

2020

# Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka

Quarterly Report

July-September



## Table of Contents

The Month of July.....	2
❖ Events.....	2
1) 10 <sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights .....	2
❖ Social Media Campaigns.....	2
1) Comprehensive sexuality education. ....	2
2) The ministerial election. ....	2
3) World Day against Trafficking of Persons.....	3
The Month of August.....	3
❖ Events.....	3
1) 10 <sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights .....	3
❖ Social Media Campaigns.....	4
1) International Youth Day .....	4
❖ Projects.....	5
1) SEX ED 101 .....	5
The Month of September .....	5
❖ Events.....	5
1) 10 <sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights .....	5
❖ Social Media Campaigns.....	5
1) International Safe Abortion Day .....	5
❖ Projects.....	6
1) Sexuality and Prevention of Sexual Violence.....	6
Major Projects and Updates .....	7
❖ Phase 03 - Historical and Political Trajectory of Legalizing Safe Abortion in Sri Lanka .....	7
❖ We Hear You.....	7
❖ Amplifier Change .....	7

## The Month of July

### ❖ Events

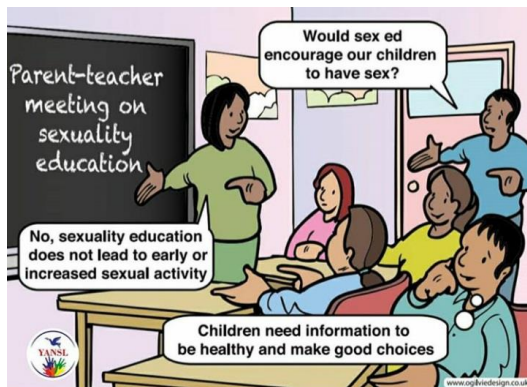
#### 1) 10<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

During the month of July three webinars were conducted to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### ❖ Social Media Campaigns

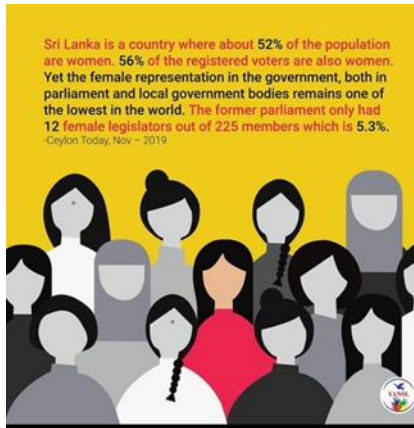
#### 1) Comprehensive sexuality education.

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



#### 2) 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



### 3) World Day against Trafficking of Persons.

The World Day against Trafficking of Persons falls on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July. On this day YANSL shared several posts to create awareness on human trafficking both inside and outside the country and its legal consequences.



Within the country, traffickers exploit women and children in sex trafficking. Traffickers exploit boys and girls in commercial sex in coastal areas for child sex tourism, including in hotels, on beaches, and during annual festivals.



**WORLD DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING | JULY 30**

## The Month of August

### ❖ Events

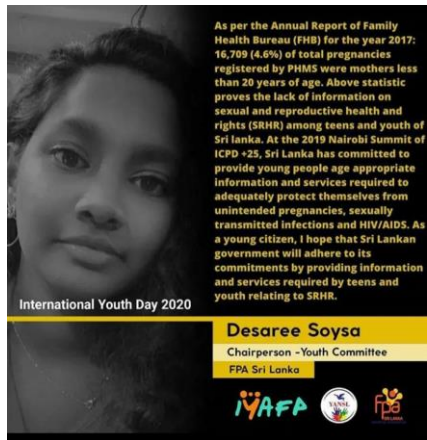
- 1) 10<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Three webinars of the 10<sup>th</sup> APCRSHR was conducted during the month of August. The topics that were discussed are as follows. Young people and sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia and Pacific, Youth Engagement for the sexual and reproductive health and rights action in Asia and Pacific and climate change and reproductive rights in Asia and Pacific.

## ❖ Social Media Campaigns

### 1) International Youth Day


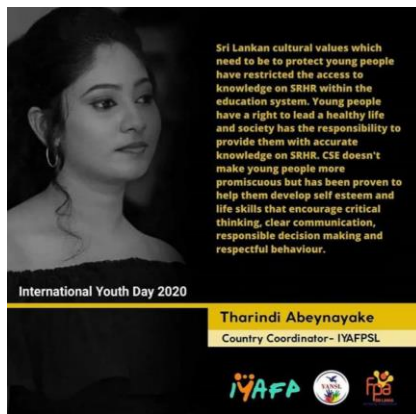
The International Youth Day falls on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August every year. Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka partnered with Family Planning Association (FPA) of Sri Lanka and International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (IYAFFP) for an online social media campaign. Youth members from the three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



As per the Annual Report of Family Health Bureau (FHB) for the year 2017: 16,709 (4.6%) of total pregnancies registered by PHMS were mothers less than 20 years of age. Above statistic proves the lack of information on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) among teens and youth of Sri Lanka. At the 2019 Nairobi Summit of ICPD +25, Sri Lanka has committed to provide young people age appropriate information and services required to adequately protect themselves from unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. As a young citizen, I hope that Sri Lankan government will adhere to its commitments by providing information and services required by teens and youth relating to SRHR.

International Youth Day 2020


**Desaree Soysa**  
Chairperson - Youth Committee  
FPA Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan cultural values which need to be to protect young people have restricted the access to knowledge on SRHR within the education system. Young people have a right to lead a healthy life and society has the responsibility to provide them with accurate knowledge on SRHR. CSE doesn't make young people more promiscuous but has been proven to help them develop self esteem and life skills that encourage critical thinking, clear communication, responsible decision making and respectful behaviour.

International Youth Day 2020

**Tharindi Abeynayake**  
Country Coordinator- IYAFFPSL




As a member of the youth of Sri Lanka, I believe that understanding sexual and reproductive health is essential in more ways than one. Starting off the discussion at a younger age would discourage the subject of sex to be kept in the dark, while allowing the coming generation to open up in a healthy, responsible and respectful manner.

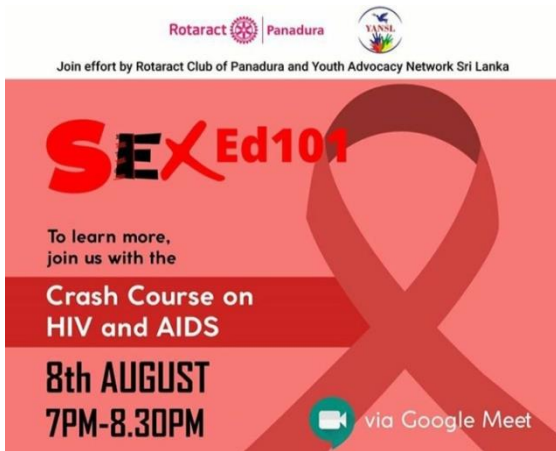
International Youth Day 2020

**Janethri Liyanage**  
Volunteer Member - VANSLS



## ❖ Projects

### 1) SEX ED 101



Sex Ed 101 is a project carried out by the Rotaract Club of Panadura in Collaboration with Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka. On the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## The Month of September

### ❖ Events

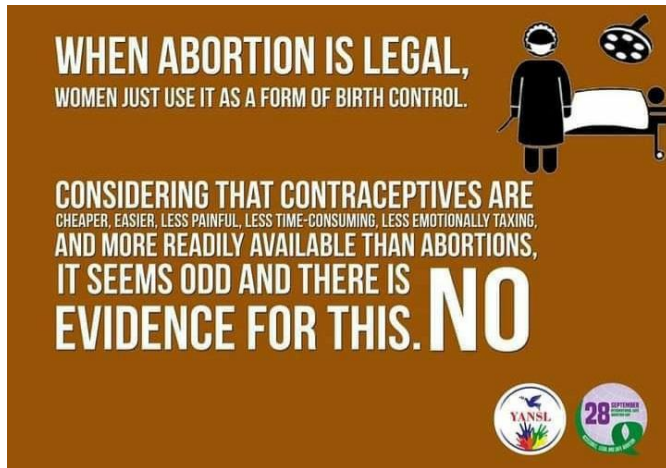
#### 1) 10<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Three webinars of the 10<sup>th</sup> APCRSHR was held in the month of September. The topics that were discussed are as follows. Innovative financing for sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia and Pacific, population and ageing and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Asia and Pacific and Safe Abortion and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Asia and Pacific.

### ❖ Social Media Campaigns

#### 1) International Safe Abortion Day

The International Safe Abortion Day falls on the 28<sup>th</sup> of 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.



## ❖ Projects

### 1) Sexuality and Prevention of Sexual Violence

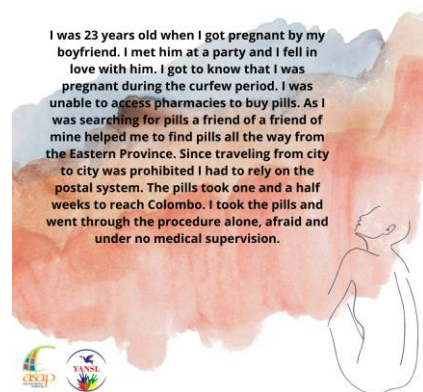
Three sessions on sexuality and prevention of sexual violence was conducted in collaboration with The Foundation Institute for Sustainable Development (FISD) during the month of September. Desaree Soysa from Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka conducted the sessions for children that were categorized in to three groups according to their age. Two groups comprised of children below the age of eleven years and one group comprised of children between eleven years and eighteen years. The sessions were conducted in Rambewa located in the district of Anuradhapura.



## Major Projects and Updates

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

Phase three of the project was conducted and finalized during the 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. The project coordinators documented the five stories as social media posts in all three major languages used in Sri Lanka. Furthermore they documented the stories as blog posts and a video which had to be put on hold due to the second wave of Covid 19 and the sudden lockdown.



### ❖ We Hear You

Project We Hear You is another major projects conducted by Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka. Currently a website is being developed. The website includes data and information on sexual and reproductive health and rights and the website is friendly for people living with hearing disabilities. The project coordinator is Shelani Palihawadane.

### ❖ Amplifier Change

The project coordinator Sanjane Ambegoda is working on a survey to be conducted among law students and legal practitioners in order to understand their understanding, ideas and ideologies on sexual and reproductive health and rights and law reforms surrounding SRHR.