



Building Youth Leadership in the Region

ASAP has supported 28 Youth Projects through its Small Grant Programme in the last 5 years.



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Who Are We ?

The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership advocates for women's right to safe abortion across Asia.

What are the Small Grants ?

From 2012 onwards we instituted a Small Grant Programme to support activities and projects conducted by our Youth Champions. 28 projects in 12 countries have been supported so far. Projects have been implemented in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.



Afghanistan

Dr. Katayon Sadat conducted a two-day training programme for 15 obstetricians and gynaecologists at the Malalai Hospital, Kabul. They were oriented in post abortion care and gender and rights issues.



Bangladesh



First orientation meeting of ASAP was conducted by Bangladesh Youth Champions Network "Youth Advocacy School".



The project was undertaken by Krishti Aung with the [Bangladesh Assembly of Youth Advocates](#) (BAYA) to create social awareness about Menstrual Regulation (MR) amongst women residents of Dhaka slums and girls working in the garment factories.

Anika Binte Habib scripted, directed and produced a short film called [The Drop](#). The film is based on experiences of a woman who was forced to seek an unsafe abortion despite menstrual regulation being legal in Bangladesh. The film was screened at the 8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive & Sexual Health & Rights (APCRSHR) in February 2016, at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.





Yu Yang and Tang Tan conducted workshops with young factory workers and students on issues of unplanned pregnancies and safe abortion and provided information on medical abortion to students through existing university helplines. Six peer education sessions conducted under the project reached 53 workers and 273 college students. They also established Renren and Weibo as official social medium for advocating and sharing contraception and abortion information Renren: www.renren.com/585708176/profile, Weibo: www.weibo.com/u/3064994567

Yu Yang and Sun Xiaoting connected with feminists in Beijing to discuss the different perspective on abortion rights that may exist in their country. They also created a forum to increase and facilitate discussions on gender and women's rights issues in the country. About 12 participants participated in these discussions on NGOs integrating SRHR and women's rights into their current work.



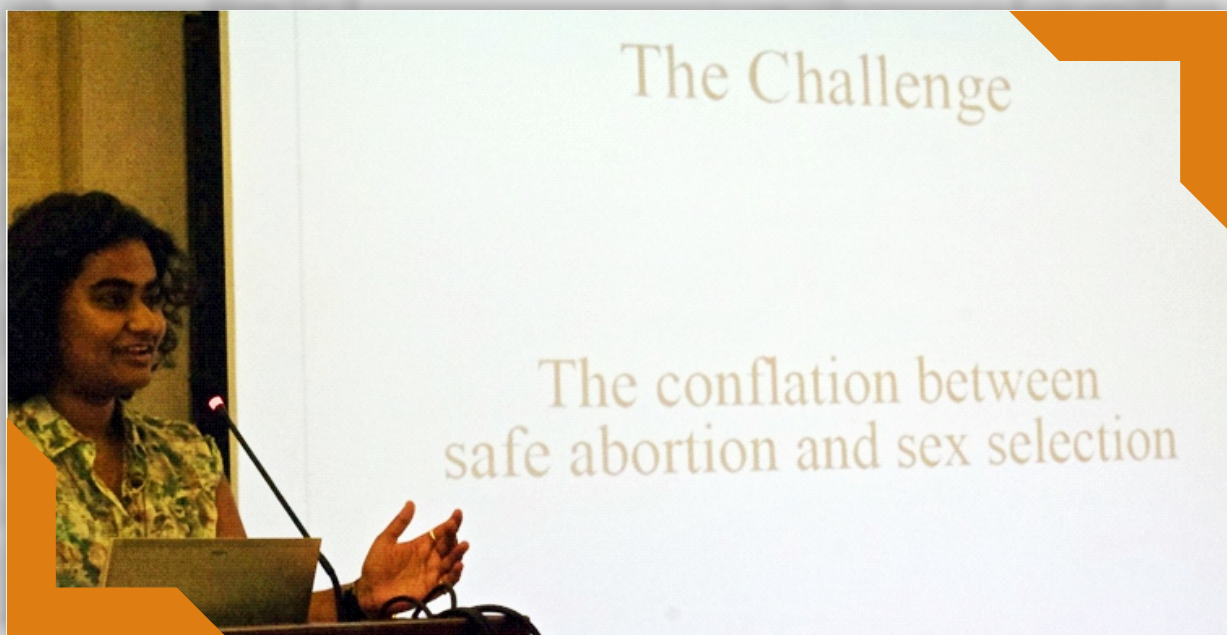


Shweta Krishnan made an animated film in English with help from US-based Indian artist Shachi Kale. The film highlights the socio-cultural and legal factors that create barriers to access safe abortion or drive women to unsafe abortion. The film has since been made available with subtitles in Arabic, Hindi, Nepali, Sinhalese and Vietnamese. The film has been screened at various conferences and meetings including at the 7th Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Manila in Jan 2014 and at the World Youth Conference held in Colombo in May 2014.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwv81v96ick&t=110s>

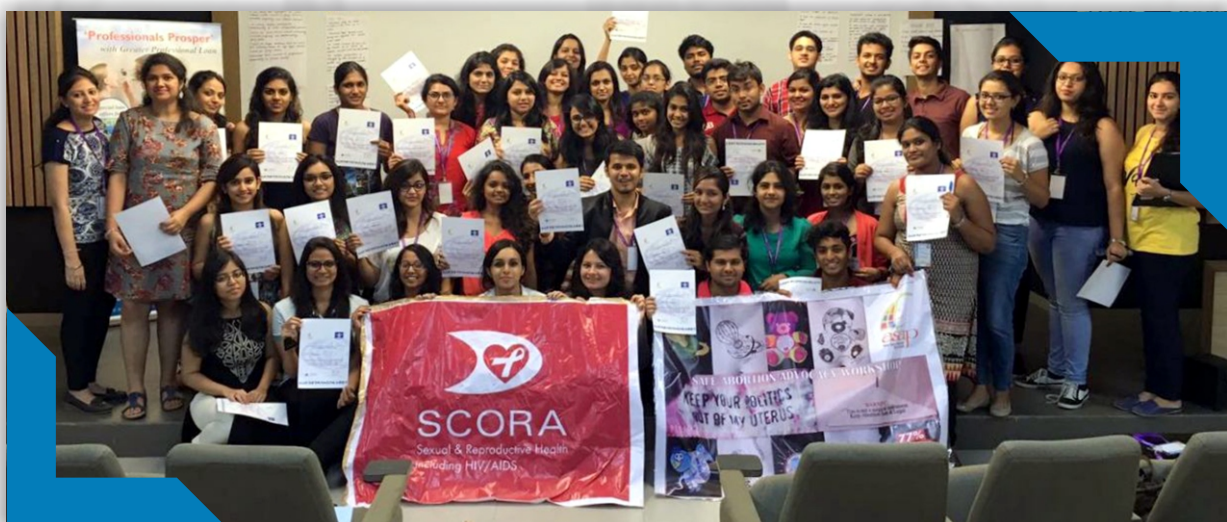


Preet Manjusha conducted a research study to understand the impact of the law against sex determination on women's access to safe abortion in Maharashtra, India. The findings of the study have been published in the July 2015 issue of Reproductive Health Matters under the title, "[If a woman has even one daughter, I refuse to perform the abortion: Sex determination and safe abortion in India](#)".



Shweta Krishnan undertook a research project “Political Mapping: Safe Abortion and Sex Selection” to trace the origin and evolution of the campaign against sex-selection and to understand the underpinnings of the anti-abortion sentiment echoed in the campaign's messaging. . The findings were presented at ASAP CREA meeting in Delhi in June 2015 and the study is being for publication.

Souvik Pyne conducted a seminar at the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies (AMCHSS) in Trivandrum. The aim was to sensitise public health students and professionals on safe abortion as a gender and rights issue. The seminar included panel discussions by experts in the field. 72 public health professionals attended the seminar.



Mubasshir Babar conducted safe abortion advocacy workshop on 20th-22nd May 2016 at D. Y. Patil School of Medicine, Navi Mumbai. Spread over 3 days, for a span of ten hours in total was a massive success this year at Mumbai at the 3rd National General Assembly of the Medical Students Association of India. Details see:

https://issuu.com/msa.india/docs/scora_booklet_02

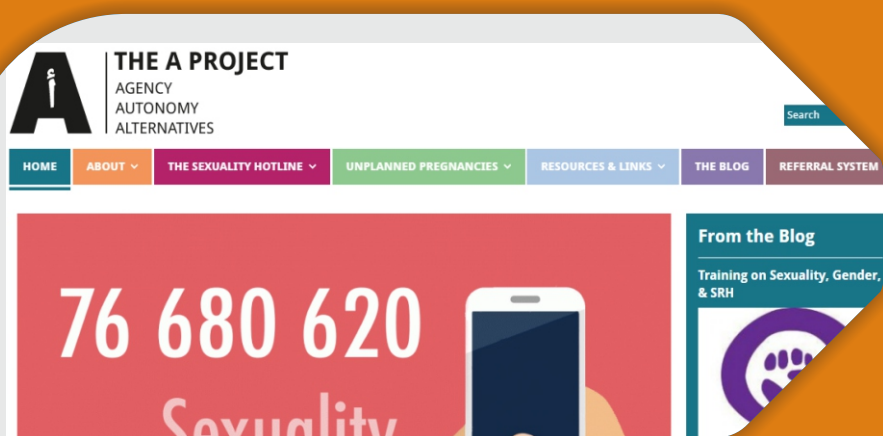
Indonesia

Ignatia Alfa Gloria conducted a series of workshops on introduction to sex and gender, gender based violence and media's portrayal of gender-based problems. 15 young participants joined the workshop, the participants were encouraged to deliberate on these topics and write their opinions and experiences in form of blogs and articles. This initiative succeeded in creating a Facebook group and planning a blog, "AYO NGOBROL" or 'Let's talk' in English.





Nikzad Zangeneh set up a website with the objective of making women aware of violence and reproductive health. The website is in Farsi and English talks about violence against women, unplanned pregnancies and abortions laws and regulations in the country. Visit here: iransac.com



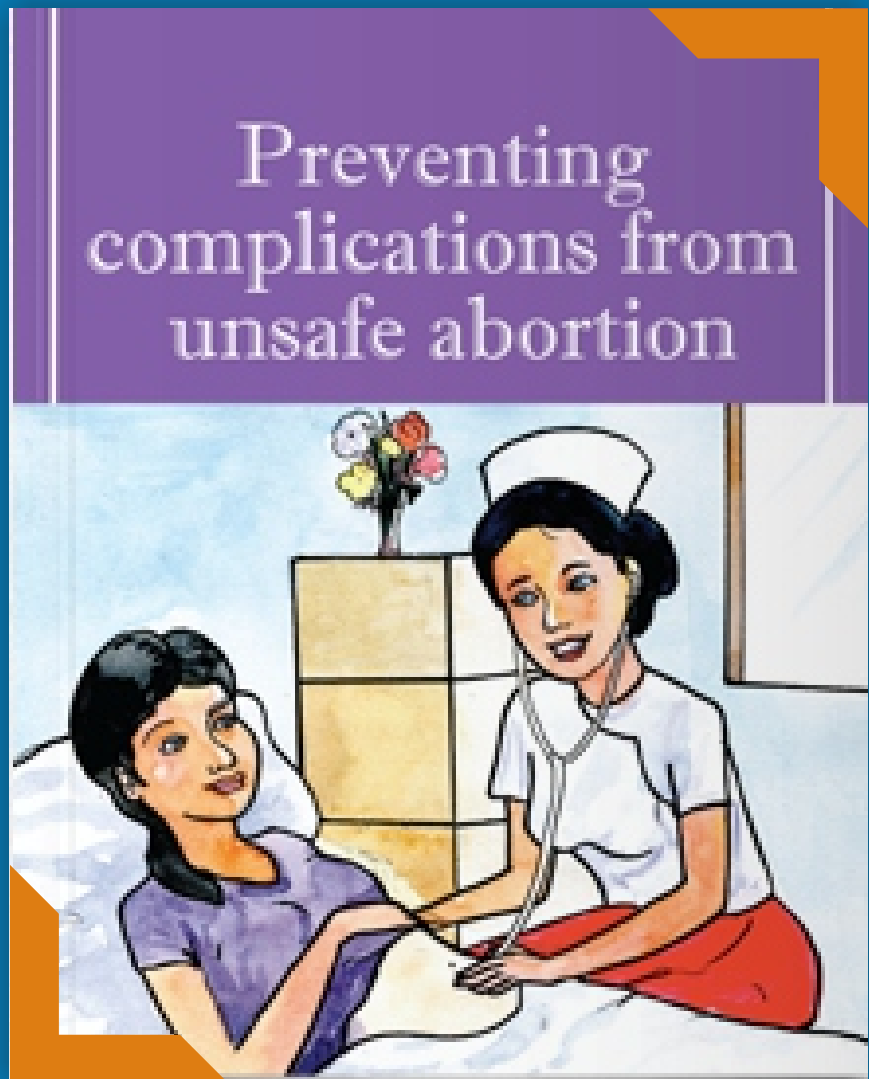
Rola Yasmine launched the [A project](#) in Lebanon with the specific purpose of seeking agency, alternatives and autonomy in sexuality, sexual health and gender. Community involvement workshops were conducted on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) among marginalised communities such as refugees, displaced citizens, and migrants. Rola's article recently got published in RHM journal, read here- [Systemic violence against Syrian refugee women and the myth of effective intrapersonal interventions](#). As a result of small grants the project received additional funding through SAAF.



Myanmar

Yadanar developed a comic book to help reduce the harms of unsafe abortion in Myanmar.

Read more here: <http://asap-asia.org/information/>



Nepal



Saru Shilpkar and Shreejana Bajracharya launched a project to empower young people to make informed decisions and choices regarding their own sexual and reproductive health and rights. They conducted training of 15 young people who had the potential to become peer educators.

Minal Singh organized a workshop for interaction with journalists on safe abortion and women rights. The purpose of this workshop was to sensitize media to their role in promoting women's reproductive rights in Nepal.



Prabesh Singh and Sujiti Srivastava conducted awareness programmes about reproductive health amongst school students and advocate for safe abortion amongst medical and para medical students. They organised a one day training programme each for school students from 9th and 10th classes of a boarding school and for medical / para medical students (see more:

https://www.facebook.com/youthcann/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1508408726122286).



Smriti Thapa's project 'Safe Abortion through Gender Lens' was aimed at sensitising medical professionals. The project reached 89 school students and 29 medical / paramedical students. Read Blog here: <http://asap-asia.org/blog/safe-abortion-through-gender-lens/>



Bidhya Basnet and Bonita Sharma's project aimed to sensitise Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV). They conducted sensitization program for FCHVs in collaboration with Ipas Nepal and government bodies. Watch video here: <https://youtu.be/mrZhk0rodwE>



Deepa Pradhan and Puja Karki conducted a video contest on “Why I Support Safe Abortion”. This competition had 25 participants from different social organizations and colleges and was supported by ASAP and MSI/SPN and focussed on safe abortion issues.

Kumari: A Feminist
— THROUGH GENDER LENSE AND FEMINISM —
- HOME - - ABOUT THIS BLOG -

Women with Disability and SRHR

SEPTEMBER 17, 2016
SEPT28
LEAVE A COMMENT

The disability prevalence rate in Nepal is nearly 2% according to National Demographic Health Survey, 2011. It is nearly 1.7% when it comes to women. Disability is both a cause and a consequence of poverty, where persons with disabilities are not only economically disempowered, but socially and culturally disempowered and excluded.

Women and girls with disabilities face triple discrimination: by being female, having a disability and being amongst the poorest of the poor. They are often subjected to discrimination in accessing education, employment and health care and are at a greater risk of violence, injury, abuse, neglect or exploitation. They are often excluded from the social life of their communities and family. Women with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged due to the multiple forms of discrimination they experience. For example, disabled girls are the least prioritized in terms of access to school and education. Development activities such as income-generating programs for women are largely not accessible to women with disabilities and do not take active steps to include disabled women. Furthermore, girls and women who have a disability are more likely to become victims of physical and sexual abuse.

Approximately 15% of the population, nearly 1 billion people live with a disability. Of which, 80% live in developing countries- 19% of women and 12% of men. Various health related issues are leading to disability. People with a

Shreejana Bajracharya set up her own blog called [Kumari: the feminist](#). The blog is focussed on SRHR for Youth in Nepal and raises critical questions on young people's reproductive choices.

YouthCANN: All the Youth Champions in Nepal came together to set up the Youth Champions Advocacy Network Nepal or [YouthCANN](#) in January 2015. Since the formation of the network they have conducted one [Youth Advocacy institute](#) and one [Country Seminar](#) in Kathmandu.



Pakistan



Tanzila Khan partnered with National Forum for Women with Disabilities (NFFWDs) and conducted a workshop to educate Women with Disabilities (WWDs) about safe abortion, reproductive rights and healthy sex life and to train them to become peer educators for other disabled and non-disabled women in the community. Watch Video here: <https://youtu.be/PTFUERGrIv0>

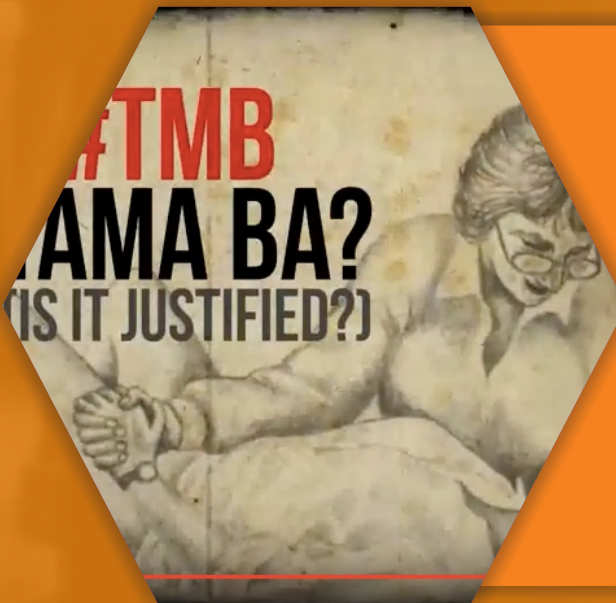
Naureen Lalani conducted a study to assess knowledge and attitudes of media personnel around abortion and its impact on safe abortion service provision in Karachi, Pakistan.

Neelam Punjani and Naureen conducted an advocacy workshop on “Safe Abortion as a Human Right” for health care providers that included nurses, midwives and lady health visitors. The objective was to sensitize them to see safe abortion through a rights based perspective. The workshop also included advocacy for including the topic of rights of women for safe abortion within the curriculum of nursing, midwifery and LHV programs.

Philippines



Sarah Jane Biton collaborated with local groups and mobilized post abortion care volunteers and safe abortion rights advocates by conducting Community Education Session (CES). The 19 CES in Philippines covered 223 adults and young people group.



Sarah Jane also used the grant to come up with short films on the situation with unsafe abortions and the attitude of the healthcare providers in her country. She and Lady Lisondra developed a documentary film on unsafe abortions and women's rights. It focuses on the plight of a woman trying to take care of an unwanted pregnancy in an environment where termination is illegal. The story highlights the helplessness of women, the risk of opting for clandestine methods and with denial of care for complications resulting in preventable morbidity and mortality amongst women. Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juPFcSR0XXY>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRMhoZPZOEU>



Sarah Jane also did a myth buster superheros photo shoot for September 28th Campaign as part of the small grants. See details here: <http://asap-asia.org/mythbuster-superhero/>

For September 28th International Day for Safe Abortion, Sarah Jane created a video along with other Youth Champions from Youth Advocacy Institute. The video highlights the stigma and barriers to safe abortion access in Asia and underscores the need for more positive conversations around abortion. Watch here: [Lets Talk About Abortion.](#)

Danica Magtubo conducted focus group discussions to assess knowledge, attitude and practices related for teenage pregnancy and abortion amongst young people. The objective was to provide an evidence-based study to develop IEC and campaign materials based on the study conducted.

Dawn Macahilo initiated discourse among selected students and youth leaders through the project titled "Youth+ Discourses+ Action: A Youth Mainstreaming Workshop and Training on SRHR in the Philippines".



A group of Youth Champions of the Asia Safe Abortion and Young Peer Educators of Youth Peer Advocates Network (YPEER), Sri Lanka came together to form the Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka (YANSL). They conducted a national Think Tank on unsafe abortion and network building. The think tank had representation from medical profession, researchers, economists, journalists, lawyers, ministry and government, civil society organisations, national youth bodies and persons living with disability.

YANSL has also conducted a Youth Advocacy Institute in Colombo this year 13th-16th August 2016.

Sarah Soysa and Dakshitha Wickramaratne started a campaign on Facebook to provide visibility to SRHR issues. They produced a documentary that talks about the issue of safe abortion and the lack of information and stigma around it in Sri Lanka. The film was screened at the Beijing +20 film festival in Bangkok.

Its Her Right, a video prepared by Sarah Soysa , ASAP Youth Champion from Sri Lanka team was shown in the video festival and received compliments from Sri Lankan viewers as well as from various countries. In the Intergovernmental meeting she also got an exciting opportunity to speak in the opening ceremony for the ministerial meeting with three other amazing young women to tell their stories, reminding the governments what they promised and that they still have the responsibility to keep their word.

Dakshitha Wickremarathne conducted a research to access undergraduate students' attitudes and knowledge related to abortion laws and contraceptive use in Sri Lanka.

Lakmini Prabani and Dulitha Harsha aimed at creating a database on healthcare services, health personnel and organizations that are sensitive towards safe abortion and provide information and services within Colombo.

Dulitha and Dakshitha also created a video series called 'Be the Change'. It is a series of interviews done with young men from Asia Pacific supporting the women's bodily rights. Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocXDa7HetB4>, <https://youtu.be/D6KnWF4whGo>





Thailand

ASAP along with International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA) conducted a meeting on Preventing Unsafe Abortions on 26th November 2016 at Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University Bangkok, Thailand. Tunchanok Chutumstid helped organise the meeting which was attended by 25 university students along with local safe abortion activists.



Vietnam



San Minh Hoàng and Nguyen Thi Thao initiated, 3S ([Smart, Sexy and Safe](#))-Valentinea communication campaign to raise awareness among young people about sexual rights and safe sex.

They also organised training for young people on interactive drama skills. Core group members and representatives from universities attended the training. At the end of the training 905 participants were found to have appropriate knowledge on gender, SRHR, contraceptive methods, access based on rights, counselling and communication skills.



A Group of Youth Champions from Vietnam along with our Steering Committee member have formed a local Youth Champions Network in Vietnam called 'The Vietnam Youth Action for Choice'. This network was recently set up and conducted its first Youth Advocacy Institute in September 2016.

ASAP Youth Champions have actively been contributing to International Campaigns and Events, following is some of the advocacy materials developed for [March 8th International Womens Day](#), [May 28th International Day of Action for Womens Health](#) and [September 28th International Safe Abortion Day](#).

ASAP Monumental Campaign #IWD2016

On International Women's Day ASAP along with its Youth Champions led a monumental campaign, calling upon our Governments to recognize that women have needed to and have had abortions for longer than these famous monuments exist! We created beautiful images from across Asia and a very powerful video urging to saving lives and preventing the monumental tragedy of women and girls from dying due to unsafe abortions!

Watch Video here- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpofssKUHSQ>



May 28th 2016- International Day of Action for Women's Health

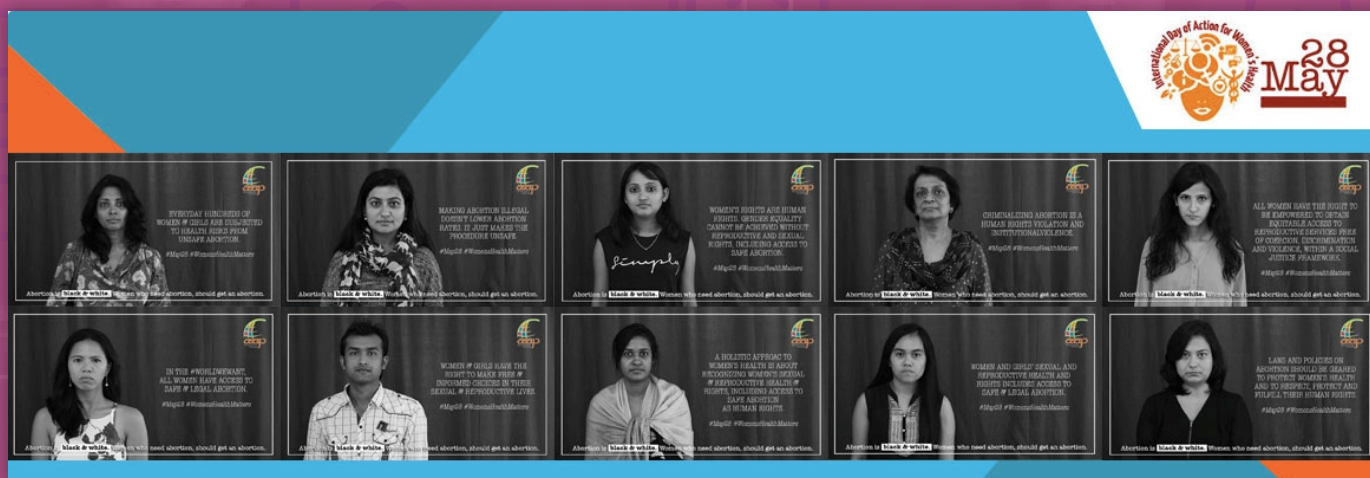
"Abortion is black and white. Women who need an abortion, should get a safe abortion."- Youth Champions did a photo shoot and created a video, the idea was to stress upon the fact that women need abortion and laws restricting abortion do not stop women from getting one. The video underscores the need to make abortion safe, legal and accessible for all. Watch Video here: <https://youtu.be/pF6N6eOkjUI>

September 28th- International Day for Safe Abortion

ASAP youth Champions have been contributing to September 28th International Day for Safe Abortion by organising various activities both virtually and on the ground in their respective countries. In the past years Youth Champions have organised flash mobs, posters, videos and photos. For details of past campaigns visit: <http://asap-asia.org/september-28/>

#LetsTalkAbortion: For Sept 28th 2016 ASAP Youth Champions created a video titled "Lets Talk About Abortion" highlighting the need to have more positive conversations around abortion. Watch video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8i2qvGrtIU>

We also launched a video series called 'Abortion Conversations from Asia'; where the youth champions talk about their work and experiences in fighting abortion stigma and enabling access to safe abortion in their countries. Watch here: <http://asap-asia.org/youth-champions/>



Visibility and Networking

Youth Champions at UNESCAP: In 2013 Yu Yang from China, Shreejana Bajracharya from Nepal, Lady Lisondra from Philippines and Nikzad Zangeneh from Iran participated in UNESCAP regional meeting with support from International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC).

[IWHC](#) supported the participation of two youth champions Sarah Soysa (Sri Lanka), Smriti Thapa (Nepal) and ASAP Programs and Communications Officer Garima Shrivastava (India) to join in the Advocacy in Practice Workshop 12th-14th November 2014 held in Bangkok, as well as the Asia Pacific Civil Society (CSO) Forum on Beijing +20 Regional Review held from 14th-16th November and the UNESCAP Asia and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Beijing +20 review.

In 2015 Sarah Soysa (Sri Lanka) and Smriti Thapa (Nepal) attended the 59th session of Committee on Status of Women (CSW) with support from IWHC. Read about their experiences here- [59th CSW through a young feminists eye, I HAVE A DREAM by Youth Champion, Smriti Thapa](#)

Sarah Jane Biton (Philippines) and Rola Yasmine (Lebanon) were invited by IWHC to attend the 60th Commission on Status of Women in 2016. Read about Sarah's experience here: [From skepticism to hope: the 60th Commission on Status of Women.](#)

Work of ASAP Youth Champions was also covered in a interview series conducted by IWHC titled [Next Generation Stands Up for Reproductive Rights Across Asia](#)

San Minh Hoang from Vietnam is now Chair of the International Youth Steering Committee (IYSC), 9th APCRHSR. See details here: https://www.facebook.com/9thAPCRSHR/?hc_ref=PAGES_TIMELINE

Preet Manjusha participated in a conference in Belfast-- Abortion and Reproductive Justice: The Unfinished Revolution and presented her paper [When the law says yes but the doctors say no](#)

DAY 2 FRIDAY June, 11am-12.30pm Parallel Session 2

Panel 4 Abortion providers - enablers or blockers to access?

Chair: Maire Braniff, Location: Upstairs at the Mac (1st Floor)

***When the law says yes but the doctors say no* - Suchitra Dalvie, ASAP, India and Preet Manjusha, Samyak, India**

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act was passed in India in 1971 and allows abortions under a set of prescribed circumstances. While considered liberal, the access depends largely on the agreement by the doctor. In the current scenario where doctors in the private sector are refusing to perform abortions for fear of harassment by the anti sex selection campaign, our study finds that women continue to use abortion as a method of family planning, doctors seem to deny services for arbitrary reasons also and the women are left at the mercy of their own circumstances or forced to seek alternative pathways (often unsafe). Unsafe abortion is still among the leading causes of maternal mortality in the country and vastly under reported. Along with the need to ensure accountability of both the public and private sector for safe abortion service provision, there is an urgent need to revisit the abortion law and its capacity (or lack thereof) to empower women, as well as to look at the spectrum of women's sexual and reproductive rights violations, ranging from child marriages to lack of contraception and an inability to control their fertility.

Hotlines



Sri Lanka

Ask Us safe abortion hotline was launched by youth champions Sarah Soysa and Lakmini Perera along with other youth champions from Sri Lanka on 8th March 2015. The hotline provide information on contraception, sexuality and post abortion care according to WHO guidelines.



Phillippines

Ask Mads safe abortion hotline started by Sarah Jane Biton was launched on 20th march 2015. The hotline aims to disseminate information on safe abortion services and develop a referral system.

India

Preet Manjusha launched **Marzee Hotline** in March 2015 for sharing information about contraceptives and safe abortion: +919075764763

Pakistan

Suhaile - Misoprostol hotline was launched in Pakistan in 2010. For details check: <http://asap-asia.org/contact-us/>



Email: discussions.asap@gmail.com
coordinator@asap-asia.org

Website: asap-asia.org

Facebook: facebook.com/AsiaSafeAbortionPartnership

Blog: asap-asia.org/blog

Twitter: twitter.com/asapasia www.asap-asia.org