



**YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK
SRI LANKA**

QUARTERLY REPORT

JANUARY 2022 – APRIL 2022



Table of Contents

01

GRANTS AND PROJECTS

- "WE HEAR YOU" WEBSITE
- WOMEN'S FUND ASIA
- IG3 GRANT
- ASAP SMALL GRANTS - PROJECT PAHARA
- LET'S LEARN SRHR (AUS AWARDS GRANT)

02

WEBINARS & ONLINE CAMPAIGNS

- SRI LANKAN QUEER HISTORY
- ASIA PACIFIC DIGITAL SEXUALITY EDUCATION COMMUNITY
- ACCESS TO SRHR DURING & PRIOR TO COVID19
- CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
- FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
- VALENTINE'S DAY AND CONDOM DAY
- CONTRACEPTIVES FOR LGBTQIA COMMUNITY
- INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
- LGBTQ SERIES OF COMICS
- WORLD HEALTH DAY
- WOMEN IN SRI LANKAN ECONOMIC CRISIS

03

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

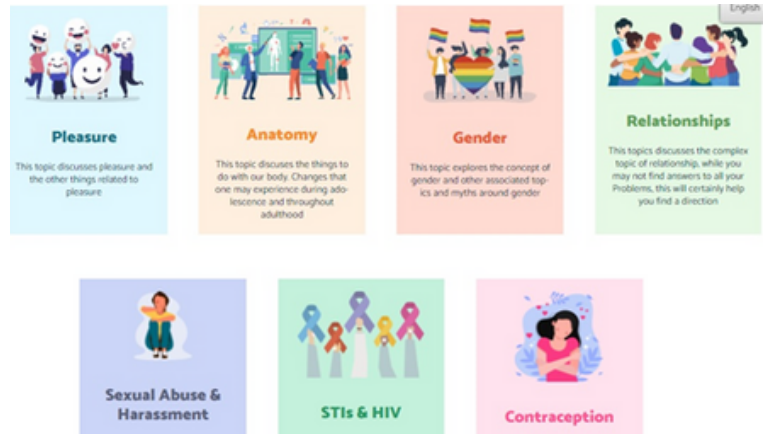
- PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTH EAST ASIAN YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK (SYAN)
- MENENGAGE ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP

GRANTS AND PROJECTS

"WE HEAR YOU" Website

During the first quarter of 2022, the website "We Hear You" has been operational.

The website now 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.



Women's Fund Asia

YANSL successfully secured a grant from Women's Fund Asia (WFA) under their Strengthening Feminist Movements Grantmaking Programme in February 2022. The grant aims at supporting organisations such as us in promoting rights based perspective and feminist principles.

In brief, the proposed work mainly involves a training of trainers in identified subject areas (SRHR, Gender and Bodily Autonomy, Feminism, Social Justice and Intersectionality, Participatory Democracy and Politics, and Affirmative Action). A small group of participants representing diverse backgrounds will be selected to be trained on the said subject areas over a 2-3 day training and will then be awarded small grants to conduct one off programmes on their own in proposed communities. A culmination of all beneficiaries will be seen in a national conference on SRHR which may be an activity beyond the grant period.



During the First Quarter, YANSL has reached out to resourced persons who have expertise in the relevant thematic areas and entered into Memorandums of Understanding with them in relation to their services in developing Comprehensive Curriculums and Training Manuals.

A briefing was held with the Resource Persons and the structure of the Curriculums have been developed. There was also a Review Meeting held recently and the content under each thematic area was fine tuned. The complete curriculums and training manuals are expected to be published during the next quarter.

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.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between YANSL and Y-Peer Asia Pacific and Youth LEAD to facilitate the implementation of YANSL-defined and authorized project initiatives.

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. This was done as an extension of the We Hear You project.

A translation skills training session was performed, and the capacities of selected participants were developed in preparation for the translation of the SRHR manual.

The translations were completed by skilled members of YANSL and are currently being reviewed by supervisors to ensure that the work is complete.



ASAP SMALL GRANTS – PROJECT PAHARA

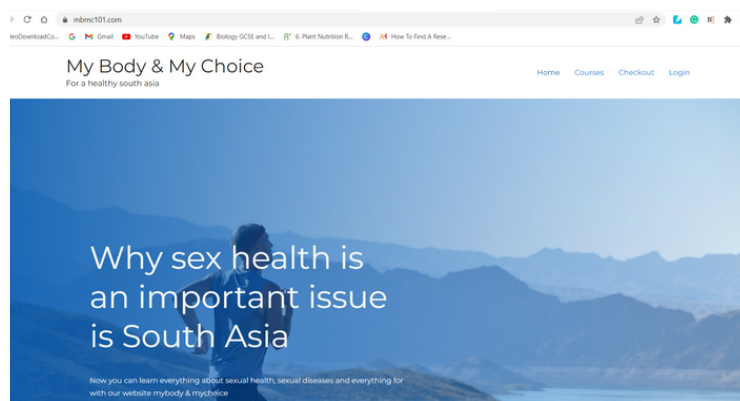
PROJECT PAHARA

Six webinars on sexual and gender-based violence were held as part of Project Pahara, which was conducted by Kasuni Ganga and Tharindi Abeynayake.

A short animation was created to illustrate the experience of a woman who was exposed to SGBV during the Covid 19 pandemic-induced lockdown.

With the remaining funding, a basic CSE session covering anatomy, gender, SGBV, family planning, and STIs was physically conducted in Galle (Southern Province) for 15 teenagers from the area who have never received CSE training.

mbmc101.com - E course



Henry Mitchel and Nilupili Nayanathara, grantees, have finished the e-curriculum. course's They are being technologically created and uploaded on the web at the moment.

The e-courses were developed using existing YANSL, IPPF, and ASAP resources. The website is presently operational, and they are currently updating and reworking the material.

Let's Learn SRHR (Australia Awards Grant)

Sarah Soysa, co-founder, acquired an Australia Awards Alumni Grant to launch a project educating young people with intellectual disabilities about sexual and reproductive health. This is a collaborative effort with YANSL. It is advised to create a series of videos for young women with intellectual disabilities to learn about personal cleanliness, appropriate touch, and menstrual hygiene in all indigenous languages. YANSL has entered into an agreement with Ms. Malathi Kandaliyage to design the video scripts. Ms. Kandaliyage has vast experience working with people who have intellectual disabilities. Due to the epidemic's prohibition of meetings, the initial plan to produce a documentary about women and girls with intellectual disabilities and their first period has been rescheduled.

The production of videos with focus groups of parents of children with intellectual disability has commenced following two successful consultations. A recurring theme was the need of parents being guided in assisting their children's SRHR education.

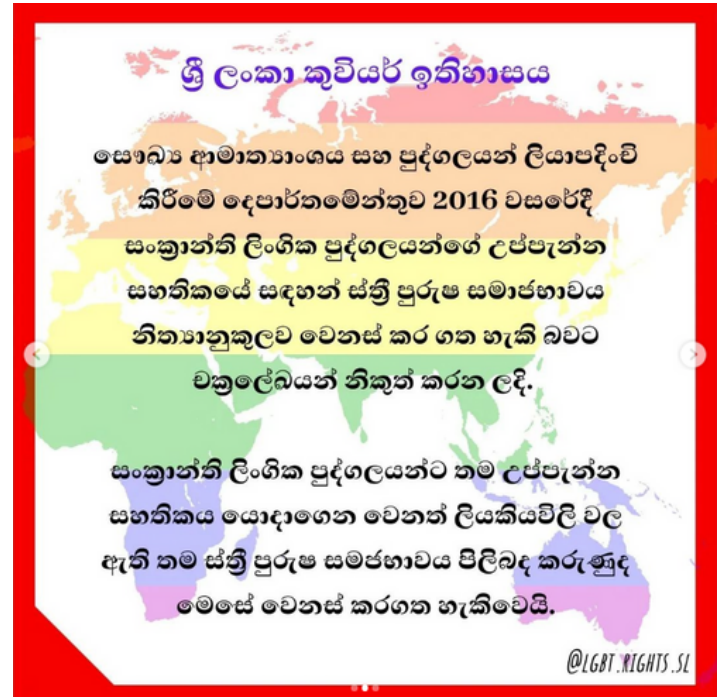
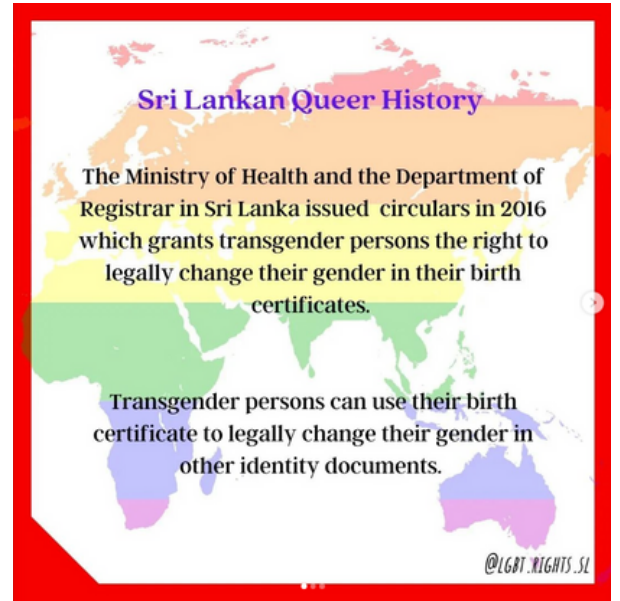
ONLINE CAMPAIGNS

The Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka has carried out several targeted online campaigns to advocate for issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality.

Sri Lankan Queer History

September 4th is World Sexual Health Day. "Physical, mental and social well-being in connection to sexuality" are the terms used by the WHO to describe sexual health. While avoiding sexually transmitted illnesses is an important element of maintaining good sexual health, it's not the only consideration. A crucial part of sexual wellness is understanding issues like consent and abuse.

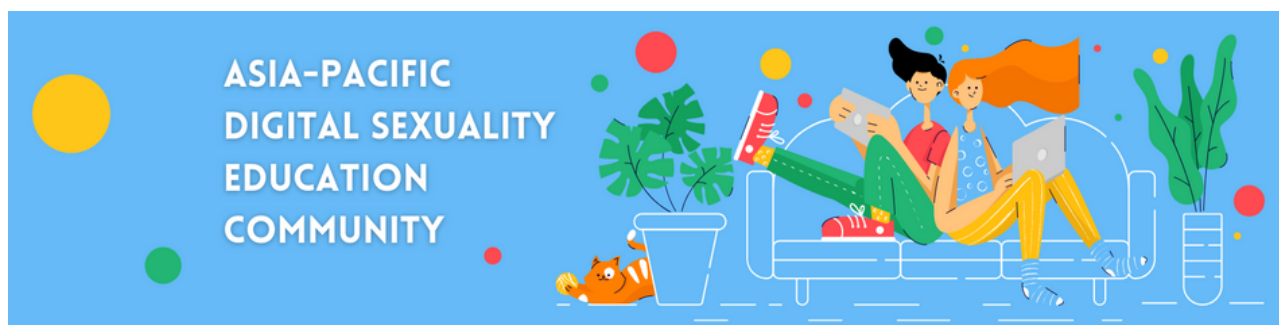
Sex and sexual education are taboo subjects in many cultures around the world including Sri Lanka. To commemorate World Sexual Health Day, YANSL created a small poster campaign that aims to educate people about their sexual and reproductive health and rights. The campaign was a success.



Asia Pacific Digital Sexuality Education Community

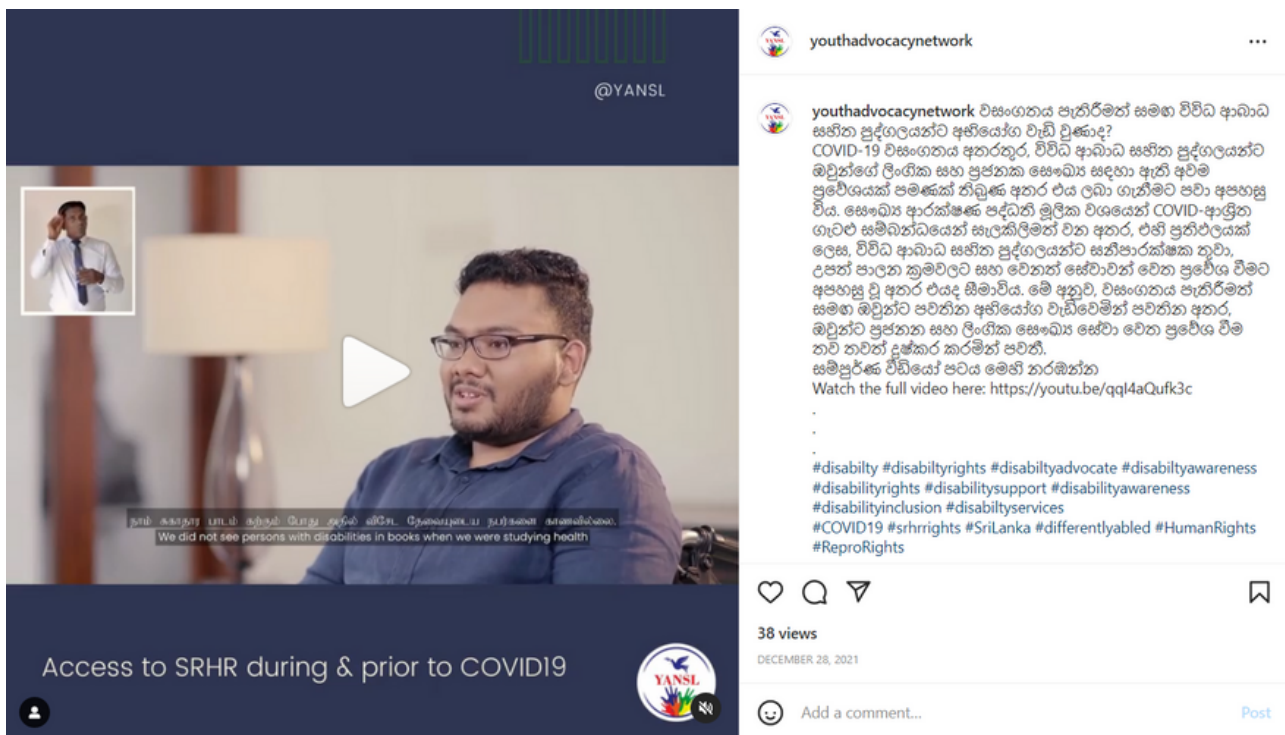
UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNESCO at the Asia-Pacific Regional level have been building and providing support to a community of digital sexuality education (DSE) app developers, content creators, vloggers, and online sex educators in response to the rapid increase in the use of digital technology and internet access by young people across Asia-Pacific (referred to as DSE community members). Henry Mitchel represents YANSL in the DSE community, where he collaborates and plans digital events and projects that will be carried out near future.

DSE is a topic that this community debates and shares best practices on with the goal of improving access to comprehensive, high-quality DSE for young people. By the year 2020, there will be 62 members from all around the region who have joined the community and are actively participating in things like virtual community calls and joint newsletters.



Access to SRHR during & prior to COVID19

The project serves as a proof-of-concept exercise for access to SRHR services prior to and during Covid-19, with a particular emphasis on women and girls from marginalized communities (for example, people living with disabilities and the LGBTQ+ community) and the LGBTQ+ community in January 2021 through the production of videos. Throughout the first quarter of the year, we brought all respondents to a place, shot their films, and posted them on our social media sites. Moderators for all languages were recruited from YANSL, while the Sri Lanka Central Federation for the Deaf provided assistance in facilitating interviews with people living with hearing disabilities and shooting interpretation films. All videos have been shot and completed, and are presently being reviewed, edited, and subtitled with their translations.



CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Cervical cancer was previously the most common type of cancer in women in the United States. Screening and prevention have significantly reduced the burden of this type of cancer in the modern era.

Increasing screening and preventing cervical cancer are critical components of the endeavor to eradicate the disease. Given that nearly all cases of the disease are caused by infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV), vaccinations against the virus could prevent the vast majority of cases. Additionally, routine Pap screenings can detect – and cure – the disease in its precancerous stage.

Cervical cancer is one of several types of cancer that can be caused by pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, or parasites.

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month is observed every January. As a result, YANSL spearheaded an instructional poster campaign to increase awareness.



Female Genital Mutilation

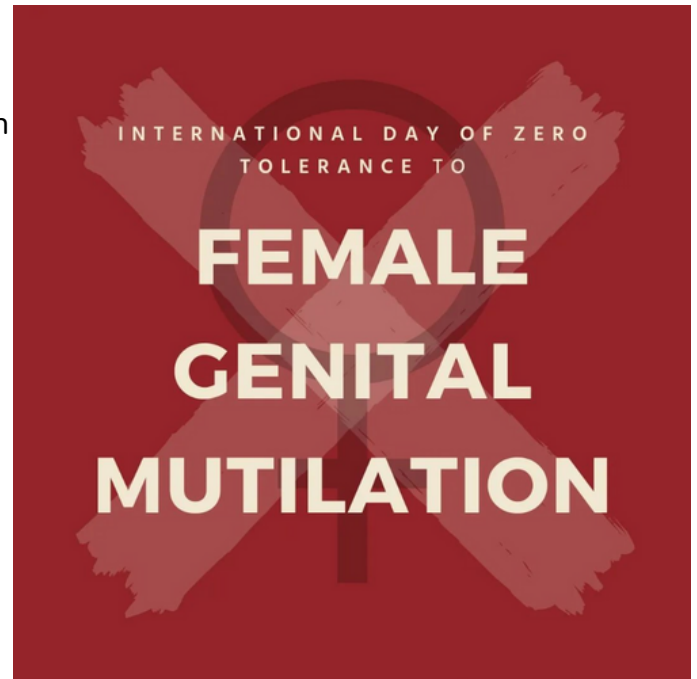
Female genital mutilation, alternatively referred to as female genital cutting (FGM/C), is a hazardous traditional practice that can result in health complications.

The United Nations General Assembly declared February 6th as International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation in 2012, with the goal of amplifying and focusing efforts on the practice's abolition.

By 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic would have disproportionately harmed girls and women, creating a shadow pandemic that would undermine the SDG on the abolition of all harmful practices, including female genital mutilation.

By 2030, UNFPA projects that an extra 2 million girls will be at risk of female genital mutilation.

YANSL has published several posts in an attempt to raise awareness about FGM.



Valentine's Day and Condom Day

February 14th is not just for Valentine's Day. Condom Day, which is observed in a number of nations worldwide, coincides on Valentine's Day, providing an ideal chance to encourage healthy relationships and educate people about the risks of STIs and unexpected pregnancies. Condom Day serves as a timely reminder to people to use condoms to protect themselves and their partners, as well as to educate them on condom use and alternative methods of birth control.

Commemorate Condom Day by educating yourself about birth control choices and sharing that information with others. YANSL organized a campaign.



Inclusive SEX ED

Youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQ) require and deserve to learn in environments that are respectful of their lived experiences and provide them with the education necessary to remain safe and healthy.

Sex education is one of the only credible sources of knowledge for adolescents about sexuality and sexual health. Numerous studies have shown that well-designed and well-implemented sex education can assist children reduce risky behavior and increase positive sexual health outcomes, such as teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates.

To guarantee that LGBTQ kids obtain the same health benefits as their straight counterparts, sex education programs must be inclusive of all sexual orientations. Inclusive programs educate children and adolescents about gender identity and sexual orientation by providing age-appropriate and medically accurate information; incorporating positive examples of LGBTQ individuals, romantic relationships, and families; emphasizing the importance of sex protection for people of all identities; and debunking common myths and stereotypes about behavior and identity.

As a result, Team YANSL launched a campaign to promote inclusive sexual education.



Contraceptives for LGBTQIA Community

Both LGBTQ health care and sexual and reproductive health care are constantly scrutinized, mocked, withheld, and stigmatized — usually for ideological reasons — and while each faces unique barriers, they are intimately linked by a shared value of bodily autonomy. Sexual and reproductive health advocates must campaign for LGBTQ people and ensure they receive health care that is tailored to their unique and specific needs.

As a result, team YANSL launched a contraceptive awareness campaign for the LGBTQIA community.

Contraceptives

Birds and bees, but make it queer:)

Your anatomy and the anatomy of your partner(s) are the key factor here, not your gender identity or sexual orientation.

People assigned female at birth on testosterone may still be able to get pregnant

Similarly, folks assigned male at birth who are taking estrogen or other hormone replacement may still be able to get partners with a uterus pregnant.

And let's not forget, bisexual or pansexual individuals who may have partners with opposite anatomies

@LGBT.RIGHTS.SL

Contraceptives

CONDOMS

The easiest method of birth control. It also provides protection from sexually transmitted infections.



CONTRACEPTIVE INJECTION

Depo-Provera is a brand name of the Generic product Depo Medroxy Progesterone Acetate (DMPA), a contraceptive injection for women that contains the hormone progestin which is given as an injection once every three months. It is a highly effective contraceptive method.

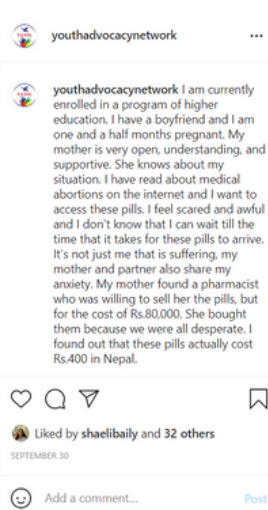
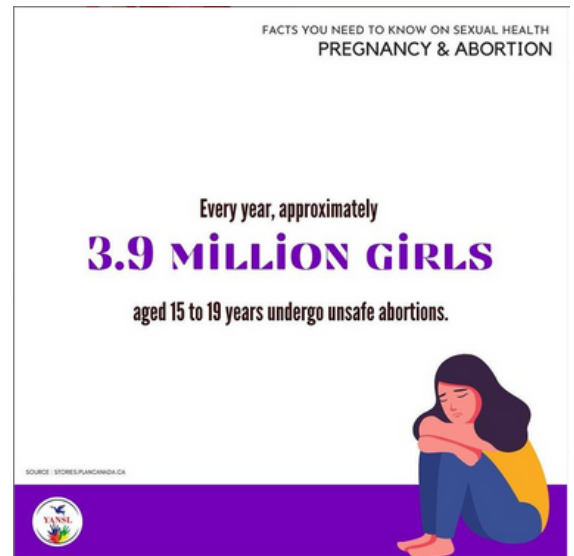


@LGBT.RIGHTS.SL

International Women's Day

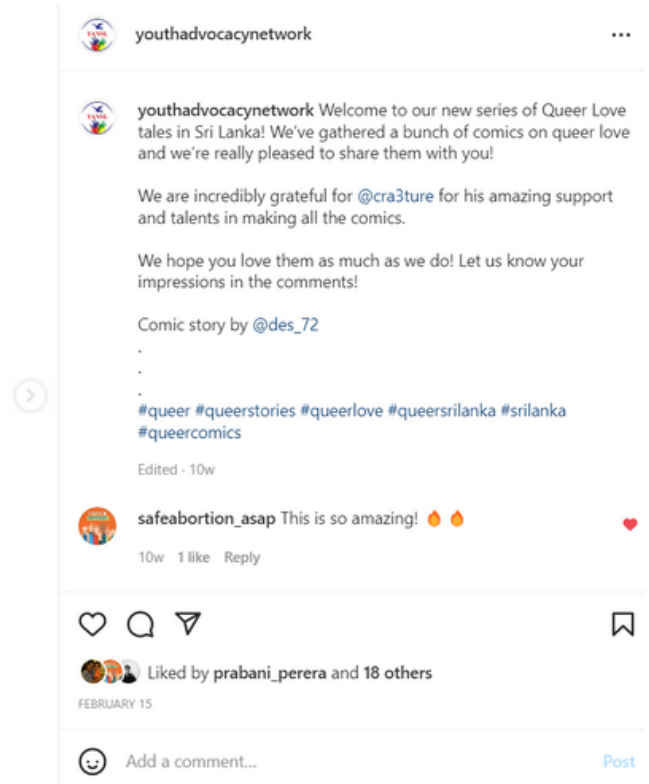
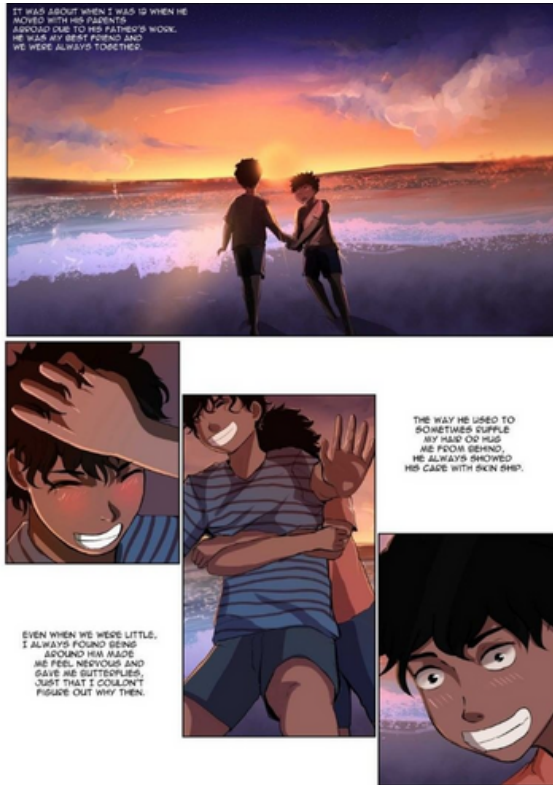
Abortion is a fundamental right that is inherent in the right to have control over one's own body, and it should be protected as such. In order to achieve gender equality, it must be possible to exercise this right in conditions of safety, respect, and dignity that are satisfactory to the person exercising it. Because of the failure to respect this right, some women are forced to resort to so-called illegal abortions, which are performed in dangerous situations. According to some international reports, these abortions account for more than ten percent of all maternal deaths in some parts of the world.

As part of the campaign, YANSL organized a massive digital campaign that included a clubhouse session with outstanding speakers, a short informative video, abortion stories from Sri Lanka, and Unsafe Abortion facts. This campaign reaffirms the organization's commitment to the rights of women and girls, which is at the heart of its feminist diplomacy. The goal of the campaign was to increase access to safe abortions in Sri Lanka while also assisting the authorities in identifying the risk of unsafe abortions around the country.



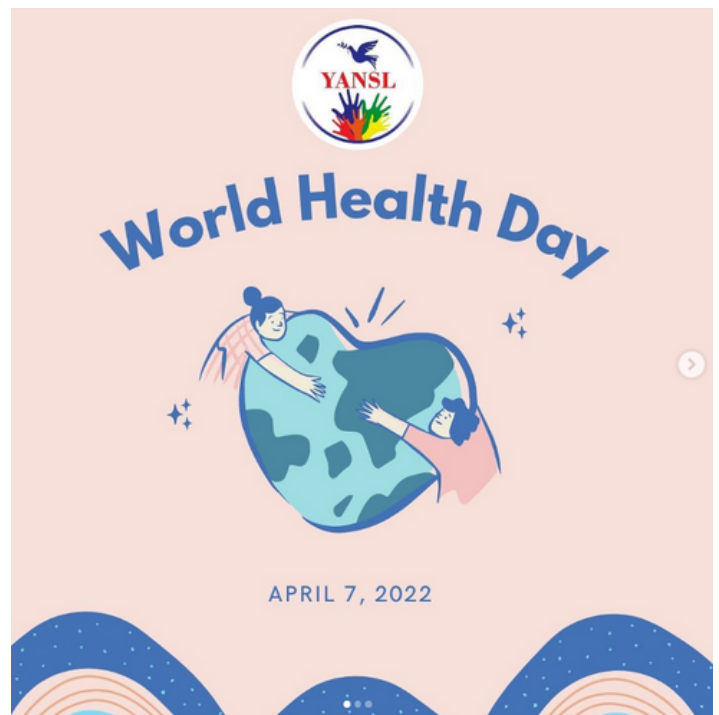
LGBTQ Series of Comics

Due to comics' ability to reach and attract a vast audience, they can be a powerful tool for raising awareness and influencing public opinion. With the pandemic endangering all groups, team YANSL teamed with Tharinidi Devasurendra to create a comic book series about the LGBTIQ community as part of the FPA fellowship program.



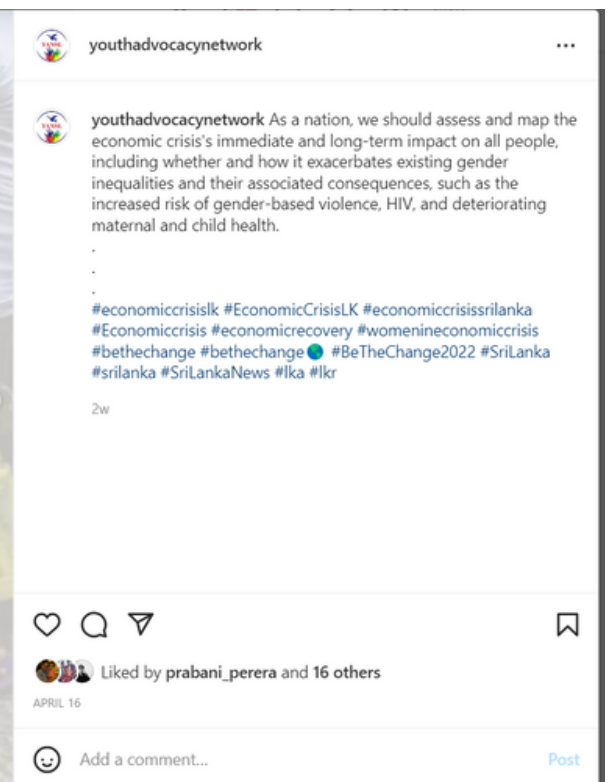
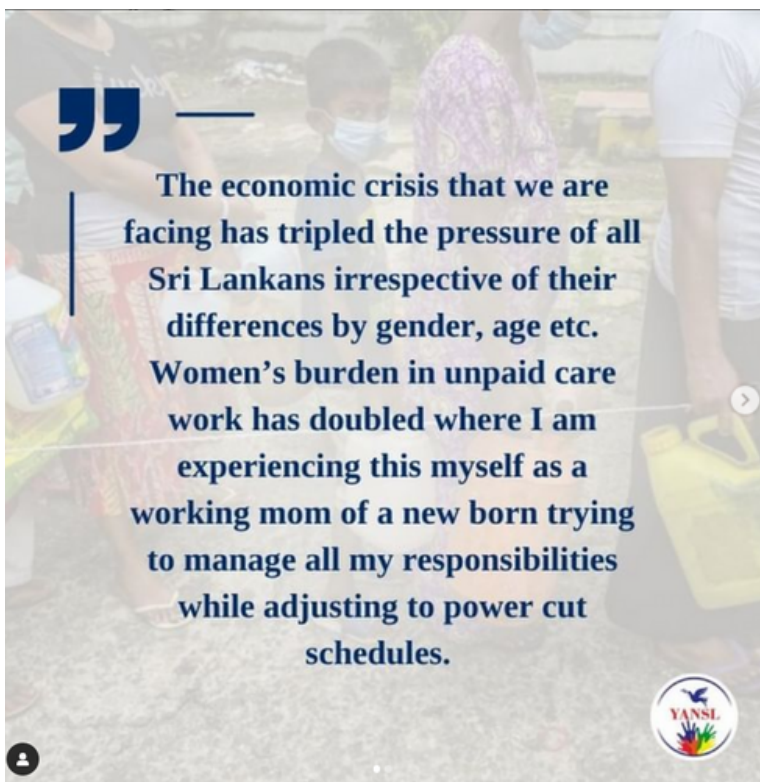
World Health Day

Each year on April 7, the World Health Organization selects a particular theme to promote in the wellness and medical communities. This day, which covers everything from mental health to healthcare and all in between, sets the tone for what is to come on the global stage. As a result, the YANSL team has also posted a few posts emphasizing the importance of sexual and reproductive health.



Women in Sri Lankan Economic Crisis

When a household's income is insufficient and there are insufficient resources to invest in maintaining effective public services, it is frequently women who suffer first, by going hungry and neglecting their own health while caring for sick or elderly family members; and girl children who are pulled out of school to assist with household tasks. As a result, team YANSL has launched a campaign aimed to address challenges affecting Sri Lankan women and youth.



EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

Partnership with South East Asian Youth Advocacy Network (SYAN)

YANSL became a partner organization in the South East Asia Youth Advocacy Network (SYAN), a network dedicated to bringing together youth and adolescent-focused organizations in order to build a regional network and develop knowledge-based advocacy resources based on a module developed for an online course.

Hafsah Muheed, the project's focal point and a representative of YANSL, has also gotten YANSL involved in the Covid19 Action Plan Fund, which was intended to be implemented in four phases. It was accepted, but small revisions were required to emphasize young engagement and to magnify the WHO's current resources.

The Covid Analysis Report, to which YANSL submitted data from Sri Lanka, was finalized during the fourth quarter.

As the first advocacy report, YANSL shared the present gaps in adolescent health and wellbeing advocacy processes and how closing these gaps will pave the path for stronger evidence-based advocacy. YANSL is awaiting approval before launching the report and also conducting follow-up conversations on the subject.

MenEngage Alliance Partnership

YANSL was able to re-establish contact with MenEngage Alliance Sri Lanka. Henry Mitchel and Rebecca Ranasekara have been appointed as YANSL's delegates at MenEngage events.

Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka



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