



ASAP Quarterly Report

July-September 2022



Greetings from Asia Safe Abortion Partnership!

Moving into the 3rd quarter, we continued our work on ground through our Youth Advocacy Institutes as well through our various online campaigns.



ASAP ACTIVITIES

Youth Advocacy Institute | Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM) | 27th-28th August | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

We organized a YAI post the pandemic in Malaysia in collaboration with RRAAM. The YAI had 26 participants from across Malaysia as well as some from Indonesia and of Syrian origin, who brought a richness to the discussions with experience from various backgrounds. Majority of the participants were civil society members, but there was representation from lawyers and medical students as well.





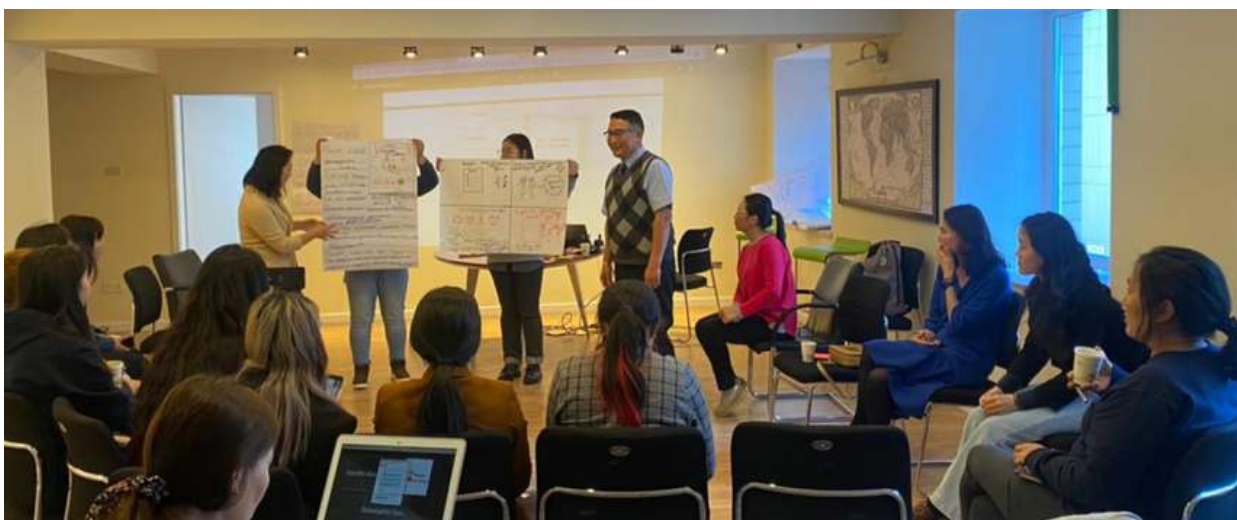
Training on Safe Abortion Rights | Women For Change | 21st - 22nd September | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

ASAP in collaboration with WFC, organized a 2 day hybrid workshop on safe abortion rights in Mongolia. ASAP Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie and co-founder of MASUM, our regional partner Manisha Gupte facilitated the sessions via Zoom, starting with an understanding of the politics of patriarchy and its linkages with the right to safe abortion. The 2nd day was led by the WFC team, focusing on the local challenges, concerning SRHR and safe abortion access in the country and how they can be countered.

Some of the feedback received from the participants -

- *Values clarification was amazing as it taught me how to engage and advocate intellectually*
- *It was very insightful and I was able to self reflect on how many views were actually conditioned by society*
- *Strength of the workshop was definitely the trainers and the discussions, felt engaged throughout*
- *The topics were well chosen and discussed. I actually got to learn a lot that I had not learnt before*

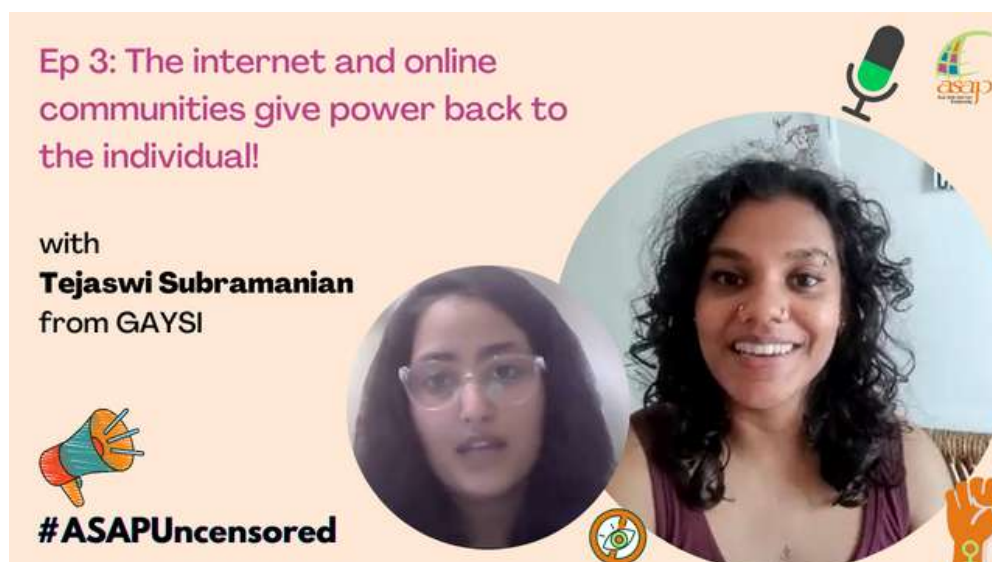




'ASAP Uncensored' | Interview Series

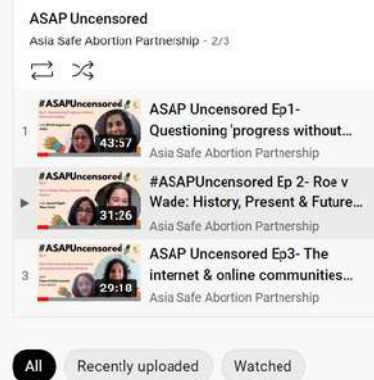
As part of our strategic interventions for Shaping Safer Online Spaces we have initiated a series of interviews for having uncensored conversations around controversial or complex topics. We spoke with Tejaswi Subramanian, from GAYSI, one of the most popular digital media platforms providing a safe space for discussions around Queerness, pleasure, disability, health & much more. They're not only sharing important resources & evidence based information but have also managed to create a strong and trusted community over the years, which is constantly questioning the norms and providing nuanced discussions that truly represent all diverse voices from across South Asia.

You can watch this and other interviews in the series [here](#)

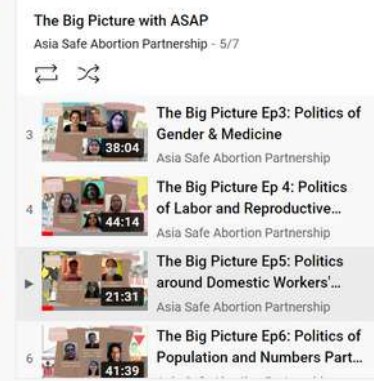


Other ASAP Playlists!

ASAP Uncensored



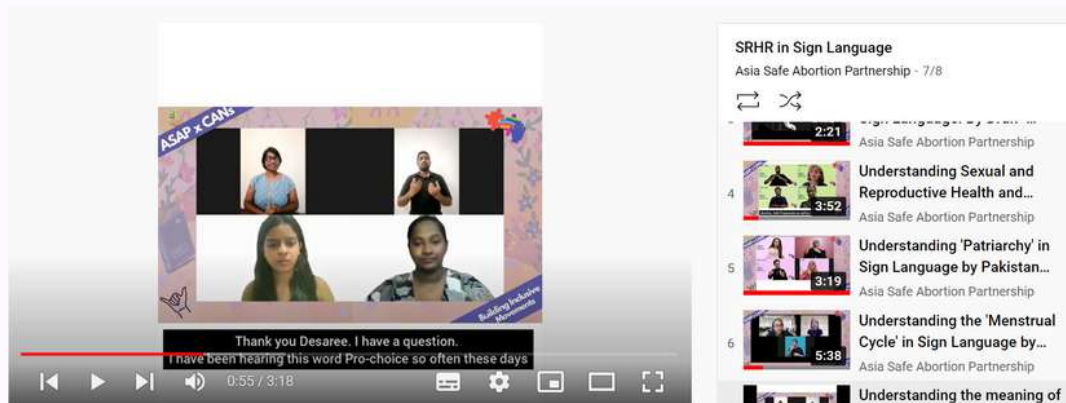
The Big Picture Series



Other ASAP Playlists!

Part Two

SRHR in Sign Language



The ASAP Conversations



'Tweetathon : Reproductive Rights and Sign Language | 23rd September | Online

The month of September is the Deaf Awareness Month, leading up to 23rd September, which is worldwide celebrated as the International Day of Sign Languages. As part of our Building Inclusive Movements initiative we wanted to create visibility for the perspective of the community and their access/lack of access to SRHR Information and services & highlight the role that organizations like ASAP and others can play in truly making SRHR an inclusive & accessible movement. You can the whole Tweetathon [here](#).



saudamini pethe
@saudamini_pethe

Replying to @asapasia and @YANSriLanka

Answer 5

True Inclusion is possible when deaf members are included right from the start of the process of offering accessible SRHR information in ISL



Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka
@YANSriLanka

Sign language is yet to be recognized as an official language in [#SriLanka](#) 🇱🇰. There is some progress in accessible communication due to the efforts of non governmental organizations. Yet there is a lot more that needs to be done.



Saurav
@srvterp

Replying to @asapasia @saudamini_pethe and @YANSriLanka

The issue is exclusion (language/communication) of deaf/hard of hearing people at home schools orgs etc. If deaf people are part of discussions- they will automatically start coming up with signs for loaded concepts and terms. Example COVID was no term but it got created.

8:28 PM · Sep 23, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

1 Quote Tweet · 4 Likes

'International Safe Abortion Day: Make Safe Abortion Certain | 28th September | Online

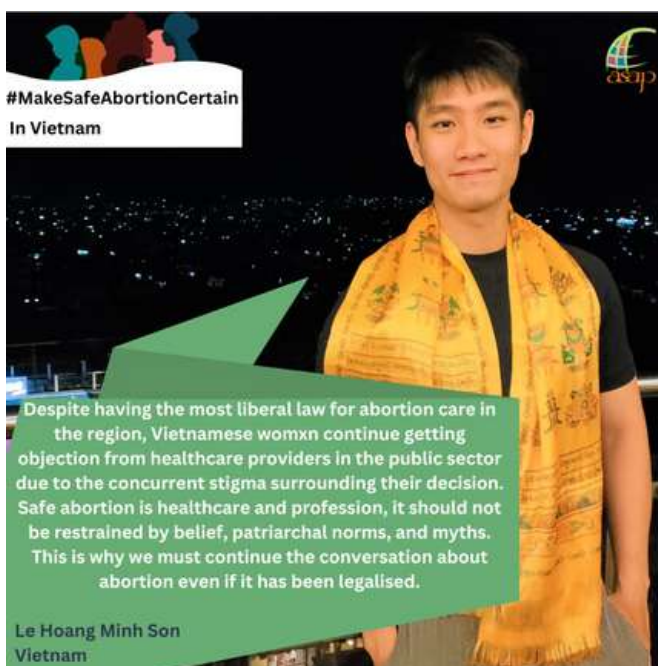
This year we focussed on the global theme of 'Abortion in Uncertain Times' along with our own perspective, that anyone who needs an abortion is really facing uncertain times.

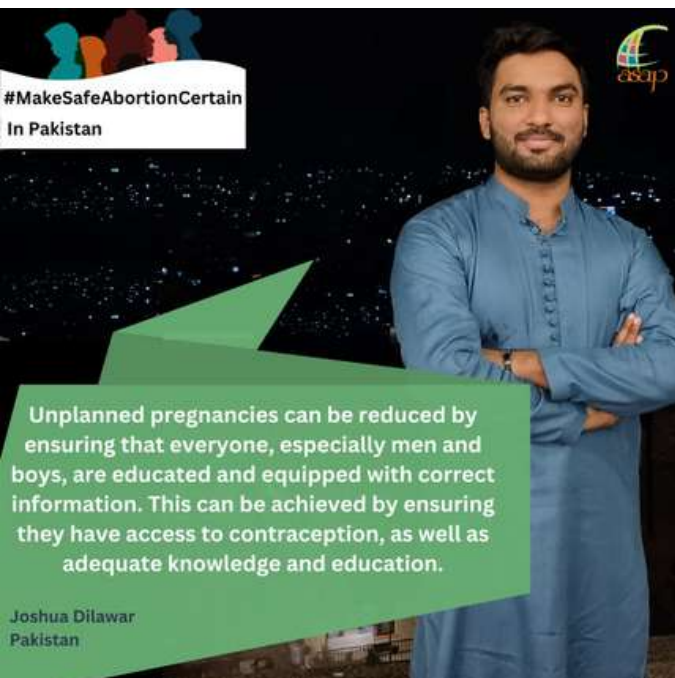
We shared quotes from our Youth Champions from Bangladesh, Bhutan,, India, Indonesia, , Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam , reflecting their experience as safe abortion rights and SRHR activists, working in certain as well as uncertain times, in their respective countries.

Through these quotes, we can get an idea of the kind of challenges they faced from various aspects, be it from the authorities, lack of enough resources, restrictions on mobility and privacy, systemic gender violence so and so forth.

Despite these roadblocks Youth Champions across the region have worked tirelessly to make sure to the best of their capacity, that access to SRHR and safe abortion services are not hindered, regardless of global pandemics, economic crises, or even in 'peaceful times'.





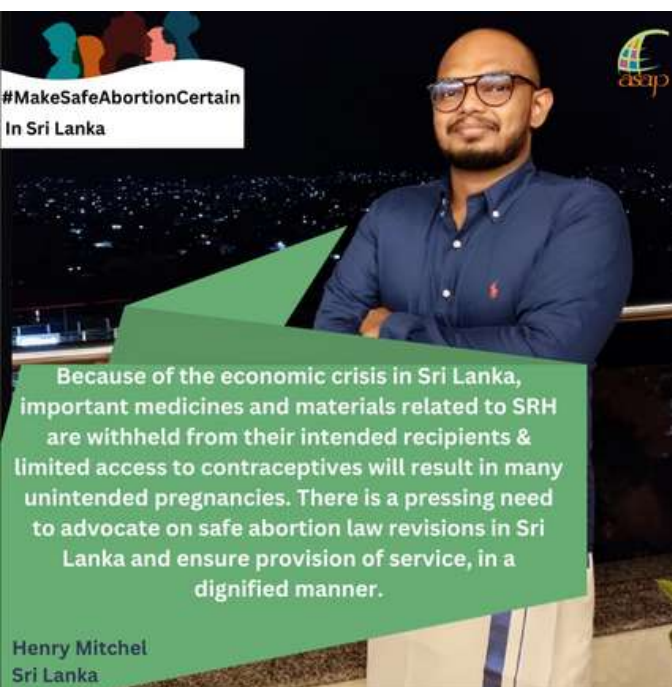






Women in Bangladesh have the legal right to terminate their pregnancies with no questions being asked. Yet, service providers turn women away due to their own personal beliefs. Their biasness against MR services needs to be changed!

Zakia Haq
Bangladesh



Because of the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, important medicines and materials related to SRH are withheld from their intended recipients & limited access to contraceptives will result in many unintended pregnancies. There is a pressing need to advocate on safe abortion law revisions in Sri Lanka and ensure provision of service, in a dignified manner.

Henry Mitchel
Sri Lanka



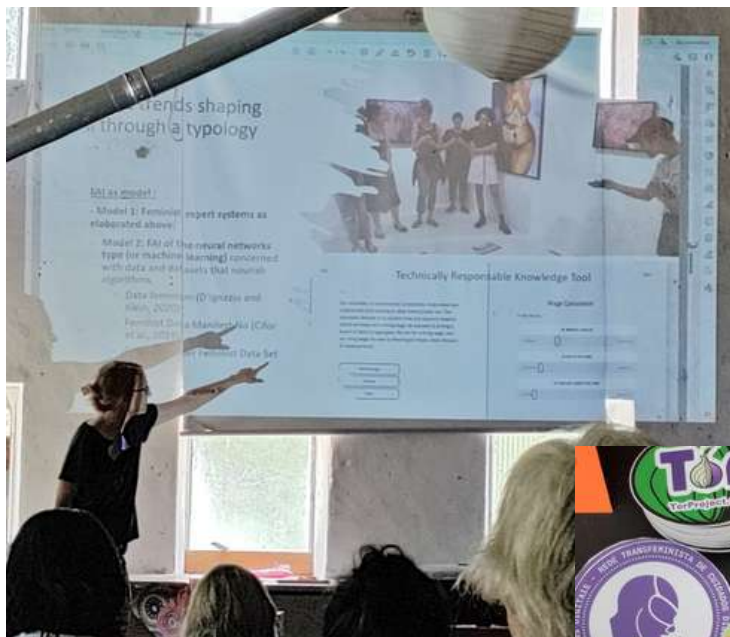
Women with disabilities have the same right to access appropriate services, including SRHR and Reproductive healthcare. It would be great if all organizations working on the issues could make sure that any information they're sharing is inclusive and accessible for all.

Zarghoona Wadood
Pakistan

ASAP AS PARTICIPANT

Conference on Feminist Technology | 1st - 8th August

As part of our capacity building initiative towards Shaping Safer Online Spaces, the Communication and Network Officer recently attended a fascinating conference of collectives working on Feminist Technology creating digital spaces that are inclusive and safe for all, especially women and non binary persons. We learned a lot about the politics of Internet and how as safe abortion rights organization can we best optimize our network's internal communication and safety of our data, including inculcating certain practices which can be helpful in securing the privacy of our Youth Champions and Country Advocacy Networks, as well as of those who reach out to us.



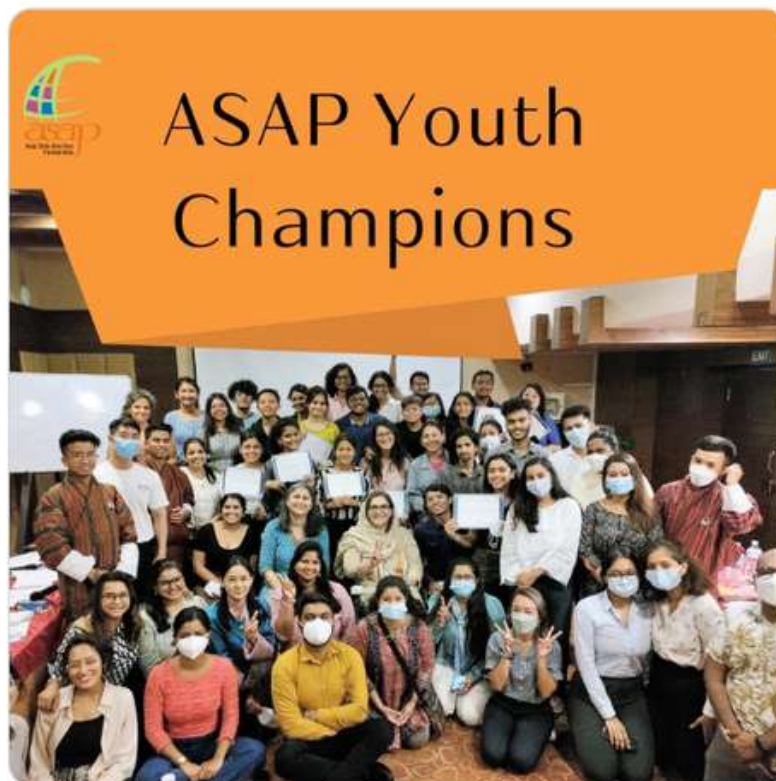
8 before 28th : A Global South - Led Twitter Rally | WGNRR & ASAP | 24th September

As a co-founder and regional partner of the International Safe Abortion Day campaign which was led by WGNRR this year, we hosted a Twitter rally on 24th September. The topic for the rally was focussed on 'the role of young people's activism in the movement for safe and legal abortions'. We shared the work being done by our youth champions and country advocacy networks in ensuring access to SRHR and safe abortion rights information in their respective countries.



ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24

Young people's dissent against human rights violation, have always played a pivotal role in leading movements & bringing about change, however [#SRHR](#) & gender rights movement has truly empowered many [#young](#) people with the decision making power, starting for our own bodies.



WGNRR @WGNRR · Sep 24



Young people are taking leadership in the movement for safe abortion rights. Let's highlight their actions and send out messages of support for day 5 of 8 before the 28th!



ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24

#YoungPeople are also important in recording or archiving the legacy of #abortionrights movement within their countries. This initiative was taken up by our #CAN from #SriLanka 🇱🇰 when they created one of the most important resources to understand the journey of.. 1/2 @YANSriLanka



WGNRR @WGNRR · Sep 24

Young people are taking leadership in the movement for safe abortion rights. Let's highlight their actions and send out messages of support for day 5 of 8 before the 28th!

🗣️ What is the importance of young people's activism in the movement for safe and legal abortions?

[Show this thread](#)

What is the importance of young people's activism in the movement for safe and legal abortions?



ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24

#YoungPeople within ASAP network have come up with the most creative & out of the box ways to talk about #safeabortion while keeping in mind the cultural contexts. Our #CAN from #Bhutan organized a #poetry competition on #AbortionRights to raise awareness facebook.com/feminismadvoca... ✓



WGNRR @WGNRR · Sep 24

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[Show this thread](#)

What is the importance of young people's activism in the movement for safe and legal abortions?



8 before the 28th
A Global South-led
Twitter Rally for #Sept28



#SafeAbortionRegardless
#SafeSourcesforSafeAbortion
#Sept28

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ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24

Due to societal opposition from the perspective which encourages #bhutanese citizens to 'not to kill a life' and stigma against #safeabortion, Druk Youth Initiative for Safe Abortion (DYISA) have adopted alternate ways to talk about issues like #patriarchy & #Feminism



ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24

#YoungPeople from **#Asia** are one of the highest users of **#Internet** & **#SocialMedia** platforms & have used them to mobilize & build solidarity across borders, nationalities etc successfully.
 ASAP **#CAN** from **#Vietnam** Vietnam Youth Action for Choice (VYAC) during **#lockdown** created..1/2

WGNRR @WGNRR · Sep 24

Young people are taking leadership in the movement for safe abortion rights. Let's highlight their actions and send out messages of support for day 5 of 8 before the 28th!

🔊 What is the importance of young people's activism in the movement for safe and legal abortions?

[Show this thread](#)

ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24



a website for people to share their stories of accessing **#abortion** in order to create a community and help people feel safe and not alone in such trying times, when accessing **#safeabortion** services for many people in **#GlobalSouth** was a major challenge.

chuyenbothai.com
 Home - Chuyện Bỏ Thai
 Abortion Story You are not alone! You have experienced so many emotions during your ...

ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24



#YoungPeople can impact **#abortionrights** movement not just as seekers of service, but as providers as too. As young **#doctors**, **#medicalstudents** & other service providers become increasingly sensitized with **#gender** **#sexuality** or to providing a **#safeabortion** service...1/3

ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24

..they're bridging a huge gap within the **#SRHR** & **#safeabortion** rights movement.
 Our **#CAN** from **#India**  **@isayadvocates** have now held multiple sessions with over 700 medical students across **#India**  to help them see **#safeabortion** from the rights based perspective & have recently..2/3

1 1 3

ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24

launched a campaign to provide a platform for doctors and medical students in **#India**  to anonymously share their experience & 'behind the scenes' in dealing with a patriarchal medical infrastructure.
[facebook.com/isayadvocates/...](https://facebook.com/isayadvocates/) 

[@isayadvocates](#)

#SafeAbortionRegardless
#ASAPAsia

facebook.com
 ISAY - India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates - "Duri...
 "During Ortho postings, the residents would ask all the female interns to sit with them at their tables ...

Tweetathon: Self Managing Abortions and Battling Patriarchal Myths | 15th July

ASAP was invited by The Safe City App for a Tweetathon to raise awareness on accessing medical abortions and how we can combat misconceptions around it's safety by making sure that we're putting out accurate evidence based information online.

You can read the full Tweetathon [here](#).

**Red Dot Foundation - Safecity** · Jul 15, 2022 
@TheSafecityApp · [Follow](#)
Let's begin with the first question.


- You can tweet your answers with the question number (e.g. A1, A2, A3)
- Use the hashtag [#AbortionRights](#)

[#Safecity](#) [#RedDotFoundation](#)

Self Managing Abortions & Battling Patriarchal Myths

[#AbortionRights](#)

Q1. Do you know about the origin of medical abortion pills?



**ASAP**
@asapasia · [Follow](#)

The 2 drugs that are used for Medical abortion are Mifepristone and Misoprostol, however in countries where Mifepristone is not available, Misoprostol alone can be used to induce a safe abortion with the dosage varying, depending on the gestation period...(cont)

Red Dot Foundation - Safecity · Jul 15, 2022
@TheSafecityApp · [Follow](#)
You can tweet your answers with the question number
(e.g. A1, A2, A3)
- Use the hashtag [#AbortionRights](#)
[#Safecity](#) [#RedDotFoundation](#)



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Medical abortions are very safe and widely popular! The risks of medical abortion are extremely small and considerably less than the risks of continuing a pregnancy to term, or any of the other methods that you may resort to terminate unwanted pregnancies...(cont)

9:18 PM · Jul 15, 2022

ASAP · Jul 15, 2022
@asapasia · [Follow](#)
Replying to @asapasia @TheSafecityApp and 2 others
If a woman has an IUD in place, the device should be removed prior to the medical abortion. Besides this, it is very rare that a medical abortion cannot be done in early pregnancy. To know more and clarify all doubts around risks and benefits of medical abortion...(contd)

ASAP
@asapasia · [Follow](#)

You can refer to our Medical Abortion Factsheet, which is now available in 8 languages - English, Hindi, Japanese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Arabic, Mongolian and an audio version, all of which can be accessed here

asap-asia.org/information-bo...

ASAP BLOGS



Why Choice Matters



Comprehensive Sexuality Education Can Help The Crises of 'Baby Dumping' in Malaysia – ASAP Conversation with Dr Subatra Jayaraj

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NATIONAL HERALD



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INDIA

Activists hail SC judgment stressing on rights-based perspective for women to seek abortion

The judgement also clarifies that MTP should be accessible to not just cis-gender women, but also to persons who may require access to safe medical termination of their pregnancies



“It's an incredibly powerful ruling that will go a long way towards ensuring autonomy, agency and bodily integrity and rights for all girls, women and pregnant persons,”

- Dr Suchitra Dalvie

ASAP SOCIAL MEDIA



ASAP
@asapasia

...

With the amount of attention given by society to the mental & physical impact of having multiple abortions, one would assume similar attention would also be drawn to multiple forced births or even post-partum depression. Yet, motherhood is only glorified or actively promoted.



ASAP
@asapasia

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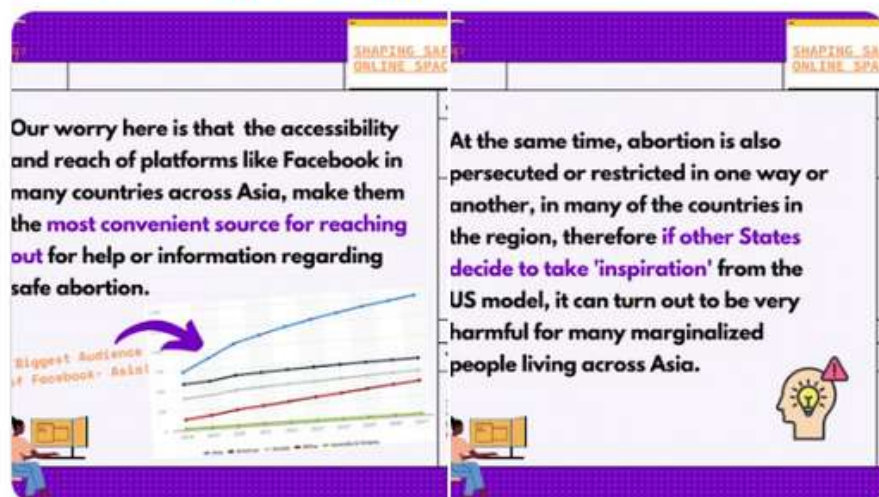
'Tech platforms have previously declined to say whether they would give law enforcement [#data](#) that relates to [#abortion](#) cases.

This case shows that [#Facebook](#) , at least, will and already has.'

[#SocialMediaOrSocialPolice](#)

[#ShapingSaferOnlineSpaces](#)

[#AbortionRights](#) [#SocialMedia](#)



India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates and 9 others



ASAP @asapasia · Sep 28

...

@shreejaxrao explains in her article 'Even in govt hospitals, surgical abortions can cost Rs 15,500 (£160) while medical abortions are Rs 1,500 (£16). These are exorbitantly high fees for the majority of Dalit women who earn about £1 a week.'

@WGNRR

theguardian.com/global-develop... ✓



The YP Foundation @TheYPFoundation · Sep 27

Q3. Seeking abortion is already an uphill struggle. Abortion seekers from marginalised identities of caste, disability, race face higher institutional discrimination, stigma & risk. How do we look at accessibility to abortion with an intersectional lens?

#safeabortionforeveryone

[Show this thread](#)



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ASAP @asapasia · Sep 28

...

#SafeAbortion where legal and accessible, is still a privilege for many in countries like #India 🇮🇳 #Pakistan 🇵🇰 #Nepal 🇳🇵 or #Bangladesh 🇬🇧, where factors like #caste perpetrates social & economic inequality, creating barriers in seeking even basic health services.

#SafeAbortionRegardless



ASAP @asapasia · Sep 1

...

'The Philippines' consistent top performance in the Global Gender Gap is ironic.

No sex education.

Restricted access to birth control.

No abortion. No exceptions.

No divorce.'

rappler.com/voices/thought... ✓

#AbortionRights

#AbortionRights #GenderBasedViolence #Philippines



rappler.com

[Dash of SAS] The Philippines' consistent top performance in the Glob...

'I have said and written this many times but I will say it again: the Filipino woman is free except when it comes to matters of her heart a...



ASAP
@asapasia

...

We too along with many [#SRHR](#) orgs in [#Asia](#) have faced constant rejection of ads, highly limiting our reach amongst people, with [#internet](#) as d only source, thus restricting choices of individuals who might need support & access to evidence based information, instead of myths!



Absolutely Nobody:

Facebook the moment it detects the word 'abortion' on its platform:





ASAP
@asapasia

...

Despite their being a law for safe abortion services along with opportunities for [#sexeducation](#) (a rarity compared to many countries in Asia), lack of implementation & stigma along with increased prices remain the biggest barriers in [#Malaysia](#). Dr [@j_subatra](#) tells in our blog!





THANK YOU!

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more regular updates

