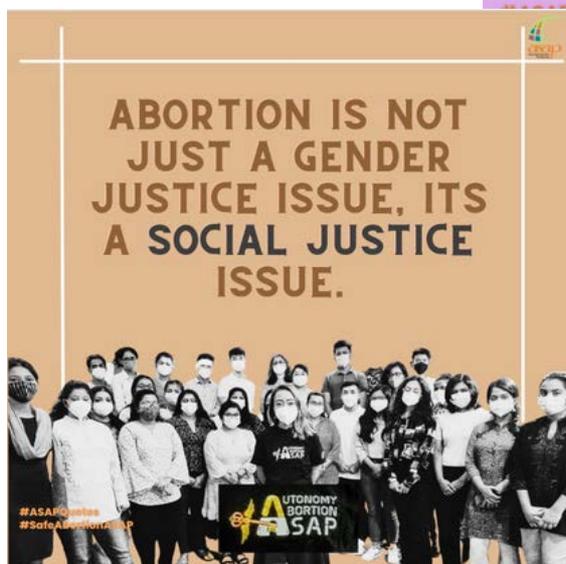
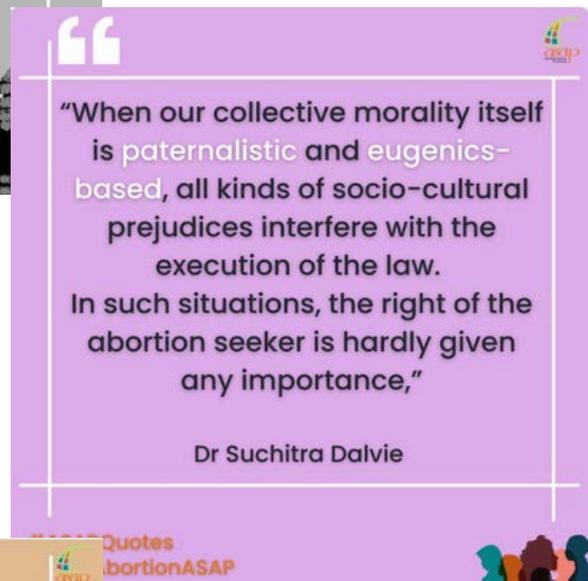
An adult abortion seeker doesn't need a husband or partner's permission to get an abortion, and can terminate a pregnancy up to 24 weeks. And yet, 67% of the abortions in the country are unsafe.



“Dr Suchitra explains that while India’s abortion laws have been liberal, the Indian Penal Code (IPC) criminalises ‘causing miscarriage’. In essence, the MTP Act decriminalises abortions when performed by doctors, and it is heavily dependent on the liberal, sensitive interpretation of the law by doctors. “When our collective morality itself is paternalistic and eugenics-based, all kinds of socio-cultural prejudices interfere with the execution of the law. In such situations, the right of the abortion seeker is hardly given any importance,” she says”

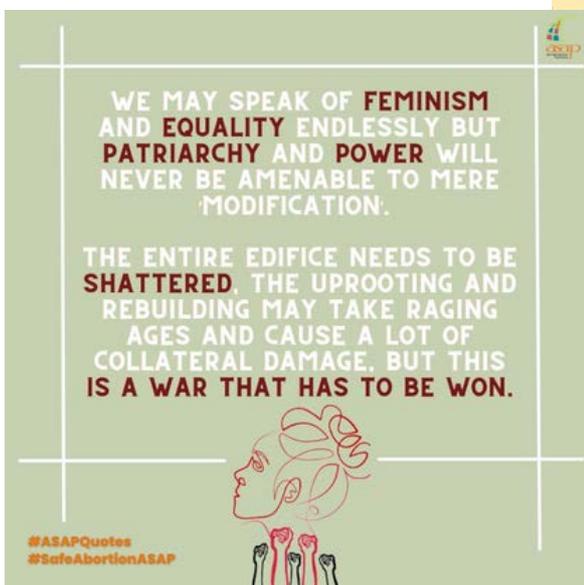
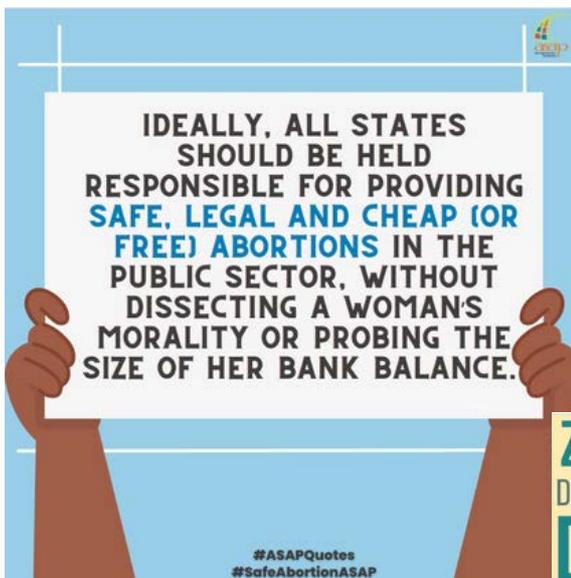
SOCIAL MEDIA

#ASAPQUOTES



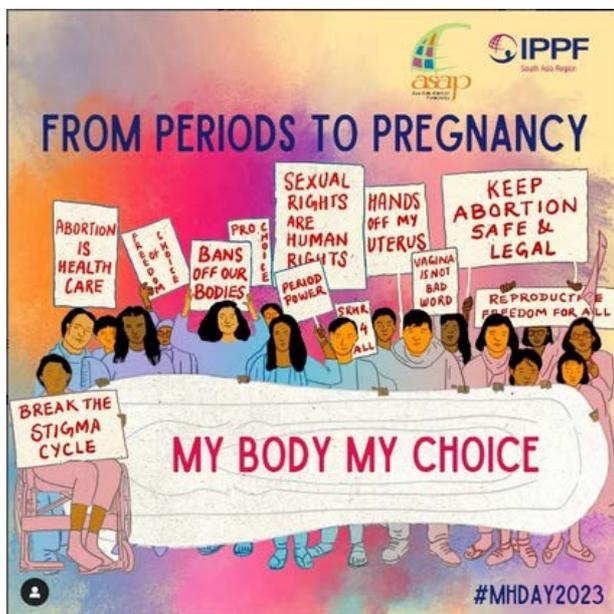
SOCIAL MEDIA

#ASAPQUOTES



SOCIAL MEDIA

#ASAPQUOTES



SOCIAL MEDIA

MEMES

Me watching a movie



Me watching the same movie after YAI Workshop

Women researching, trying to learn more about their own sexual pleasures

Women watching youtube videos & reading articles on how to 'satisfy their man'



We're amending the abortion law



To make it easier for people right?



Right?

SOCIAL MEDIA

MEMES



| | |
|--|---|
|  Safe Abortion is legal |  |
| Safe abortion is Decriminalized |  |
| Safe abortion services are unconditionally available |  |
| Safe Abortion is treated like other medical services without any debates on it's 'morality' and is available free of cost |  |

THANK YOU!

Follow us on Social media for
more regular updates



2023