

# ASAP QUARTERLY REPORT



January -March 2022

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting titled "UNTITLED - 1". The top part shows a grid of 15 participants in a video call. Below the grid is a video of three women holding signs that say "GIVE LIFE". The bottom right corner features a yellow banner with the text "NEW SHAPING SAFER ONLINE SPACES FOR FEMINISTS AND SAFE ABORTION RIGHTS ADVOCATES".

UNTITLED - 1

256K

NEW

**SHAPING SAFER  
ONLINE SPACES**

**FOR FEMINISTS AND SAFE  
ABORTION RIGHTS ADVOCATES**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**2-13**      *ASAP Activities*

**14**        *ASAP as Panelist*

**15-16**    *ASAP Blogs*

**17-18**    *ASAP Social Media*

**19-23**    *CAN Activities*

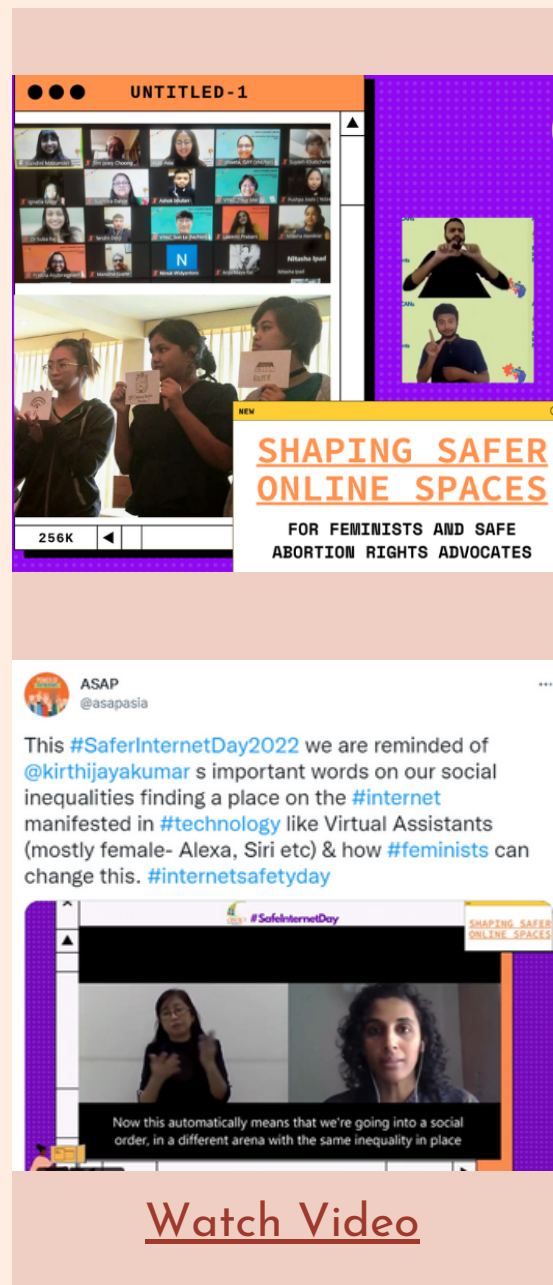
# ASAP Activities

## Shaping Safer Online Spaces (SSOS).

ASAP, along with our partners and Country Advocacy Networks, has been trying to create safe spaces online to discuss important issues and use the ease of online connectivity to build solidarity across borders and movements.

It is not unknown that the politics and power dynamics of online spaces only reflect the inherent patriarchy existing in our offline world and it doesn't help that many tech platforms are predominantly run and controlled by cis het males who are often indifferent to the structural oppression and the resultant consequences faced by many marginalized people online.

In this context, while we can welcome the 're-discovering' of our online voices, it becomes important to ensure that the oppressed, be it women, LGBTQIA members, anti-race or anti-caste activists, all of us must be able to efficiently use these tools (smartphone, internet, social media etc) to shape the strategy and narrative for ourselves and our communities, because otherwise our online participation may always be susceptible to challenges like threats to privacy, harassment, online violence, trolling.



UNTITLED-1

SHAPING SAFER ONLINE SPACES

FOR FEMINISTS AND SAFE ABORTION RIGHTS ADVOCATES

256K

ASAP @asapasia

This #SaferInternetDay2022 we are reminded of @kirthijayakumar's important words on our social inequalities finding a place on the #internet manifested in #technology like Virtual Assistants (mostly female- Alexa, Siri etc) & how #feminists can change this. #internetsafetyday

#SaferInternetDay

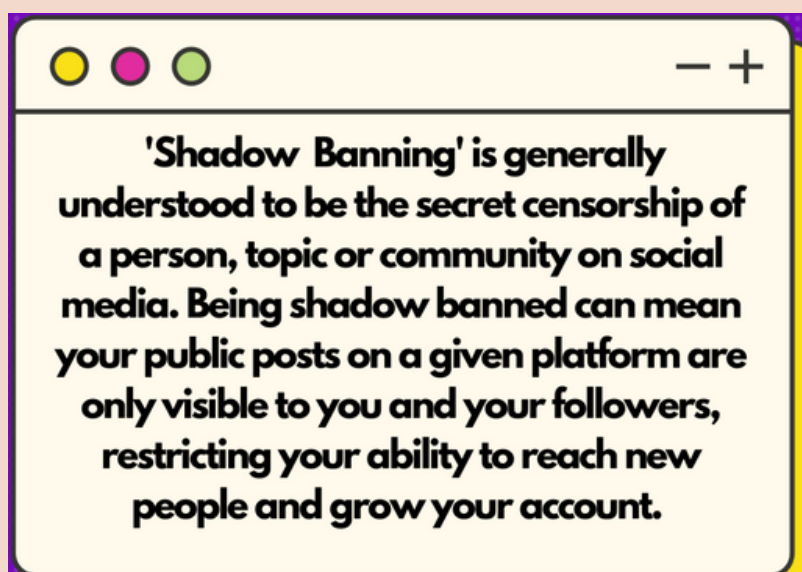
SHAPING SAFER ONLINE SPACES

Now this automatically means that we're going into a social order, in a different arena with the same inequality in place

Watch Video

In order to unpack the complexities as well as understand ways of managing them, this year while continuing to build inclusive movements, we will also be working towards 'Shaping Safer Online Spaces' as part of our overarching theme. We believe that it is our collective responsibility as human rights and safe abortion rights defenders to claim these online spaces.

We want to encourage discourses that are effective and safe, in order to maximize the potential of these 'online tools' so that we are all able to bring our politics on it and not just some privileged few and we look forward to undertaking this challenging work in collaboration with all of you!





Compared to the West, **Femtech (female technology)** in the East is severely lagging. Even though Southeast Asia is one of the fastest-growing regions globally, millions of people still live on less than US\$2 per day.

The situation is even worse for women in the region. They are always tied down with money generation tasks, which prevent them from attending school or getting an education. Thus, access to technology is limited.



*Will it be a bumpy road ahead for femtech in Southeast Asia?*

@TechWireAsia,

256K

Women on Web have reportedly experienced censorship by Twitter and YouTube as well. In January 2015, Twitter temporarily disabled the possibility to link to [womenonweb.org](http://womenonweb.org) or to tweet a link to the website. In January 2018, YouTube temporarily removed the video channels from Women on Waves and Women on Web, both of which contained animations with information about safe ways to do an abortion with medicine.



*On the blocking of abortion rights websites: Women on Waves & Women on Web*

@CodingRights

256K

The way the app works is that a user sends off a selfie to Giggle. If the Kairos AI (facial recognition company) is 95 per cent certain the person is female, they are allowed to create an account.

In the 2019 report on Kairos, however, Joe Buolamwini, a researcher at the MIT Media Lab, found that the **technology misgendered darker-skinned women 22.5 per cent of the time.**



*Giggle, a social media app designed for "females", has come under fire for excluding trans women with its use of artificial intelligence?*

@PinkNews.

256K

**New research from the Center for Countering Digital Hate, shows that:**

- Instagram failed to act on 90% of abusive DMs reported using the platform's tools.
- Instagram failed to act on 9 in 10 violent threats sent to women over DM and reported using its tools.
- Instagram failed to act on any of image-based sexual abuse reported using its tools within 48 hours.

*Hidden Hate: How Instagram Fails to act on 9 in 10 reports of Mysogyny in DM*

Center For Countering Digital Hate



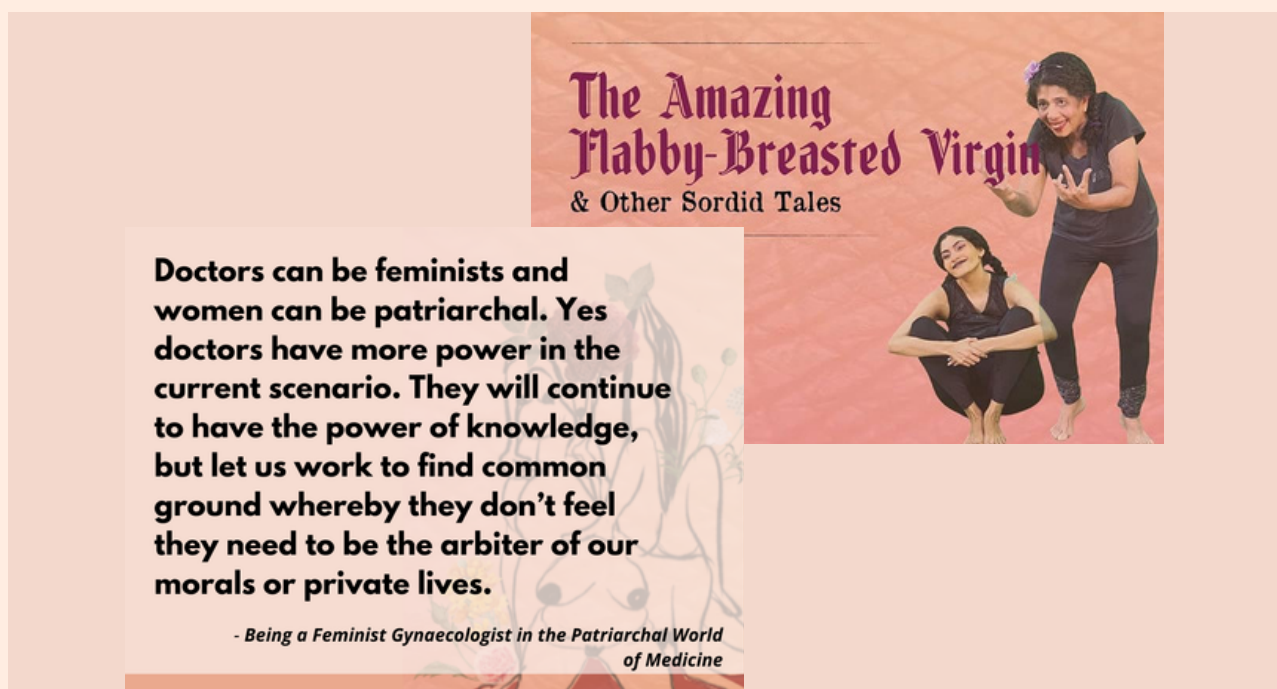
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# The Amazing Flabby Breasted Virgin & Other Sordid Tales | February 2022

ASAP in collaboration with [KathaSiyah](#), held the first screening of their play this year, which has been in planning and was inspired around two years ago from the writings of Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie ([Being a Feminist Gynaecologist in a Patriarchal World](#)), picked up and then produced by Ayesha Susan Thomas, who's a Feminist Theater Practitioner, Teacher and Co-Founder of KathaSiyah.

The Amazing Flabby-Breasted Virgin & Other Sordid Tales is a playful, irreverent digital performance. This performance is part of an educational arts project on systemic issues in both medicine and education today. It plays with the myths and magical thinking that surround and define the non-masculine, non-heterosexual body. It poses surreal and satirical questions about how women's bodies are taught, perceived and practiced within medical education in the urban Indian context.

FBV has taken multiple iterations over the past 2 years. It survived a global pandemic, and emerged stronger as a hybrid performance intervention. In its present form, FBV uses what is available and real to us in the changed world of live performance—film, performance, and an interactive website. The performative archive on an interactive website was created in a hybrid team—offline actors and online designers and artists. In our future dreams for FBV we seek to reimagine the show as an offline, live performance.





KathaSiyah presents to you  
**The Amazing Flabby-Breasted Virgin  
& Other Sordid Tales**

Lesson 1

Only refer to the female body through vague floral metaphors. For example, fill in the blanks with the appropriate phrase:

The pure woman who has not had sex is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) a thorn in your side
- b) The Perks of Being a Wallflower
- c) as fresh as a daisy
- d) a late bloomer
- e) The Beanstalk



KathaSiyah presents  
**The Amazing Flabby-Breasted Virgin  
& Other Sordid Tales**

Lesson 2

deflorate (dɪˈflɔːrət)

*adj*

*botany* (of a plant) having lost its flowers

*vb (tr)*

- 1. *botany* to strip (a plant) of its flowers
- 2. **archaic** to take the virginity from (a girl or woman)

ANTONYMS FOR deflorate

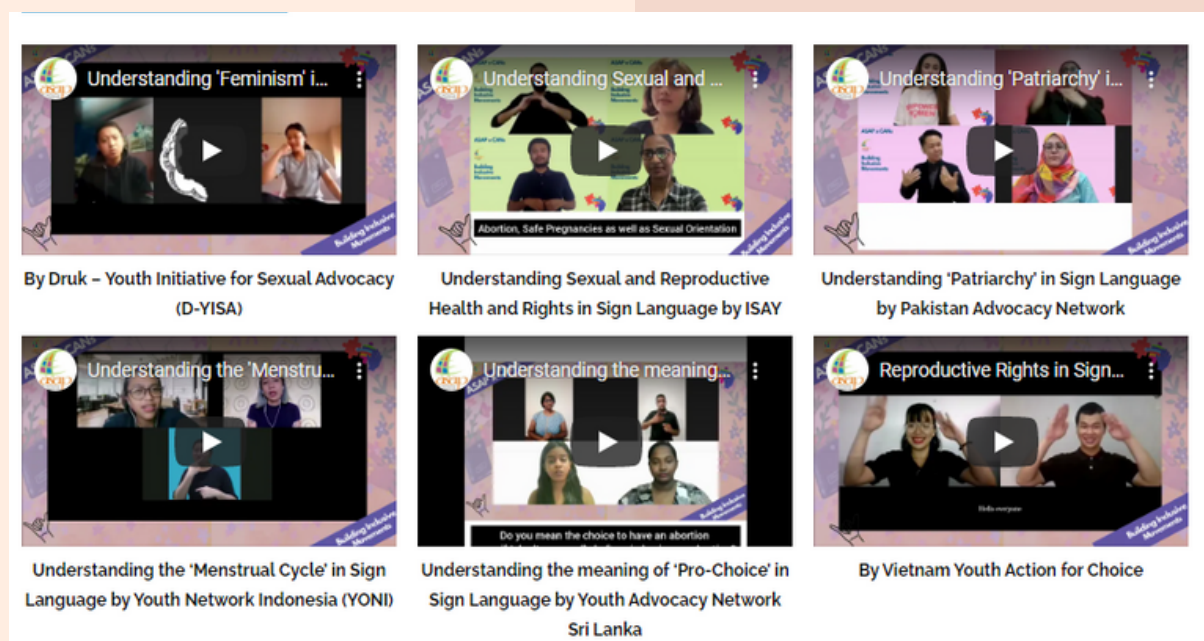
florate (flɔːrət)

*adj*

- 1. *rare* of, pertaining to, or decorated with flowers
- 2. **according to Indian Textbook of Forensic Medicine** a girl or woman who's virginity is intact



# Building Inclusive Movements | ASAP with CANs



[Watch all videos here.](#)

Carrying forward our last year's vision of finding synergies and developing solidarities between various human rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and social justice movements, ASAP is continuing to work closely along with the Country Advocacy Network, with the deaf and hard of hearing community across the region, to create primer videos explaining SRHR concepts in sign languages.

We started this year, by sharing the video by YoSHAN from Nepal explaining 'safe abortion' in sign language.



[Click on image to access full video.](#)



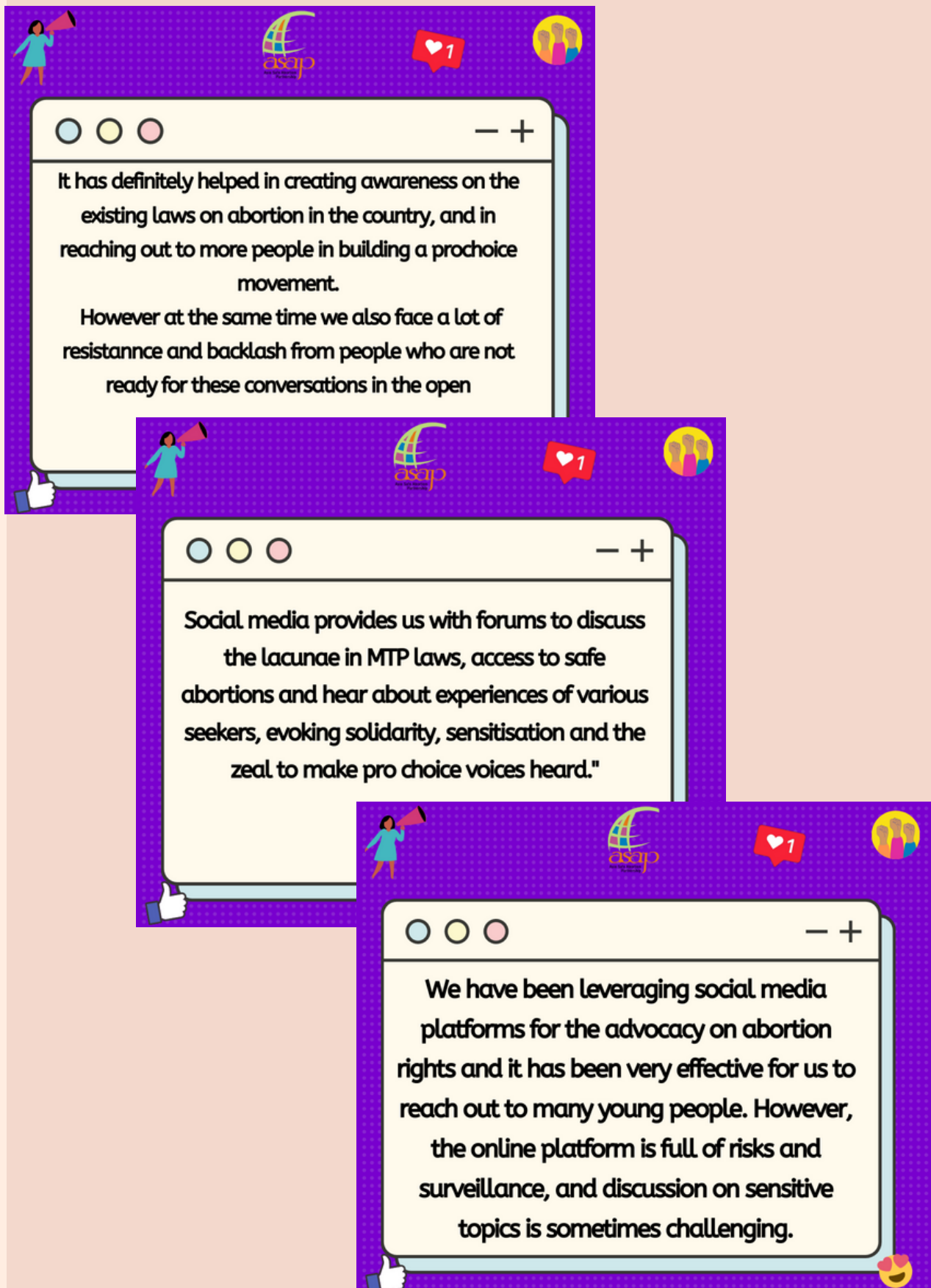
# #LikeForAbortionRights International Women's Day

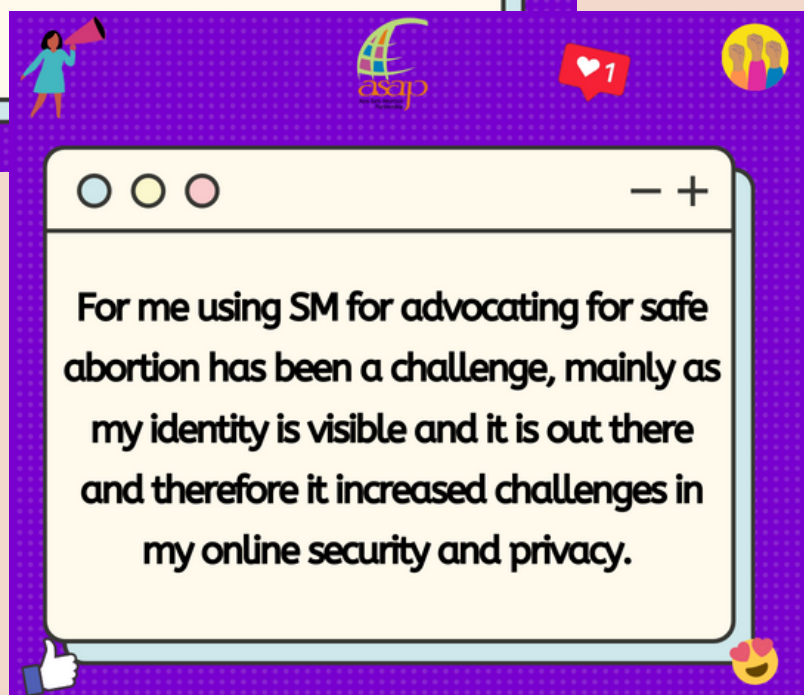
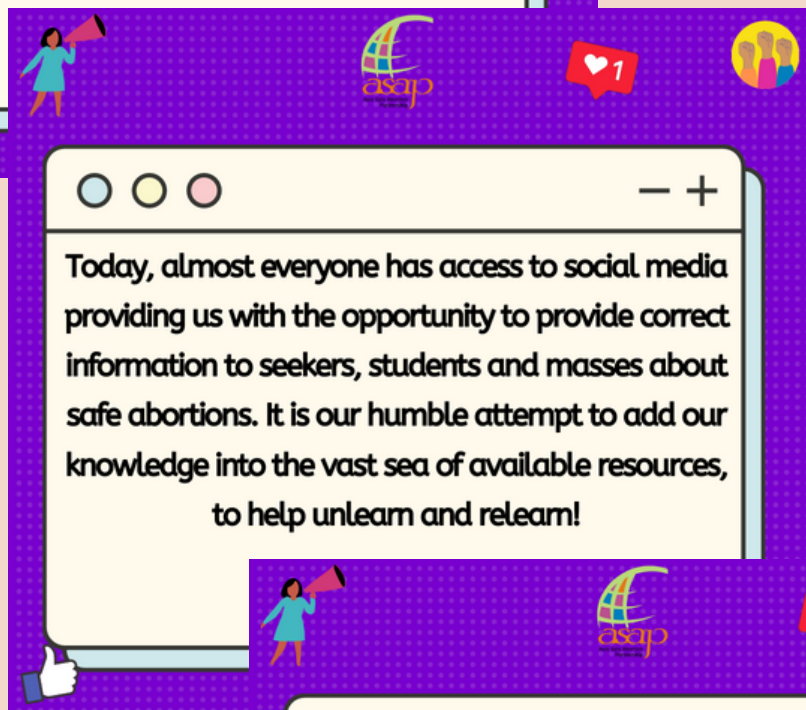
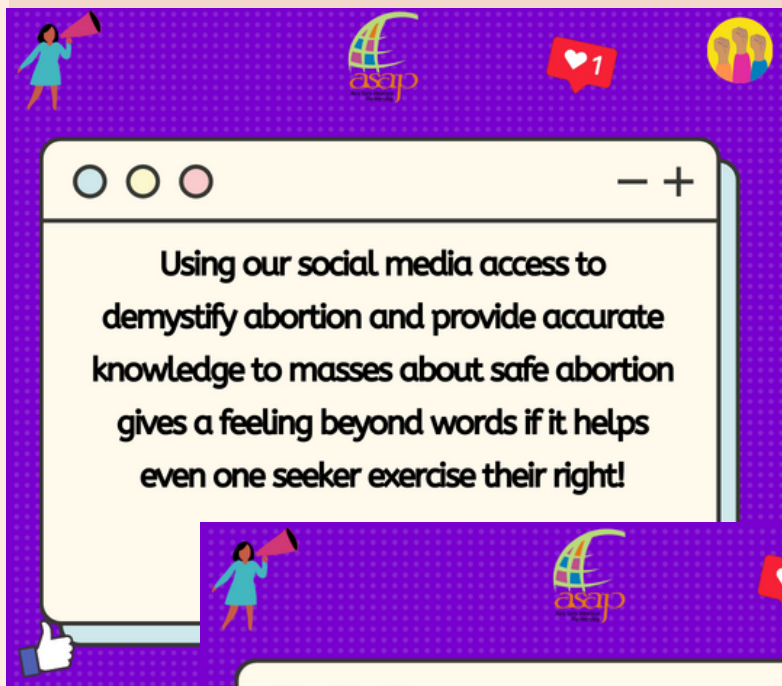


This year, keeping in mind our overall theme and work around digital safety for SRHR and safe abortion rights advocates we focused on highlighting the benefits as well as challenges, when it comes to using social media platforms for advocating for safe abortion rights access.

Throughout the day, we shared statements from our CANs while also encouraging partner organizations to participate in the campaign and share their views as well.







## '71-21' : Back and Forth? | MASUM

This International Women's Day, Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal (supported by ASAP) presented the first glimpse of a video drama on people's right to access safe abortion services in India, the challenges they face and why, despite abortion being legal in the country, is still not accessible for many!

The play will be in Marathi, with English subtitles. For regular updates on the play, you can follow us on our social media.









# ASAP AS Panelist

## National Consultation - NFHS 5: Deeper Analysis from Safe Abortion Lens

Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie moderated the opening session of the Consultation - Critique of National Family Health Survey V: Diving into the data. The session focussed on critically analyzing the gaps available in the data for safe abortion and what do indicators like sex ratio, total infertility rate, adolescent fertility rate etc showcase. The speakers for the session were Dr. Sushanta Kumar Banerjee (Ipas Development Foundation) and Dr. Rajib Acharya (Population Council).

## Demanding Right to Safe Abortions | SAMA | IWD'22


Coordinator Dr Dalvie was invited as a speaker at this webinar, which was organised to amplify the voices and struggles of communities living in marginalised contexts while demanding their Right to Safe Abortion. The panel was an important platform to engage in discussion towards strengthening our collective understanding on legality / legal complexities, barriers existing at the health system level vis-a-vis abortion and figure out, possible strategies to engage and navigate the health system towards making it more accountable to the provisioning of abortion care. Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie represented ASAP



# ASAP Blogs

Click on the image to read the full blog




ASAP  Jan 10 • 2 min

## Shaping Safer Online Spaces for Feminists & Abortion Rights...

In the past 2 years, as we all dealt with multiple lockdowns and limited mobility, ASAP has been constantly experimenting with new ways...




ASAP  Jan 20 • 2 min

## Awareness: The Only Approach to Abort Stigma. By Suweeta Xiao...

When the removal of a foetus can save the life of an adult, therefore avoiding mishaps of sacrificing two lives at a time, termination of...




ASAP  Feb 11 • 2 min

## Flabby Breasted Virgin & Other Sordid Tales

The Amazing Flabby-Breasted Virgin & Other Sordid Tales is a playful, irreverent digital performance. This performance is part of an...

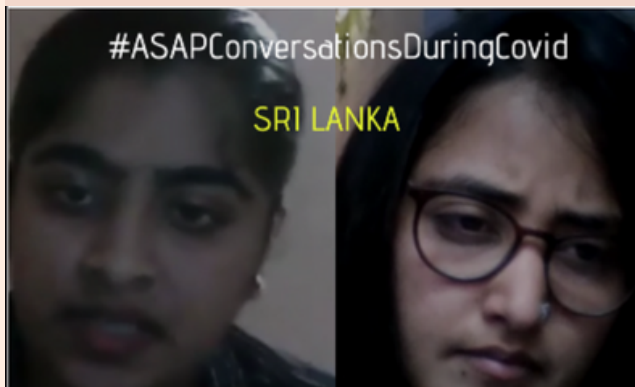
# ASAP Blogs




ASAP  Feb 14 • 5 min

## The Idea of Love: A Review of bell hook's 'all about love' by Nandini...

This review is specially to mark Valentine's Day which falls on 14th February every year and is celebrated as a day of love worldwide...



ASAP  Mar 23 • 9 min

## 'Lockdown without plan, increases risk of unsafe abortions in SL' ASAP...

This blog is part of a series of Covid conversations with members and partners to understand the impact of the pandemic on safe abortion...

# ASAP Social Media



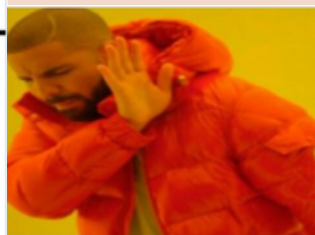
Video: Facts About Medical Abortion



**WE WANT MORE  
GIRLS TO BE BORN!!!  
SAVE GIRL CHILD!!!**



**..for 'Continuity of  
our species and  
basically just  
Reproduction'**



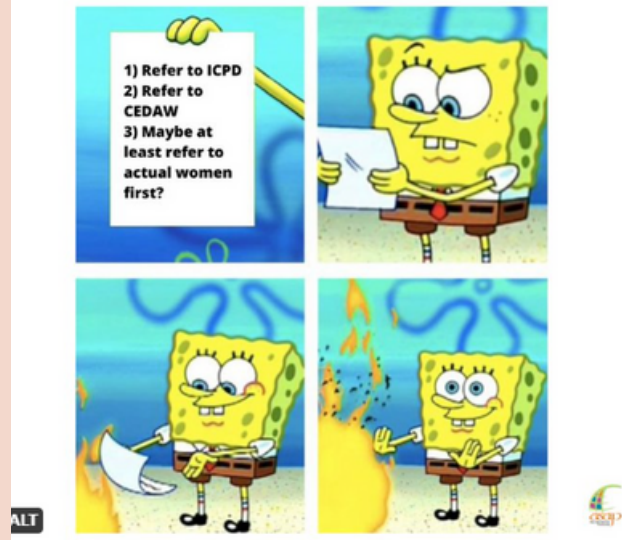
**Investment  
in Woman's  
Health**



**Investment  
in Warfare**



## Governments when designing laws/schemes for women



ASAP @asapasia · Mar 11

On [#CelebrateAbortionProviders](#) we want to appreciate all providers around the world & especially those working in countries with limited resources or challenging circumstances.

Here are 3 of our conversations with [#Doctors](#) during the [#Pandemic](#) from [#India](#) [#Philippines](#) & [#Japan](#)



ASAP @asapasia · Mar 16

[#patriarchy](#) will convince you that a 15 year old girl is ready to get married and have kids (in various cultures across the world), but a 25 year old woman 'will be irresponsible' with [#information](#) on medical [#abortion](#) pills online 🙄



ASAP @asapasia · Feb 22

This is what we need. Porn doesn't exist in isolation and can reflect the patriarchal mindset, but [#Porn](#) is also not the enemy here & should reflect everyone's perspective! We shall definitely check out [@makelovenotporn](#) [@cindygallop](#) thanks a lot for the initiative!



cindygallop.eth @cindygallop · Feb 21

Replying to @asapasia and @parodevi

.@makelovenotporn 'Pro-sex. Pro-porn. Pro-knowing the difference' is THE SAFEST PLACE ON THE INTERNET because I designed it through the female lens around human curation of EVERYTHING (no self-publishing). And yet we're viewed as an online pariah techpolicy.press/long-before-on... [#sextech](#)



# CAN Activities

## Youth Led SRHR Advocacy Nepal (YoSHAN)



### National Workshop on Convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination Against Women

YoSHAN participated in a Workshop organized by BBC to prepare the shadow report which is sent to the CEDAW committee. YoSHAN provided recommendation to decriminalize the safe abortion.

### F for Feminism

Forum for Women Law and Development (FWLD) in collaboration with IPAS and CRR organized the programme "F' for feminism, where all the national stakeholders including Family Welfare Division as well as the donors and activists working on safe abortion and contraception participated in the program.

### Women's Day celebration | National Commission for Women

National Women Commission organized the program on occasion of International Women's Day where YoSHAN was invited as an stakeholder working to promote gender equality and reproductive rights.

## Youth Consultation on Safe Abortion

YoSHAN collaborated with Safe Motherhood Network Federation (SMNF) and Leo Club of Kathmandu to organize an awareness session on Safe abortion rights with 21 young participants.

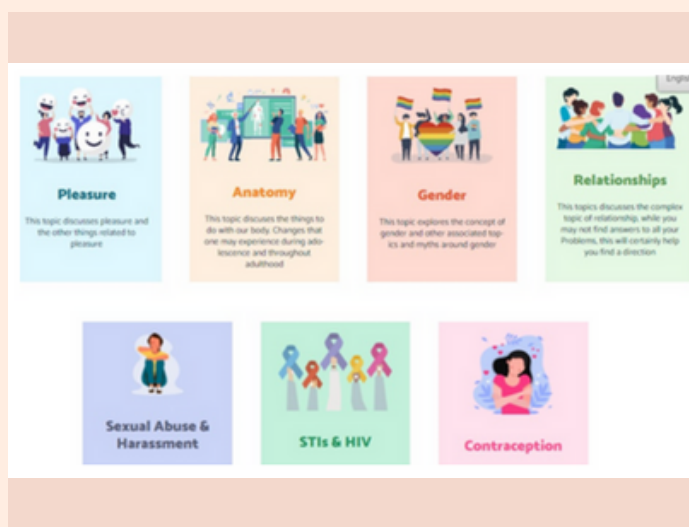


# Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka (YANSL)



## 'WE HEAR YOU' Website Launched

The website includes embedded videos developed as part of the Women Fund Asia Project on access to SRHR prior to and following the Covid 19 pandemic. The videos feature stories from participants representing women and girls, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQ+ community.



## IG3 Grant



YANSL was selected as a winner of the Y-Peer Asia Pacific Centre and Youth LEAD's Innovative Grants 3.0 for the translation of an SRHR manual. The project proposal was to translate an SRHR training handbook into Sri Lanka's indigenous languages, namely Sinhala and English, and to redesign it for Sri Lanka. A translation skills training session was also organized to increase the capacities of selected participants in preparation for the translation of the SRHR manual.

## PROJECT PAHARA

Six webinars were held on sexual and gender-based violence as part of Project Pahara, which was conducted by Kasuni Ganga and Tharindi Abeynayake. A short animated video was also created to illustrate the experience of a woman who was exposed to SGBV during the Covid 19 pandemic-induced lockdown. A basic CSE session covering anatomy, gender, SGBV, family planning, and STIs was also conducted in Galle (Southern Province) for 15 teenagers from the area who have never received CSE training

## Sri Lankan Queer History

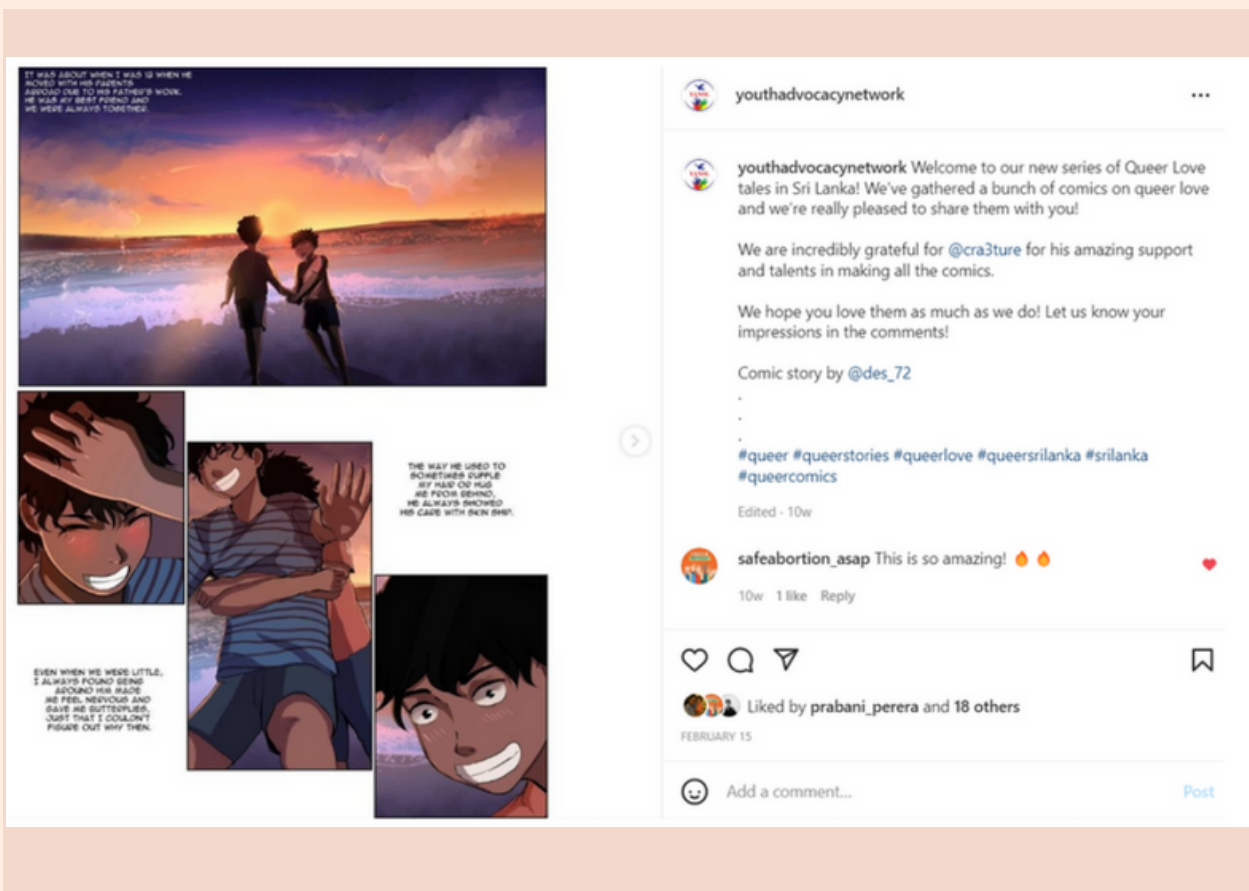
Sex and sexual education are taboo subjects in many cultures around the world including Sri Lanka. To commemorate World Sexual Health Day, YANSL created a small poster campaign that aims to educate people about their sexual and reproductive health and rights. The campaign was a success.



## LGBTQ Series of Comics

Due to the ability of the medium to reach and attract a vast audience, comics can be a powerful tool for raising awareness and influencing public opinion.

With the pandemic putting many communities at risk, YANSL teamed with alumni Youth Champion Tharinidi Devasurendra to create a comic book series about the LGBTIQ community as part of the FPA (Family Planning Association) fellowship program







Follow us on Social media for  
more regular updates

