



ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP 2024

THE JOURNEY AND LEGACY OF A NETWORK

































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Report illustration and design by Mrinalini Godara @mrinartmo

FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

The history, the journey and the legacy:

The Abortion & Reproductive Justice Conference IV being held by us in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, Government of Thailand, Mahidol University and the Department of Public Health, and ARSA is an incredible milestone on this remarkable journey that started in a small meeting room in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in March 2008.

On that day, 35 individuals from across Asia had gathered to deliberate on a question that was challenging and critical.

Do we need a regional forum for safe abortion rights advocacy?

It did not take us too long to reach the conclusions that the answer was a definite YES!

Then came the most difficult part - choosing a suitable name.

We cycled through various combinations of unsafe abortion/ prevention/ maternal health/ women's health/ comprehensive/ reproductive until Dr SP Choong finally spoke up. He reminded us that if we start off our forum with self- censoring what kind of advocates would we be? That was a wake- up call and a game changer that has defined our approach and ideology ever since.

We step up, we speak up, we speak out.

And that dear reader was the founding of the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership. ASAP.

Brave, unapologetic, passionate and centred.

Today, all these years later, we gather here not merely to commemorate the passing of time, but to celebrate a journey—a journey that transcends the ordinary and embraces the extraordinary.

As we stand at the threshold of the 15th anniversary of our organization, I am reminded of the timeless wisdom embedded in the hero's journey, a narrative structure that resonates with the very essence of our collective odyssey.

In every hero's tale, there exists a call to adventure, a beckoning to leave the comfort of the familiar and embark on a transformative quest. Fifteen years ago, our organization answered that call. We embraced the challenge, the uncertainty, and the promise of change.

The road we travelled was not always smooth; we encountered trials and tribulations that tested our resolve. Yet, like the hero facing adversity, we learned to adapt, to overcome, and to emerge stronger.

In the hero's journey, allies play a pivotal role in aiding the protagonist on their quest. Today, we are honoured to stand among allies—individuals whose dedication, passion, and unwavering support have fuelled the momentum of our quest and catalysts to movement building.

As we reflect on the past 15 years, let us also cast our gaze toward the horizon of the future—a future where our organization continues to evolve, innovate, and inspire. Let this gathering be a commitment to facing the unknown with courage and embracing change with open hearts.

Thank you for being a part of this extraordinary odyssey.

Suchitra Dalvie



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VISION

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

GOAL

To promote, protect and advance women's sexual and reproductive rights and health in Asia, by promoting access to comprehensive safe abortion services and by reducing unsafe abortion and its complications.

(Explanation: Access refers to all its components such as geographical, financial, sensitive, continuity of care. Comprehensive services include pre-procedure counseling, a full range of safe and effective methods, postabortion care and contraception, as well as emergency referral services as needed)

Our Objectives:

- To increase the availability of evidence-based and scientific information on safe abortion, including medical abortion, and to facilitate its dissemination and use among members and other relevant stakeholders.
- 2. To increase the capacities of the network and its members to advocate and network for access to safe abortion as a human right.
- 3. To promote technologies and service delivery systems (to include mainstream and alternative) for safer abortion access.
- 4. To increase the visibility of a right-based approach to safe abortion at local, regional, and global forums (physical as well as media spaces).

VALUE STATEMENT

We believe that women's rights are human rights and that gender equality cannot be achieved without reproductive and sexual rights, including access to safe abortion.

We believe in the right of all women to be empowered to obtain equitable access to reproductive services free of coercion, discrimination, and violence, within a social justice framework.

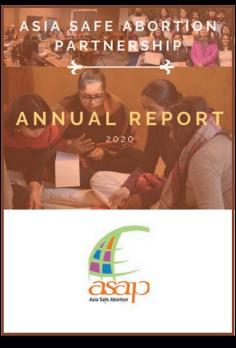
We respect the diverse religions and cultural identities of the membership and find ways to work together in synergy.

We believe in the value of collaborative relationships with regional and international alliances to share and exchange and learn from their experience and be able to support efforts globally to move this agenda forward.

VISIONARY AND PASSIONATE FROM THE VERY EARLY DAYS!







CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



















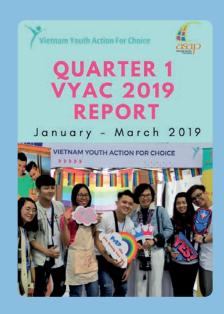








REPORTS THROUGH THE YEARS









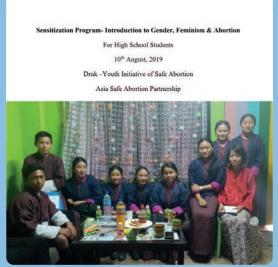


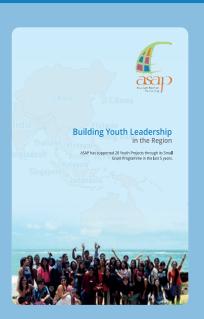












THE FUTURE IS HERE







OCCUPYING ONLINE SPACES

















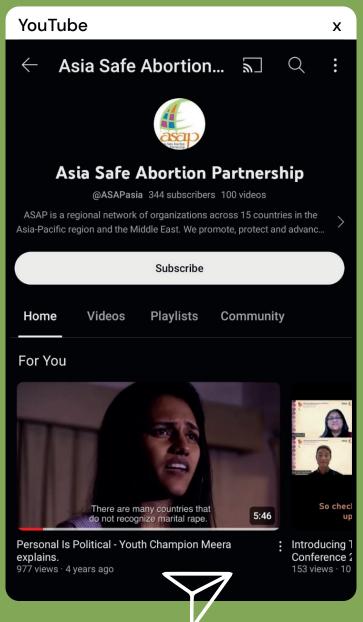


OUR SOCIAL MEDIA











WE LEARN & WE GROW

Abortion Medical Factsheet available in various languages



ASAP Covid Conversations





























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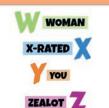














Other ASAP Resources

Preventing complications from unsafe abortion



THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME.

Analysis of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (Amendment) 2020 (India)

By Dr Suchitra Dalvie







STAND UP & SPEAK UP!

















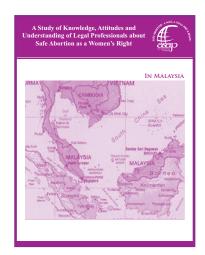


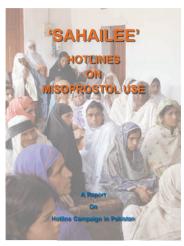


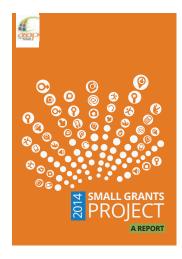


NOT JUST THINKING OUT OF THE BOX, BUT BREAKING DOWN ITS WALLS!

Pioneering and innovative projects:

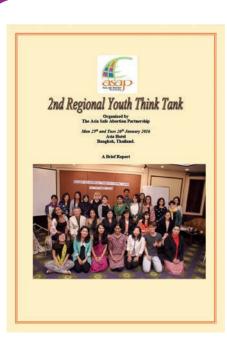


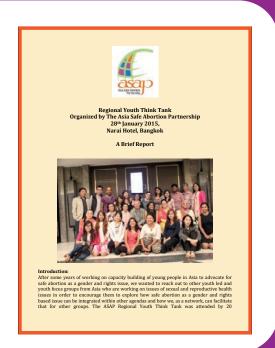






The beginnings of building inclusive movements:





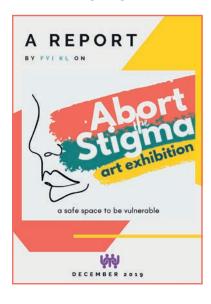




Working with medical students:



Abort the Stigma **Art Exhibition:**



Learning Retreats:



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.

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)







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



71 to 21: The World's First Musical on Safe Abortion Rights





Asha ki Kiran Videos





Board Game:





Flabby Breasted Virgin and other Sordid Tales:









SOLIDARITY, COMMUNITY, NETWORK & MOVEMENT BUILDING

















