

ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP

QUARTERLY REPORT





GREETINGS FROM ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP

As you know, we have all been struggling these past few months, not only with a global 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.

Given the circumstances, most activists and organizations have shifted their work online and ASAP too, has been similarly engaging with our partners, networks and followers across Asia and beyond. On 22nd April we launched a new series of video/audio podcasts called 'ASAP Conversations During COVID' with an aim to amplify voices across the region, show solidarity in these difficult times and also to deliberate on ways in which we can stay connected in global emergencies like these, while continuing to ensure access to safe abortion services.

We are glad to share with you our report for the 2nd Quarter of 2020 and the efforts put in by our Country Advocacy Networks, Youth Champions, members and partners to ensure advocacy for and access to sexual and reproductive health services, especially safe abortion, along with raising awareness and building capacity.

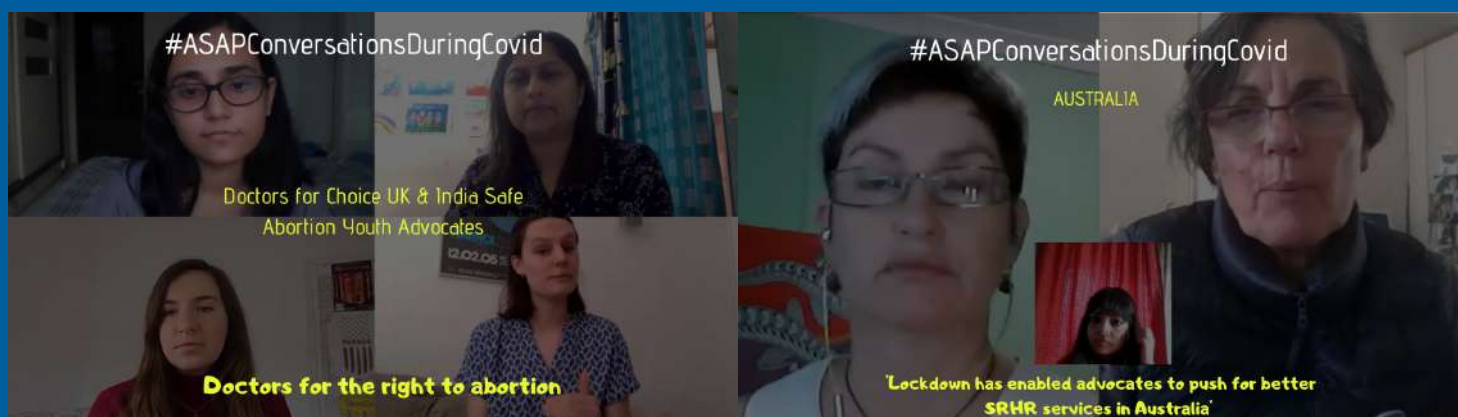
ASAP ACTIVITIES

ASAP CONVERSATIONS DURING COVID : AUDIO/VIDEO PODCAST

We launched the series with the aim to understand how the pandemic has affected us differently or even in some situations similarly, and how it plays out in different countries and regions, and affects different communities, especially those who were already vulnerable and marginalized. To understand how it has magnified the gaps that already existed in society, economy and politics -such as for women, queer people, trans people, people from minority and marginalized communities, refugees, migrants, working classes and Dalit communities, indigenous people. These historically vulnerable groups have been left even more isolated due to the pandemic. The series is based on the belief that even in these times of social distancing (for those of us who can afford to do it) or quarantines, social solidarity and the quest for social justice is ever more important. Finally, to collectively imagine a new world and plan for systemic shifts so that the post-COVID19 world is more just, equitable and inclusive.

Shared below are some of our conversations. You can view them by clicking on the picture





Since 22nd April we have released 21 videos in the series all of which are available on our [Youtube](#) and [Souncloud](#) channel.

ASAP CONVERSATIONS - BLOGS

Some Youth Champions shared their experiences through the written word. Here are some of those blogs



ASAP
Apr 23 • 6 min

Japan: 'Abortion in Japan before COVID-19 and the way ahead' with Dr. Kum...

As the cherry trees blossomed in splendour across Japan in early March, many people were enjoying hanami (cherry blossom viewing) with ...

100 views Write a comment



ASAP
Apr 30 • 6 min

India: 'Abortion access-essential on paper, inaccessible in reality'...

Shwetangi Shinde from Mumbai, India is a doctor currently on the frontline fighting COVID19, a Youth Champion alumni and core team member...

42 views Write a comment



ASAP
May 12 • 4 min

China: 'Female healthcare workers: hidden in plain sight' By Jingyun 'Iris' Pi

On International Nurses Day today and as part of our ASAP Conversations During Covid, we spoke with Youth Champion from China, Jingyun 'I...

31 views Write a comment



ASAP
May 21 • 3 min

Tunisia: 'Lockdown and stress does not justify violence. Nothing justifie...

We spoke with Youth Champion Lina Elleuch from Tunisia, who shed some light on the increasing violence against women and queer people sin...

158 views Write a comment



You can read all our blogs on the website [here](#).

MY BODY MY WORK | ORGANIZED BY ASAP WITH ALL INDIA NETWORK OF SEX WORKERS | 1ST MAY (LABOUR DAY)

On the occasion of the International Labour Day we had a panel discussion with the All India Network Of Sex Workers that looked at the intersections of labor rights, sex workers' rights, abortion rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in context of the current COVID19 pandemic.

Panelists for the conversation were Gautam Mody from New Trade Union Initiative - NTUI, Kusum from AINSW and Dr Samrajit Jana, who provided a gendered perspective for looking at labor and discuss the issues being faced by thousands of people, whose work is either not recognized or not secure. This is because they are not 'registered', are migrant workers, are unorganized, or self employed, or they are women, expected to be mothers and fulfill their reproductive destiny. With the pandemic things have gotten worse for all such groups, with limited access to healthcare services, no financial security and the added stigma of Coronavirus. This conversation was an attempt to show solidarity with sex workers and the larger movement and to demand the rights and 'dignity of ALL labour' without any moral judgement.

You can watch the video by clicking on the picture.



CAN CATCHUP | ORGANIZED BY ASAP | 20TH JUNE

Given the challenging circumstances in which we all are, the partnership organized a catch up call with our country advocacy networks, to check on each other and share updates from respective regions. The call was refreshing for many participants as it in some way may have compensated for absence of physical meetups like YAI. It was inspiring to hear from all CAN leaders and to learn how they managed to strive towards their work and dedication for the cause of safe abortion.

DEAR LEADER | ASAP'S 28TH MAY CAMPAIGN

As we do every year, this year also we marked International Day of Action for Women's Health 2020 with the theme of : 'Dear Leader': Speak Truth To Power. Through this campaign our Youth Champions from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam expressed their opinions on the insensitive handling of sexual and reproductive health issues by their Governments and leaders during the current pandemic.

#DearLeader

*International Day Of Action
For Women's Health*



#DearLeader

*Comprehensive Sexuality Education needs to
emphasize the need for safe and legal abortion.*

*Vietnam Youth Action For Choice
Vietnam*



#DearLeader



Despite the statement from the Indian Psychiatric Society, conversion therapies are still practiced on queer people. Strict action should be taken against mental health practitioners who offer conversion therapies. Homosexuality is not a disease and hence, nothing to "treat".

Chinmayee Kuber
India



#DearLeader



Women and girls have been the worst affected by COVID19. Their Sexual and Reproductive Health is neglected specially access to family planning and post abortion care services. I request to ensure uninterrupted and non-biased access to affordable services to women and girls including people living with physical disability.

Naureen Farhan Surani
Pakistan



#DearLeader



If we want the people to access to reproductive health services we first need to provide them that information through Comprehensive Sexuality Education and inclusion of these topics in the school curriculum.

Lirisha Tuladhar
Nepal



#DearLeader



As per Integrated Reproductive Health Guideline by Ministry of Health, sexual and reproductive health services are considered essential. This means access to safe and legal abortion should be available any time, especially during a crisis. Denying this need means more women and girls will suffer from unsafe abortion.

Ignatia Alfa Gloria
Indonesia



#DearLeader



Isn't our reproductive health essential during COVID19? If yes, why were The National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB) clinics; a family planning clinic nationwide; closed under the movement control order during this pandemic?

Nuraini Rudi
Malaysia



#DearLeader



Young women and girls living with different disabilities are finding it more challenging to access SRH services and products during the pandemic, they are forced to resort to unhygienic substitutes and are more vulnerable to diseases and complications. We need to make SRH services more accessible to them.

Shelani Paliawadana
Sri Lanka



COUNTRY ADVOCACY NETWORK (CAN) ACTIVITIES



BHUTAN - DRUK YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR SEXUAL ADVOCACY (DYISA)

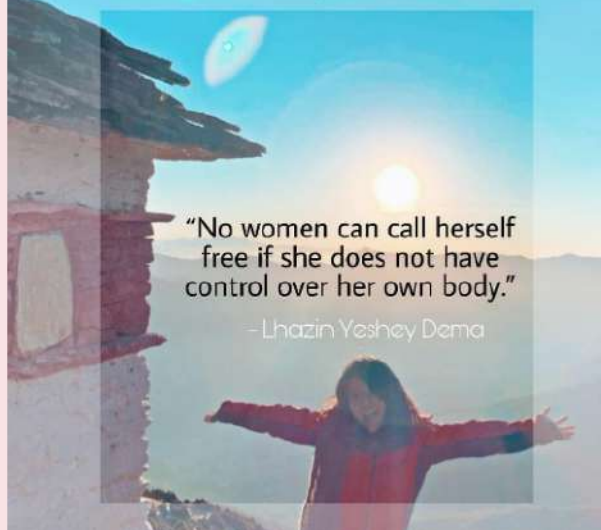
HER ABORTION, HER HEALTH | DYISA | INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH, MAY 28TH

DYISA conducted an online awareness campaign called "Her abortion, her health" to mark the International day of Action for Women's Health on May 28th whereby those interested could share a picture of themselves in a unique pose along with a strong statement that defends women's rights to safe abortion as a healthcare measure whenever they need it.

Her Abortion, Her Health



Her Abortion, Her Health



Her Abortion, Her Health



Her Abortion, Her Health



TIME TO MAKE AMENDS | ISAY | ONGOING

The last few months have shown us the universal need for universal access to health care services, including safe abortion. In shadow of this pandemic lower house of parliament in India passed an amendment to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. Although some of the proposed amendments are progressives many simply fall short of truly giving seekers the autonomy and the ability to make a choice for themselves.

ISAY launched a social media campaign to create awareness about the way the pandemic has hampered access to safe abortion services in India, the impact it has had on unintended pregnancies and how the brunt of it is borne disproportionately by vulnerable people. This ongoing campaign is also highlighting issues with the proposed amendments to the MTP Act.

To follow the campaign you can visit them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020

#MTPBill2020
#TimeToMakeAmends

#1 Proposed Amendment:

Upper Gestational Age Limit till abortions can be accessed

For vulnerable groups of women:

20 Weeks → 24 Weeks



DRIVING FORCES FOR LACK OF ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION DURING COVID-19

Diversion of Health Services to COVID-19 response

- Decreased production
- Social distancing: physical barrier to access
- Lack of affordability

SUSPENSION OF STERILIZATION SERVICES

SUSPENSION OF IUCD SERVICES

LACK OF ACCESS TO SHORT-TERM METHODS

More Unintended Pregnancies

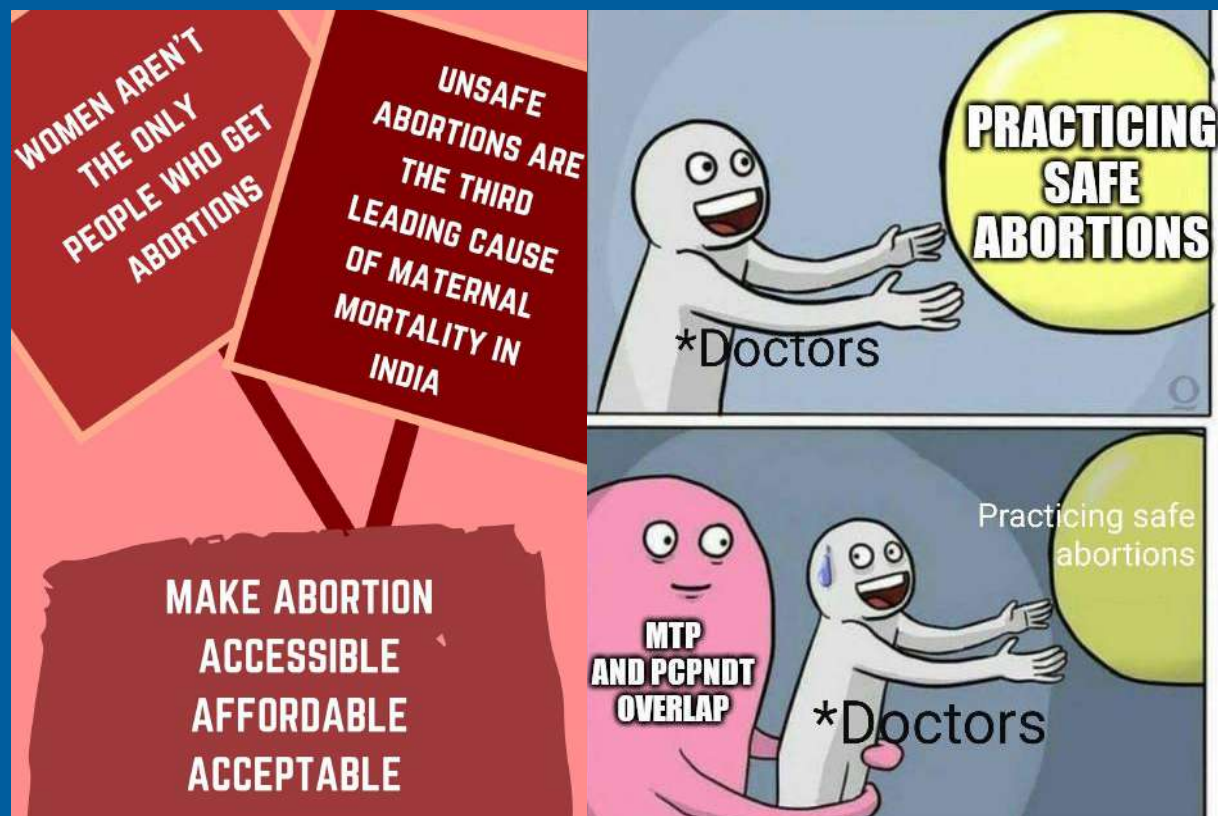
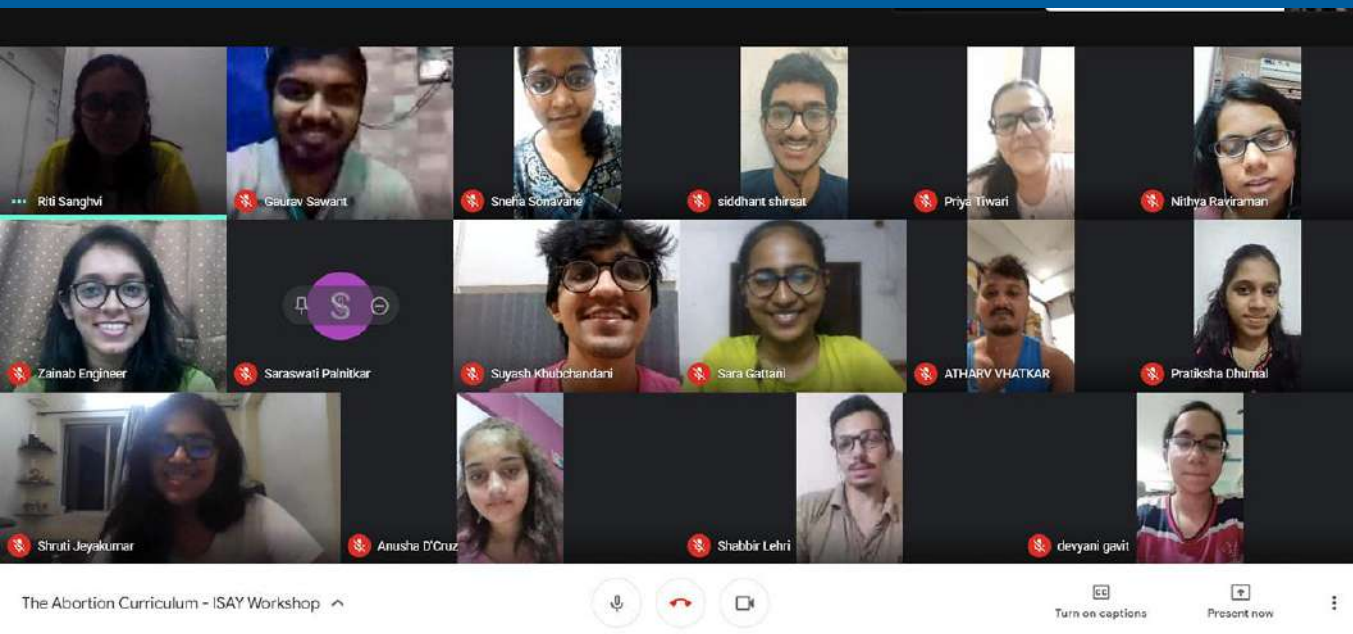
MARGINALIZED GROUPS' EXPERIENCES WITH ACCESSING ABORTIONS

MTP Bill 2020: Time to Make Amends

THE ABORTION CURRICULUM | ISAY | ONGOING

This is an initiative by ISAY, in order to establish a rights based approach to abortion among medical students in Maharashtra, India. The intersectionalities between gender, sexuality, patriarchy within medicine and the social determinants which influence access to safe abortion services makes it an important to discuss with medical students. This project is funded by the Youth Champions Initiative by Rise Up.

They have successfully completed three online workshops with medical students from 6 different colleges across Maharashtra. At the end of the 4th day, the participants created relevant content to convey key messages they learnt.





PAKISTAN- PAKISTAN ADVOCACY NETWORK (PAN)

THEATER OF TABOO | PAN | 2ND-4TH MARCH

With 11 new participants through this workshop PAN introduced the concept of SRHR, Gender and Safe Abortion using theater. Over the 3 days, the discussion delved into taboos related to sexual health and the importance of demystifying them. On the last day participants were asked to prepare plays on Topics such as Sex Workers, Trans community with overlapping themes of right to safe abortion, gender and SRHR.



NEPAL - YOUTH LED SRHR ADVOCACY NEPAL (YOSHAN)

LOOKING INTO THE LOCKDOWN THROUGH A GENDER LENS | FB LIVE BY YOSHAN | 25TH APRIL

YoSHAN in collaboration with 'Who decides' conducted a Facebook live on the topic '[Looking into the lockdown through a gender lens](#)' where youth Champion Anjila Thapa reflected on the impact of lockdown on women's rights, sexual and reproductive health rights and also spoke about the need for gender inclusive approaches while responding to the pandemic.



MILIJULI TALK SERIES 1: MENTAL HEALTH IN COVID-19 | YOSHAN | 27TH APRIL

YoSHAN conducted a Milijuli talk series on [Mental Health in Covid-19](#) where Sonal Dhanani, founder of Parindey (an organization working for mental health in Pakistan) was invited as the speaker. The discussion was moderated by Youth Champion Shreejana Bajracharya. The speaker highlighted why mental health matters during this pandemic and how one can cope with it.



MILIJULI TALK SERIES 2 : HELPLINE SERVICES IN COVID-19 | YOSHAN | 29TH APRIL

YoSHAN member Durga Sapkota conducted another [talk](#) where they had a conversation with three young midwives from MIDSON who have been independently running a helpline during the lockdown related to SRH services including counselling for pregnant people.



MILIJULI TALK SERIES 3: MENSTRUAL HEALTH IN COVID-19 | YOSHAN | 2ND MAY

In this talk Dr. Sneha Rooh spoke about changing narratives of menstruation and sexuality in India through art theatre and dialogue. She is a palliative physician and founder of Orikalankini



WORKSHOP: ONLINE TOOLS FOR FEMINIST ADVOCACY | ORIKALANKIINI WITH YOSHAN | 9TH MAY

YoSHAN with Orikalankini also conducted a virtual workshop Online Tools for Feminist advocacy. Shreejana Bajracharya, as a facilitator from YoSHAN conducted a virtual workshop on how YoSHAN has been using various online tools like canva, animation app, giphy, etc for advocacy on safe abortion and SRHR.



SRHR IN COVID19 MINI INTERVIEW: VOICES OF HUMANS | YOSHAN | 9TH MAY

Voices of Humans, an organization based in Sri Lanka, working on engagement with men for gender equality approached YoSHAN to discuss the sexual and reproductive health scenario in COVID19. Shreejana Bajracharya was interviewed by Kapila, founder of VoH. You can watch full interview by clicking on the picture.



GLOBAL MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN | YOSHAN | 28TH MAY

YoSHAN engaged in conversations with young people and mobilized them to create online content to normalize the conversation on menstruation. All videos and other digital content including posters, memes, and blogs were then shared on their social media.

Link of one of the videos submitted by people [here](#).

Links of the blogs submitted:

- [Pandemic and Menstrual Hygiene](#)
- [I Am A Conqueror](#)

MILIJULI TALK SERIES 4: DISCUSSION ON PANDEMIC AND MENSTRUAL HEALTH | YOSHAN | 28TH MAY

To celebrate the Global Menstrual Day, throughout the month of May, YoSHAN conducted many talks on the topic Pandemic and menstrual health. The discussion was moderated by Pushpa Joshi and Durga Sapkota and the participants included a researcher, activist, radio program producer and a young change agent.



VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION BY WREETU | YOSHAN | 28TH MAY

Wreetu is an organization based in Bangladesh working on menstrual health hygiene management. Each year they celebrate Menstrual Hygiene Day with various programs and this year they organized a virtual panel discussion on “Period Scenario in South Asia Regions”. Shreejana Bajracharya participated as one of the panelists to share the period scenario in Nepal and how YoSHAN is continuing its activism amidst of COVID19. The panelists from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka shared their insights on the menstrual hygiene practices in their own countries.



INFORMATIVE VIDEOS ON COVID-19 AND OTHER ISSUES | YOSHAN

YoSHAN also produced animated videos on the intersection of covid-19 and other issues which were widely shared on social media. Some of the links are as below:

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)

KHULDULEE.COM RADIO PROGRAM | YOSHAN

In coordination with the Radio Audio team, YoSHAN was able to design and execute two radio programs during the lockdown. They discussed the problem of increasing gender based violence during this lockdown and what measures should be taken by women and girls to report on time. In another episode, we introduced midwives from MIDSON running helpline numbers and counseling pregnant women.



SRI LANKA - YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK SRI LANKA (YANSL)

HIDDEN POCKETS: MEN AND THEIR SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S SRHR DURING COVID | YANSL | 17TH APRIL

An Instagram Live was held during which, Dakshitha Wickremarathne of YANSL shared facts on the increase of domestic and intimate partner violence during the lockdown enforced by government. He also explained how women are overburdened in taking care of the household chores without any support from the other members of the household. The session also went on to discuss the emerging need of engaging men and boys in conversation around gender equality, SRHR and respect. Viewers were mostly from India, Sri Lanka and South Asia.

INSTAGRAM LIVE @ 3PM IST, APRIL 17

Men and their support for women's
Sexual and Reproductive Health and
Rights during crisis



Dakshitha Wickremarathne is a development practitioner striving for social justice. His childhood during the times of conflict in Sri Lanka has sparked his passion for peace and equality. His work in the areas of health, gender and reconciliation led him to be appointed by the UN Secretary-General as the youngest member of the Every Woman, Every Child Independent Accountability Panel. As the Co-Founder & the Programme Director of Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka, Dakshitha continues his work on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights while also shaping strong policies grounded in evidence and science. He is a Women Deliver Young Leaders Alumni and a Board Member with UNFPA, as a Master Trainer, Dakshitha was a Youth Advisor to UN Women's Global Civil Society Advisory Group.



YOUTH CONSULTATION BY THE FAMILY HEALTH BUREAU OF SRI LANKA | YANSL

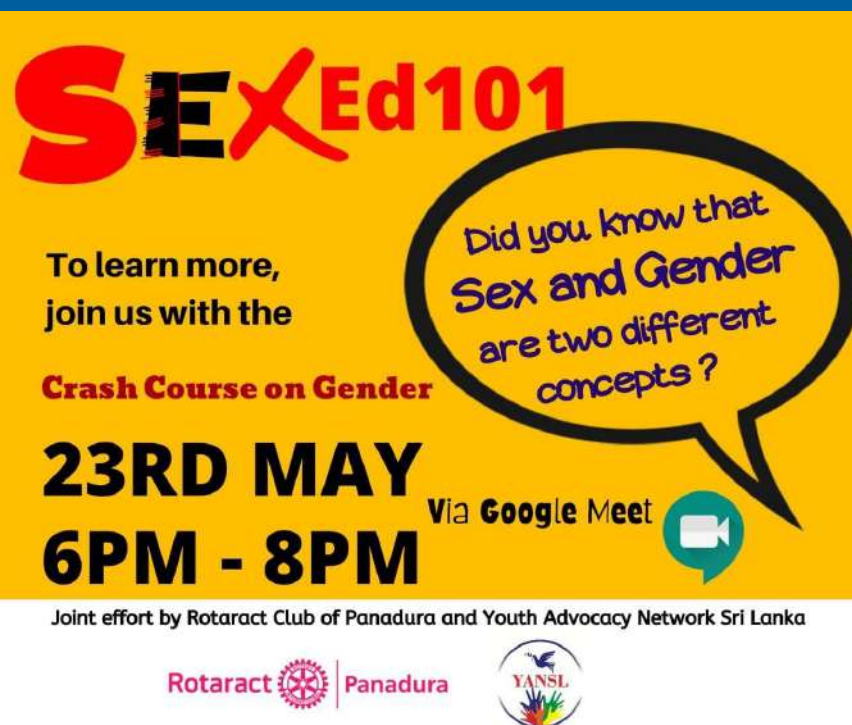
The Family Health Bureau of Sri Lanka conducted a youth consultation on the theme Health and Wellbeing of Adolescents and Youth. This was held during the month of April, on a weekly basis. Shelani Palihawadana, Hansika Hanthanapitiya and Desaree Soysa represented YANSL. In closing, the participants were asked to pitch a project proposal for a strategy to spread awareness about the youth friendly health services (Yowun Piyasa) or to address any relevant gaps. The YANSL team highlighted the importance of addressing the issues of people living with disabilities in their project proposal.

HIDDEN POCKETS : TWEET CHAT | YANSL | 29TH APRIL

This was conducted by Hidden Pockets in collaboration with YANSL to create awareness around issues of gender inequality, limited access to sexual and reproductive health services, domestic violence during the pandemic and the measures taken by the Government of Sri Lanka. The importance of gender responsive approach to address the crisis caused by the pandemic was also discussed.

SEX ED 101 BY ROTARACT CLUB OF PANADURA | YANSL | 23RD MAY

This online programme was facilitated by Priskila Arulpragasam and Shelani Palihawadane of YANSL and chaired by Sanduni Hettigoda: President of the Rotaract Club of Panadura who is also a volunteer member of YANSL. The topics discussed were gender and gender based violence.



SEXEd101

To learn more,
join us with the

Crash Course on Gender

23RD MAY
6PM - 8PM

Via **Google Meet**

Did you know that
Sex and Gender
are two different
concepts?

Joint effort by Rotaract Club of Panadura and Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka

Rotaract | Panadura

YANSL

APCRSHR VIRTUAL FORUM | YANSL | 25TH MAY

The 10th APCRSRHR that was scheduled to take place in May 2020 in Cambodia was converted itself into a virtual forum in light of the global pandemic. Shelani Palihawadana from YANSL spoke as a panelist at the pre-APCRSHR Youth Forum. She spoke on the topic "How are youth in Sri Lanka affected by the pandemic, specifically relating to SRHR and the steps taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to mitigate these issues".

COVID-19 and young people

MAY 25 11am Cambodia time

10th APCRSRHR

ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH AND RIGHTS (APCRSHR10)

DIALOGUES

SANGEET KAYASTHA
Founder-Coordinator, Y-PEER Asia Pacific Regional Center, Thailand; ISC member, APCRSRHR10

SHELANI PALIHAWADANA
Youth Advocacy Network, Sri Lanka and Project Coordinator, "We Hear You"

YUEPING GUO
Youth Representative, China Family Planning Association & Core Member, China Youth Network

www.bit.ly/apcrshr10dialogues | www.apcrshr10cambodia.org

MAY 28TH ONLINE CAMPAIGN | YANSL | 22ND - 28TH MAY

During this week YANSL members raised their voices on topics such as the impact of lack of information and lack of access to contraceptives on young girls and women during the COVID 19 pandemic, as well as the domestic violence being faced by young people during the lockdown period. On final day of the campaign they collaborated with Kumudini Samuel: Co-founder of Women and Media Collective and with Dr. Suchitra Dalvie of Asia Safe Abortion Partnership to share their thoughts on the issue.

මම ඉතාමත් සතුටට ලක්වෙමවා YANSL නැතහොත්
Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka
நான் மிகவும் மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகிறேன் YANSL அல்லது
Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka

Today on #May28 we commemorate International Day of Action for Women's Health and call on...

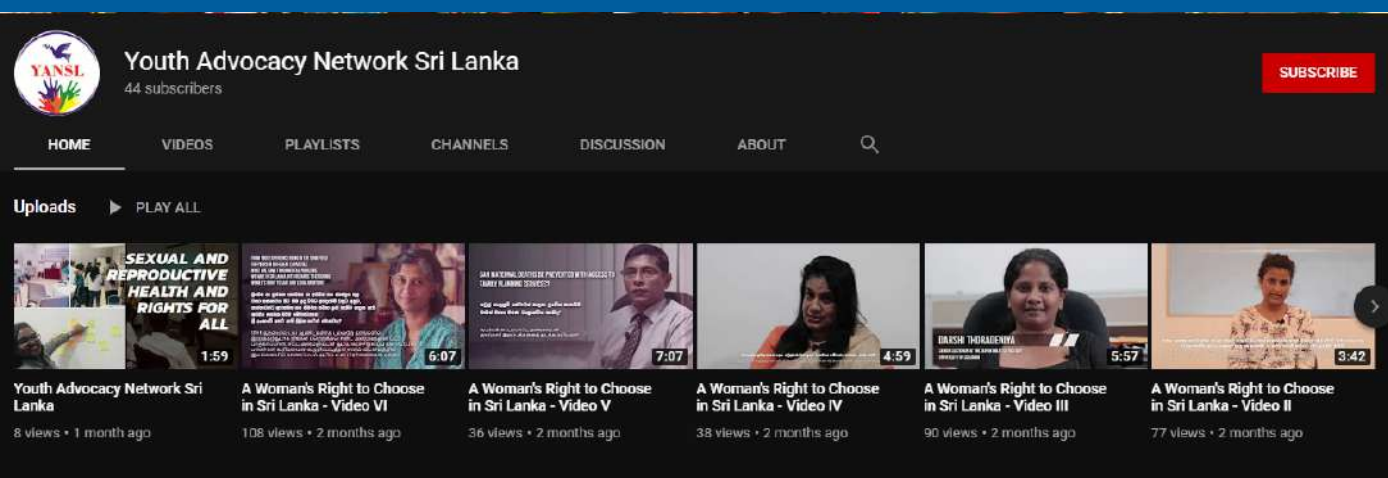
Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka - YANSL

CYBER VIOLENCE AND CYBER SECURITY | THE ROTARACT CLUB OF UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA | 6TH JUNE

Desaree Soysa, Shelani Palihawadana and Sajini Wikramasingha of YANSL were invited to participate in this e-session. Cyber violence, its forms, Sri Lankan context and laws and policies to safeguard one-self, were widely explained by the speakers.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL TRAJECTORY OF LEGALIZING SAFE ABORTION | YANSL

This is a project co-chaired by Desaree Soysa and Tharindi Devasurendra of YANSL. Phase one of the project included the documentation of various efforts taken by SRHR and women's rights activists, doctors and researchers in order to legalize safe abortion services in Sri Lanka. Kumuduni Samuel, Anne Marie De Silva, Dr. Darshi Thoradeniya, Dr. Janaki Vidanapathirana, Dr. Kapila Jayaratne and Paba Deshapriya were interviewed. The videos can be viewed by clicking on the picture.

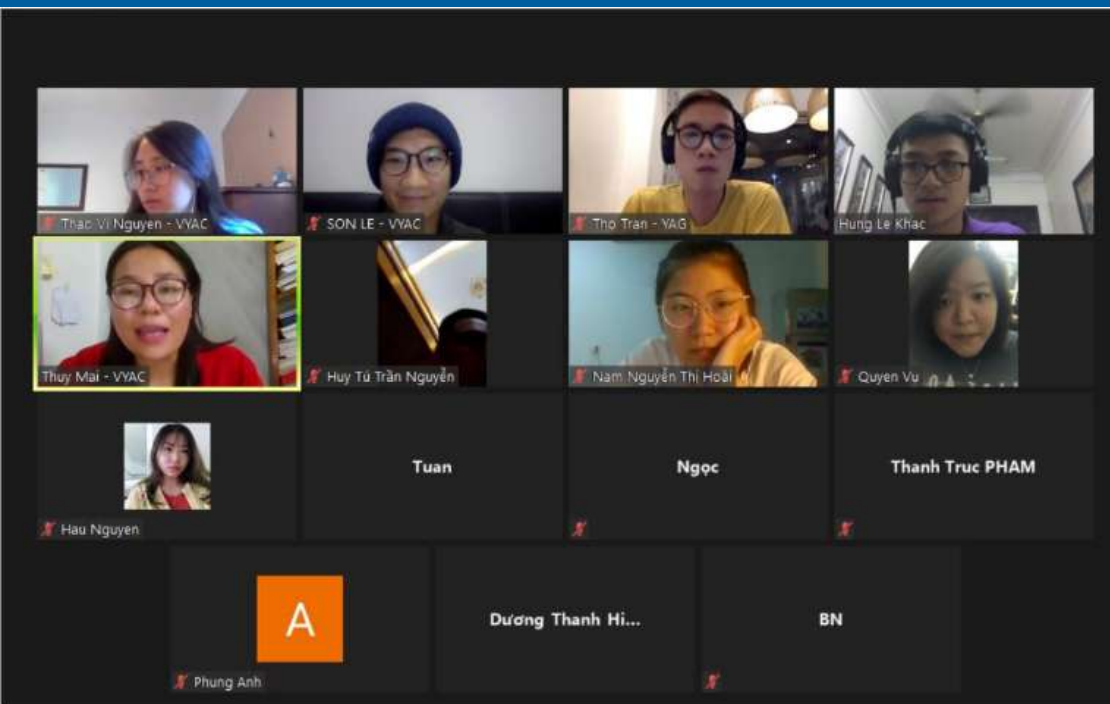


VIETNAM - VIETNAM YOUTH ACTION FOR CHOICE (VYAC)

WE TALK: ONLINE DISCUSSION | VYAC | 28TH MAY

On the International Day of Action for Women's Health, VYAC held an online meeting named "We talk" with 21 young people to discuss Decision No. 588 posted on the government's website. This Decision signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc plans to raise the fertility rates in some low fertility localities in the country by about 10% in 2030. The PM encourages Vietnamese couples to get married before 30 and start having children early.

In the online discussion, VYAC shared that Decision No. 588 did not indicate anything related to abortion. However, they are concerned that in order to reach desired fertility rate targets there may be a return to strict abortion laws. VYAC also shared that the Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training has approved and published a guideline for the National SexEd Programme, but it does not specify detailed sexual orientation, nor does it mention safe abortion.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT DAY | VYAC | 6TH JUNE

The engagement day aimed to connect youth networks working for the development and sustainability in Ho Chi Minh City and Southern areas of Vietnam and building a small online forum where groups can share educational opportunities and help each other when needed. VYAC got 27 requests to participate in the engagement from 22 networks and 5 individuals. Each group had a chance to share their works, missions, and goals and how they expect members in the forum help one another to grow and help raise the youth voice. VYAC also shared that it needs local volunteers to help women and girls access a safe abortion in Vietnam across the country.



PUBLICATIONS

INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS CONDEMN POLAND'S DRACONIAN ABORTION LAW | 20TH APRIL 2020

'Standing in solidarity with all women for rights over their bodies, and to prioritize pro-choice abortion laws, organizations Haiyya, Asia Safe Abortion Partnership, Love Matters India and Feminism in India strongly condemn the 'Stop Abortion' bill discussed in Parliament of Poland amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.'



HOW ESSENTIAL ABORTION SERVICES ARE INACCESSIBLE IN THE LOCKDOWN | THE QUINT | 13TH MAY 2020

Dr Suchitra Dalvie was quoted in the article

'The chances of surgical abortions becoming costlier during the pandemic are high for multiple reasons. "Abortions are mostly accessed from the private sector. Some have had to shut down because of positive cases among their staff, others have had to scale down their facilities, and we have been hearing that many who remain open have increased the price charged for abortions. A rise in the hospital's input costs in terms of holding additional screenings for the virus, implementing social distancing, and buying Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the health workers have increased their expenses, which could make them charge higher for surgical abortions. The private sector is also facing financial issues because of low profits and low admissions for other conditions and illnesses,"



ABORTION USING MISOPROSTOL PILLS: A GUIDE FOR ALL PREGNANT PEOPLE SEEKING TO SELF MANAGE THEIR ABORTION | IWHC | 28TH MAY

ASAP contributed to the development of this evidence based guidance by IWHC. It has been informed by the latest the the latest information from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO). It explains how pregnant people can end a pregnancy with Misoprostol, because everyone has the right to safe abortion care’.

Often sold in pharmacies, Misoprostol is inexpensive, easy to store and handle, and is a safe method for people seeking to end their pregnancy. The medication softens and dilates the cervix, causes uterine contractions, and pushes pregnancy tissue out. Misoprostol’s multidimensional use in medicine makes it more accessible when compared to other abortion pills, like Mifepristone. Misoprostol is 85% successful in inducing abortion in the first trimester, when used as recommended.

Abortion Using Misoprostol Pills: A Guide For All Pregnant People Seeking to Self-Manage Their Abortion

Download instructions for inducing abortion with misoprostol in Arabic, English, Español, Français, or Português.

Globally, millions of pregnant people have safely ended their pregnancies using misoprostol.

Often sold in pharmacies, misoprostol is inexpensive, easy to store and handle, and is a safe method for people seeking to end their pregnancy. The medication softens and dilates the cervix, causes uterine contractions, and pushes pregnancy tissue out. Misoprostol’s multidimensional use in medicine makes it more accessible when compared to other abortion pills, like mifepristone. Misoprostol is 85% successful in inducing abortion in the first trimester, when used as recommended.

The attached evidence-based guide was developed by IWHC and informed by the latest guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO). It explains how pregnant people can end a pregnancy with misoprostol, because everyone has the right to safe abortion care.

Where to Purchase Misoprostol:

Aid Access consults and prescribes misoprostol to residents of the United States for miscarriage management. (English and Spanish)

Cytotec Mexico has comprehensive information on mifepristone and misoprostol, and confidentially sends abortion pills to residents of Mexico. The cost of pills ranges from approximately 40 USD to 75 USD depending on dosage; prices are listed on the website in pesos. (Spanish)

TelAbortion sends abortion pills as part of a US-based study into the effective delivery of telemedicine abortion. The price of this service may vary from state to state and person to person. Services are currently available to eligible residents of Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, New Mexico, New York, Maine, Oregon, and Washington State.

Women Help Women provides various contraception options and mifepristone and misoprostol to people living in countries with restricted or no access to legal abortion. The United States is not on the list of supported countries, but residents of other countries can complete a confidential consultation online to evaluate if they are eligible to receive the medical abortion pills for a donation. (English, Spanish, French, German, and others)

Women on Web provides mifepristone and misoprostol to people living in countries with restricted or no access to legal abortion. United States residents cannot use this resource, but Women on Web offers the pill regimen to residents of 90+ countries across the Americas, Africa, Europe, and Asia for a sliding scale donation fee that may be waived in some circumstances. (English, Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Russian, and others)



Download



DR SUCHITRA DALVIE HAS BEEN INVITED TO JOIN THE CLINICAL EVIDENCE AND RECOMMENDATION REVIEW GROUP FOR THE SAFE ABORTION GUIDELINES, THIRD EDITION, W.H.O.

AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY DR. SUCHITRA DALVIE ON THE CONCERNS AROUND SAFE ABORTION ACCESS DURING COVID 19 WAS PUBLISHED IN LOKSATTA

AN ARTICLE ON THE LACK OF SEX AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE TARSHI JOURNAL: IN PLAINSPEAK

ONLINE WEBINARS

ASAP Team as Panelists/Speakers

WEBINAR: LEADING THE FEMINIST WAY

VITHIKA YADAV
HEAD
LOVE MATTERS INDIA

MEERA SANGHAMITRA
INDEPENDENT HUMAN
RIGHTS ACTIVIST

TARA KRISHNASWAMY
CO-FOUNDER
SHAKTI

AYESHA BASHIR
ASIA SAFE ABORTION
PARTNERSHIP

DATE & TIME MAY 14 THURSDAY 12PM IST **REGISTER** [BIT.LY/HAIYYAWEBINAR2](https://bit.ly/haiyyawebinar2)

LEADING THE FEMINIST WAY | HAIYYA FOUNDATION | 14TH APRIL

The webinar was organized with the aim of understanding feminist leadership and what it looks like in practice. ASAP's Communication and Network Officer Ayesha Bashir, was one of the panelists, along with renowned activists, Meera Sanghamitra, Vithika Yadav and Tara Krishnaswamy.

Given the crises the world at large is facing, during the discussion, a big consensus was for leadership structures based on feminist values and to learn from different communities and their contexts. Ayesha spoke about how we can move in that direction, by first questioning our own prejudices and stigmas. If we envision a more just world, we must stand up for it in our own families and communities. She also explained why 'cancel culture' or ignoring men in our gender justice movement, can be detrimental to the cause in the long run and instead we must think of different ways of sensitizing people, raising awareness without making anyone feel threatened.

ACCESS TO ABORTION SERVICES IN THE CONTEXT OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES, PANDEMIC/ HEALTH CRISES AND CHANGES IN ABORTION LAWS | CREA AND COMMONHEALTH | 1ST, 6TH AND 13TH MAY

Coordinator, Dr Suchitra Dalvie was the speaker as well as the moderator for this series of webinars which aimed to analyse the historical context of criminalization of sexual and reproductive health. Dr Dalvie's presentation explored what decriminalization of safe abortion represents against this backdrop and also the importance of learning from the experiences of movements that have been advocating for decriminalization, for example; the Sex Workers Rights movement and the broad-based advocacy that was taken forward successfully by them.

ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE | ORGANIZED BY HUMAN RIGHTS LAW NETWORK | 24TH MAY

Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie spoke about 'Denial of Abortion Services and MTP Act'. She focused on the poor implementation of the MTP Act across the country, which along with the stigma has made this service inaccessible for many. Though India has a law for terminating an unwanted pregnancy, abortion is still criminalized, 56% of abortion are unsafe in India and 80% women still don't know if it is legal. She also raised some important questions about the proposed amendments and whether they bring about a shift in power from healthcare providers to the person who doesn't want to continue the pregnancy. She also asked to think about the following questions

- Do they increase women's autonomy and agency?
- Do they decriminalize abortions?
- Do they ensure that no woman is turned away or forced into an unsafe abortion or into continuing a pregnancy that is rated?
- Do they increase public sector access and government accountability?
- Do they improve private sector regulation?
- Do they provide for better access to Medical Abortion Pills ?
- Do they ensure that all government hospitals are providing the full range of abortion services including second trimester abortions and without any coercion for contraception?

ASAP Team as participant

COVID-19: WHAT ARE ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS | SRHM JOURNAL | 27TH MARCH 2020

This was the first of the webinar series since the pandemic broke out across the world and was attended by Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder. The speakers brought in important perspectives and gave us an overview of what was to be expected in the coming months, especially for marginalized and vulnerable communities. Chris Purdy from a company called DKT International producing SRHR products, such as MA pills, condoms, etc. warned of an imminent crisis in the supply chain for contraceptives and IUD as manufacturing in countries temporarily shut down. Lizzie from This Ability Kenya reminded that people with disabilities have lived with the limitations for years, such as, poor systems and infrastructures, accessibility issues, issues of lack of basic resources for the poor. She reiterated that after the pandemic we must lean in on the communities living with disability and learn from them to rebuild a more just and inclusive world.

DELIVERING ACCESS TO SAFE ABORTION IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 | MARIE STOPES INTERNATIONAL | 8TH APRIL

Attended by Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder, this was the first webinar in the series and focused around delivering access to safe abortion in the time of COVID-19, sharing the potential impact of the virus on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), alongside strategies for ensuring women can continue to access safe abortion services during the crisis; through telemedicine, pharmacies and government partnerships.

SELF MANAGED ABORTION AND LAW: TOWARD A PERSON CENTERED HUMAN RIGHT APPROACH | IPAS | 22ND APRIL 2020

In this webinar panelists discussed the concern for criminalizing self-managed abortion, in imagining a future that promotes rights based approach to abortion services. For many people, self-managed abortion is a preferred way to end a pregnancy based on their experiences and circumstances. Even where people have access to high-quality abortion services provided in formal health systems, they may choose to self-manage their abortions because of privacy concerns or to avoid the stigma related to an unwanted pregnancy. The webinar was attended by Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder

AMPLIFY CHANGE STRATEGY AND CONSULTATION WEBINAR | AMPLIFY CHANGE | 13TH MAY 2020

A Grantee meeting attended by Nandini Mazumder, on behalf of ASAP where Grantees were asked to share their inputs on Amplify Change (Strength, Weaknesses and Opportunities) that would inform the Grants strategic planning for the next five years.



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