

# ANNUAL REPORT

Asia Safe Abortion Partnership

2024



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# FROM COORDINATOR'S DESK



What you have in your hands (or on your device!) is a report of a milestone year in the history of ASAP!

A game changer year which brought to fruition the work of all the fifteen years prior to it. We organized a wonderful, successful and very unique global conference –

**The Abortion & Reproductive Justice IV Conference: The Unfinished Revolution.**

It was held in Bangkok and brought together 360 safe abortion rights activists and advocates from over 60 countries across the globe. This was a remarkable milestone for the journey that started with a room of 35 safe abortion rights activists and stakeholders from across Asia, deciding to create a forum for experience sharing, solidarity and learning, in order to advocate for the issue.

“

In 2024 we also launched a unique, one of a kind, global online learning space The ASAP Academy, with the motto Educate, Engage, Empower. In less than a year we have had close to 100 learners joining in from over fifteen countries from across the globe.

Despite all the challenges and hurdles that such a journey faced, we managed to survive, grow and thrive and now have members in over 25 countries in South and South East, South West Asia and the Pacific.

But even more wonderful is the fact that we now have allies and partners from across the globe who are connected and collaborating with.

We are now growing beyond a forum or even a network into a movement.

A movement that places safe abortion within the context of gender, rights and justice issues.

A movement that is fiercely committed, politically informed and at the same time looking at issues of self-care, burnout and digital safety of its own members.

This threshold, where we can now hold the inner and outer world in our vision and in the work we do, is truly a turning point in our evolution.

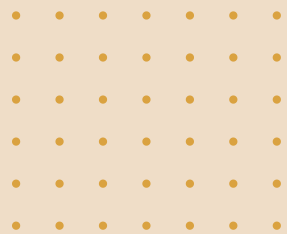
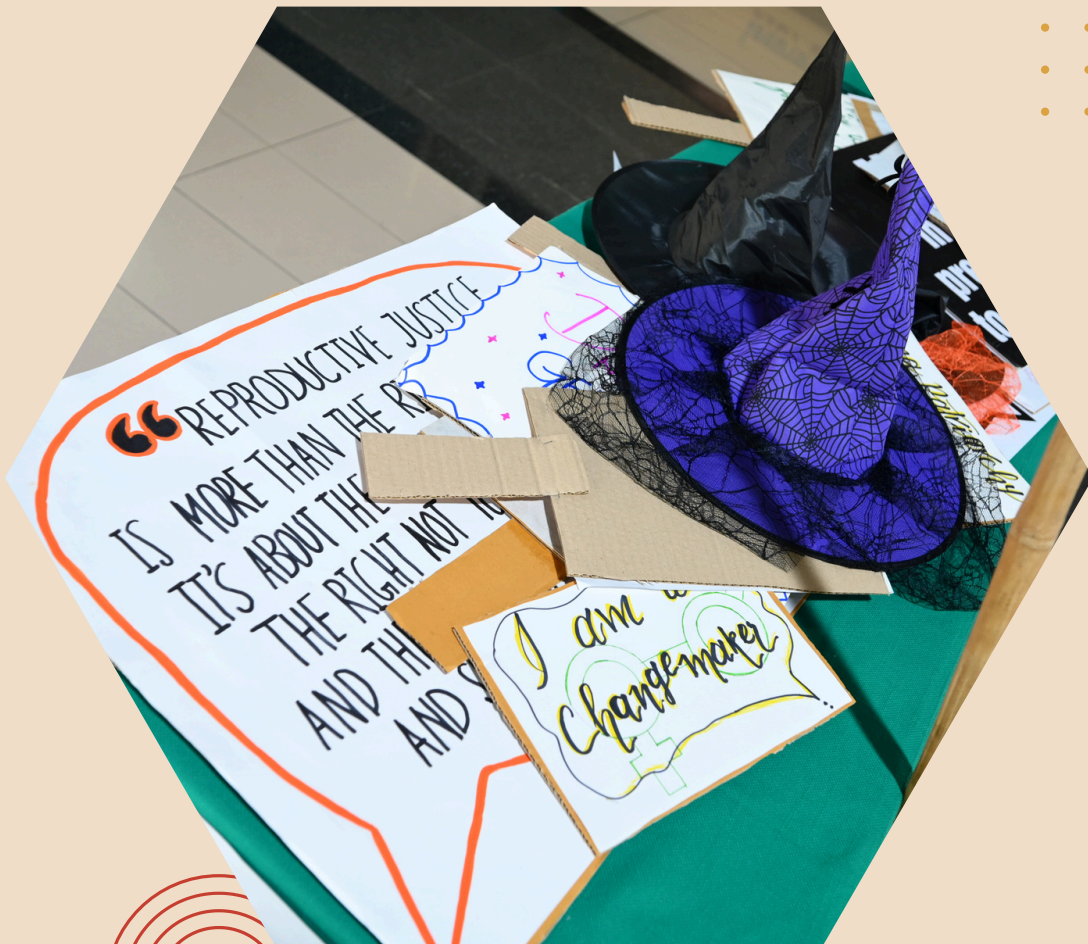
# FROM COORDINATOR'S DESK

In 2024 we also launched a unique, one of a kind, global online learning space The ASAP Academy, with the motto Educate, Engage, Empower. In less than a year we have had close to 100 learners joining in from over fifteen countries from across the globe.

To serve the needs of a growing movement where new entrants don't always have access to mentors or knowledge of the history, politics and nuances of the safe abortion rights issues, we also launched The Abortion Gazette.

This is a quarterly publication which is a repository of the political and practical issues around a specific topic affecting safe abortion rights--such as Decolonization, Selective Abortion, Conscientious Objection and many more.

If you are reading this Annual Report then we thank you for being a part of and a witness to this profoundly challenging but absolutely critical work we are engaged in. The ability to choose if and when to get pregnant and stay pregnant is the absolute core of the work in dismantling the oppressive patriarchal, uber capitalist systems we are living with. This is the year we built the legacy which will contribute to the safe abortion rights movement in years to come. This is the year ASAP chose to fly!





# ASAP ACTIVITIES



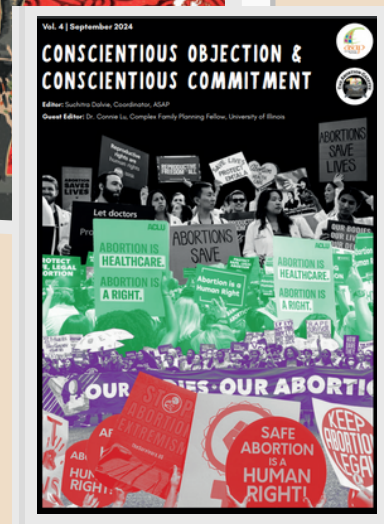
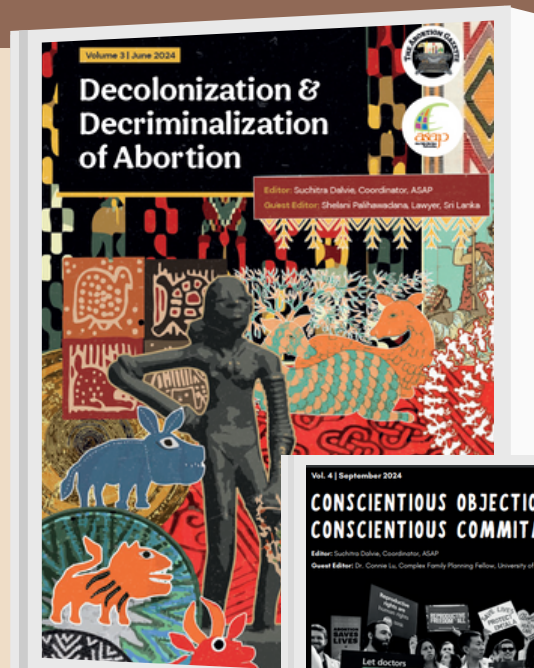
## The Abortion Gazette Launched

As new members and partners join the safe abortion rights movement, we realized that there are hardly any collated or curated resources that they can engage with in order to gain a deeper understanding of some of the key issues or challenges in this work.

There are search engines and journals and many websites dedicated to safe abortion rights information and even services which people can access. However, there is no dedicated space where you can get a snapshot of a core topic within safe abortion rights that can offer someone the highlights of the scope of the issue and a range of perspectives that are relevant to us as a movement.

In order to address this gap, ASAP launched The Abortion Gazette.

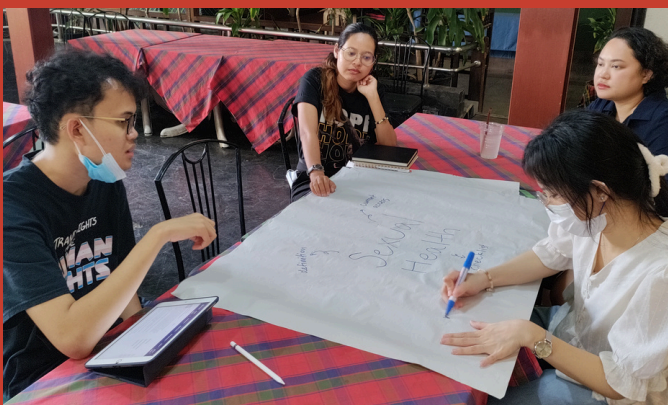
- The Abortion Gazette 1<sup>st</sup> Volume: Self-Managed Abortions: Politics and Possibilities, December 2023. Read the gazette [here](#).
- The Abortion Gazette 2<sup>nd</sup> Volume: Abortion and Reproductive Justice – What does it mean? February 2024. Read the gazette [here](#).
- The Abortion Gazette 3<sup>rd</sup> Volume: Decolonization and Decriminalization of Abortion, June 2024. Read the gazette [here](#).
- The Abortion Gazette 4<sup>th</sup> Volume: Conscientious Objection and Conscientious Commitment, September 2024. Read the gazette [here](#).



## Youth Advocacy Institute for ARJC Interns | January 2024 | Bangkok, Thailand

ASAP organized a YAI for the local interns of ARJC in Bangkok.

The goal was to familiarize them with the politics surrounding the conference and the broader work of ASAP, so they could participate not just as support staff, but as informed individuals who understand the critical importance of SRHR, safe abortion rights, and reproductive justice.



This engagement aimed to ensure they were sensitized and equipped to offer meaningful, respectful support to all participants throughout the event.





# ABORTION & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE IV : THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION



ASAP organized the Abortion and Reproductive Justice Conference (ARJC) IV in Bangkok, Thailand in February 2024. 360 participants from over 60 countries came together in solidarity and shared experiences, challenges and had a wonderful experience which was different from usual conferences, with a self-care room, a feminist book exchange and hand-on workshops.













Please find the link to the full report [here](#).



# ABORTION & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE 2024

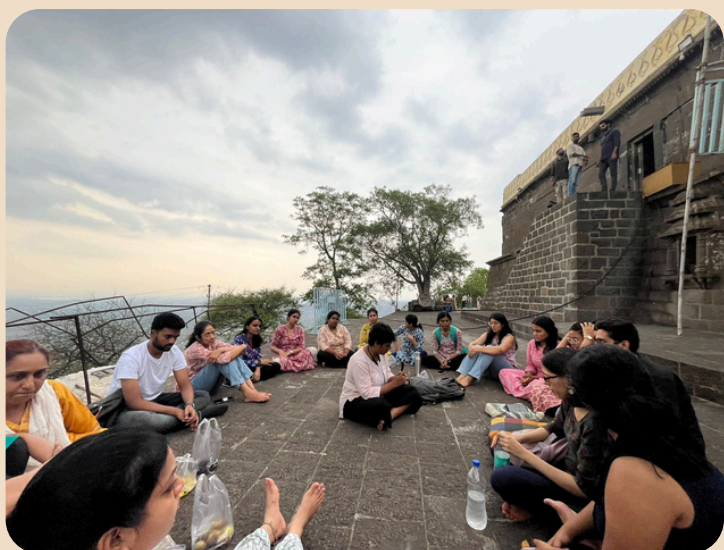




## Community Outreach with MASUM | ISAY & ASAP | 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024

ASAP and ISAY, in collaboration with MASUM, organized a community learning programme that offered a deep dive into MASUM's grassroots work and community-led initiatives.

The experience was both educational and inspiring, as we learned from powerful community leaders who are driving transformative change in SRHR within their localities and beyond.





## 1<sup>st</sup> National Medical Students Convening | ISAY & ASAP | 15 – 16 June 2024 | Mumbai, India

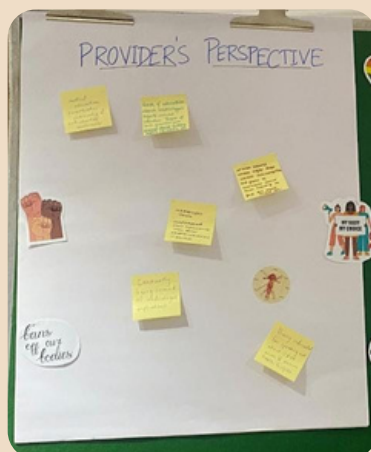
The convening saw participation of a total of 35 attendees, including the core team, guest speakers, members of ISAY and delegates from various medical student organisations.



We had participants from cities across India, namely Mumbai, Bangalore, Mangalore, Kolkata, Amritsar and Lucknow.

The objective of the meeting was to

- Catalyse the critical role of future doctors in supporting safe abortion rights in India
- Create a forum for advocacy among medical professionals to improve access to safe abortions







**ASAP YAI | ASAP, IPPF & FPAN | 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 | Kathmandu, Nepal**

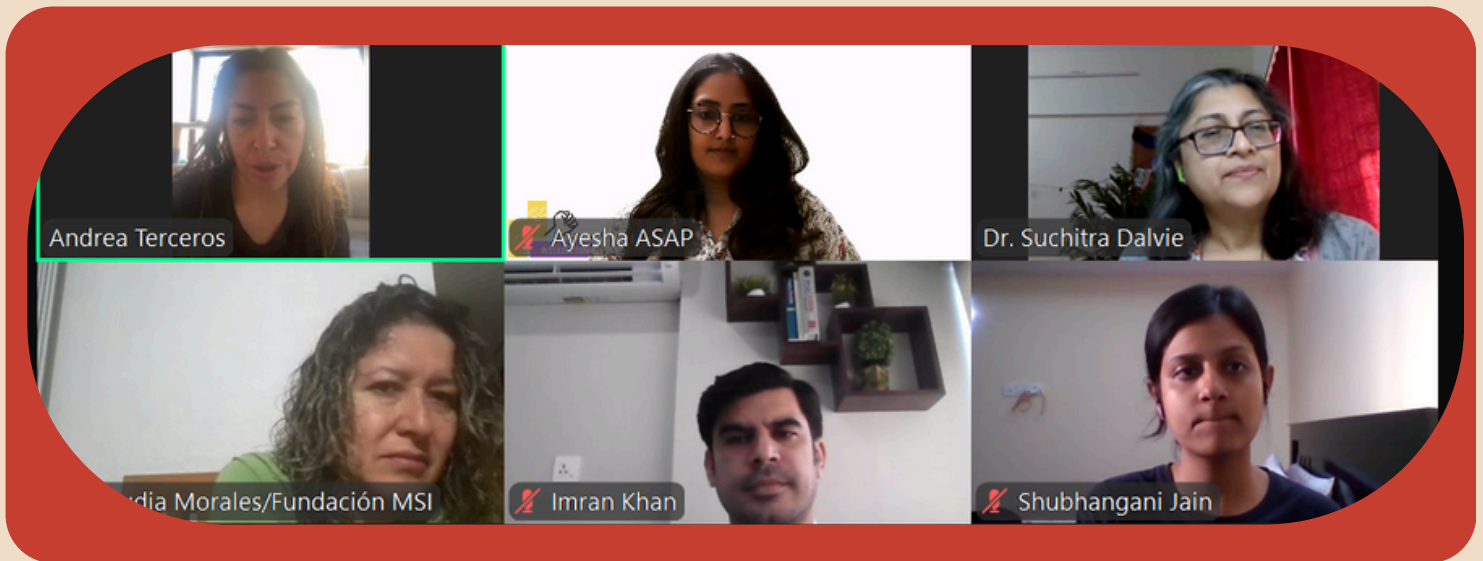
ASAP, in collaboration with the IPPF SARO and Family Planning Association of Nepal, organized a YAI for the SARYN members of IPPF SARO.

The workshop brought together dynamic participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

It was an engaging space, and many of the participants are now active members of the ASAP network as Youth Champions, continuing to advocate for SRHR and safe abortion rights across the region



## The ASAP Academy Launched | July 2024 | Online



In order to reach out to a wider range of learners from across the region and globally, we launched the ASAP Academy in August 2024. Explore more about the academy by looking at the [website](#).

We had a great response to the Foundation Course in the 1st Semester and the Foundation as well as Advanced Course in the 2nd Semester.

In both the semesters participants had the option for signing up for individual modules and courses and we had about 30 students each from different countries in South and South East Asia, Africa, North America, Western Europe, Pacific and Oceania region.







## ASAP YAI | DYISA & ASAP | August 2024 | Thimpu, Bhutan

The 2nd Youth Advocacy Institute (YAI) Workshop took place in Thimphu, Bhutan, from August 16th to 17th, 2024.

This two-day event aimed to equip and empower youth advocates with knowledge and skills in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), fostering activism in the region. Coordinated by Country Advocacy Network, Druk Youth Initiative on Sexual Advocacy (DYISA) and organized by Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP), the workshop brought together young advocates eager to deepen their understanding of SRHR.



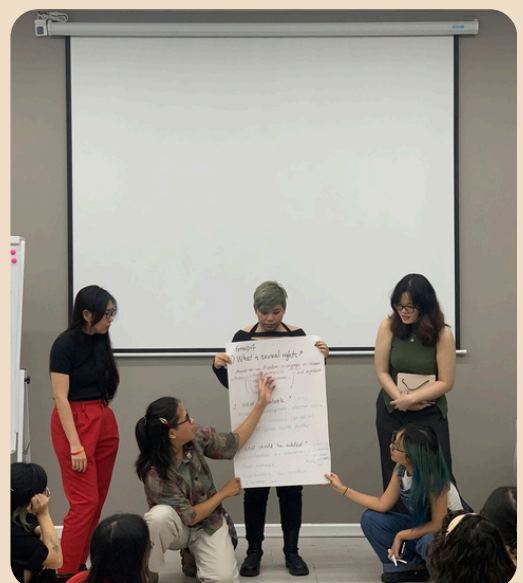
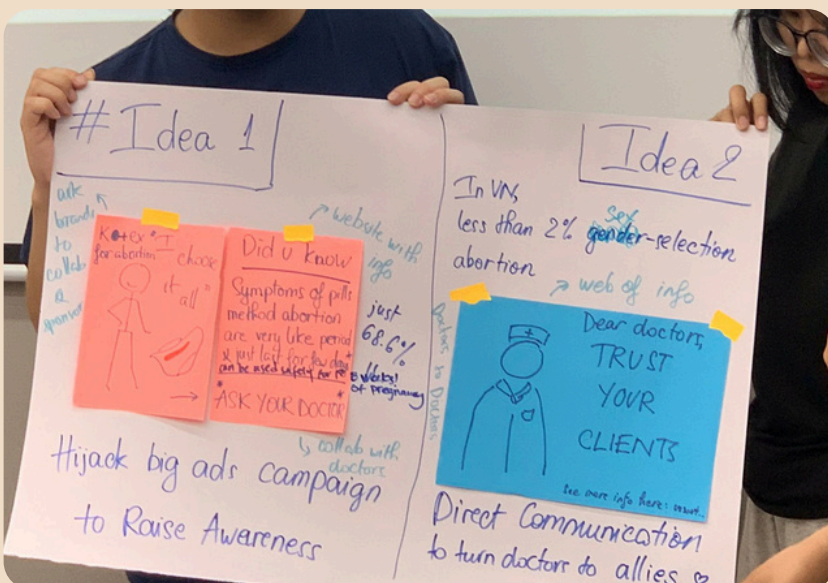
The workshop engaged a diverse group of 23 participants from all walks of life, ranging from individuals affiliated with Disabled People Organizations, LGBTQ+, to homemakers. The participants were between the ages of 18 and 31, representing a broad spectrum of experiences and backgrounds.

## ASAP YAI | VYAC & ASAP | September 2024 | Vietnam

ASAP and the Country Advocacy Network in Vietnam, VYAC organized a 3-day-long YAI, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

There were 26 participants from diverse backgrounds, mostly from Ho Chi Minh City, a few from Hanoi, Hau Giang, and even from Australia.

The VYAC team also led a few sessions, such as diving deep into gender and sexism in mass media in Vietnam, and assisted ASAP to co-lead the institute.





## ASAP Strategy Planning Meeting | September 2024 | Colombo, Sri Lanka

In September we organized an ASAP Strategic Planning Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



The meeting was co-led by consultant, Barbara Klugmann in coordination with the ASAP Secretariat and it was attended by the Steering Committee (SC) members, and 2 youth champions from each Country Advocacy Network (CAN) in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

This meeting was to revisit the ASAP's last strategic plan, discuss what has changed since then, chart out the path for the next 5 years, draw up goals and design the strategic plan for the coming future accordingly. It was a much-needed meeting as the last strategic planning meeting was done in 2019 which was right before the pandemic and a lot has changed since then.





## ASAP YAI | ISAY & ASAP | October 2024 | Mumbai, India



**YAI 2024**

There were 20 participants from various medical colleges. They attended the 2 day long institute along with 6 core team members from ISAY Core team members from Country Advocacy Network ISAY.

The alumni will be facilitated to emerge as a community with a strong voice on this discourse at local, national, and regional levels and to engage with the issues on an ongoing basis through the online network as well as through participation in relevant meetings.



**GENDER AND  
PATRIARCHY**



**POWER WALK AND  
INTERSECTIONALITY**

## ASAP Book Writing Retreats

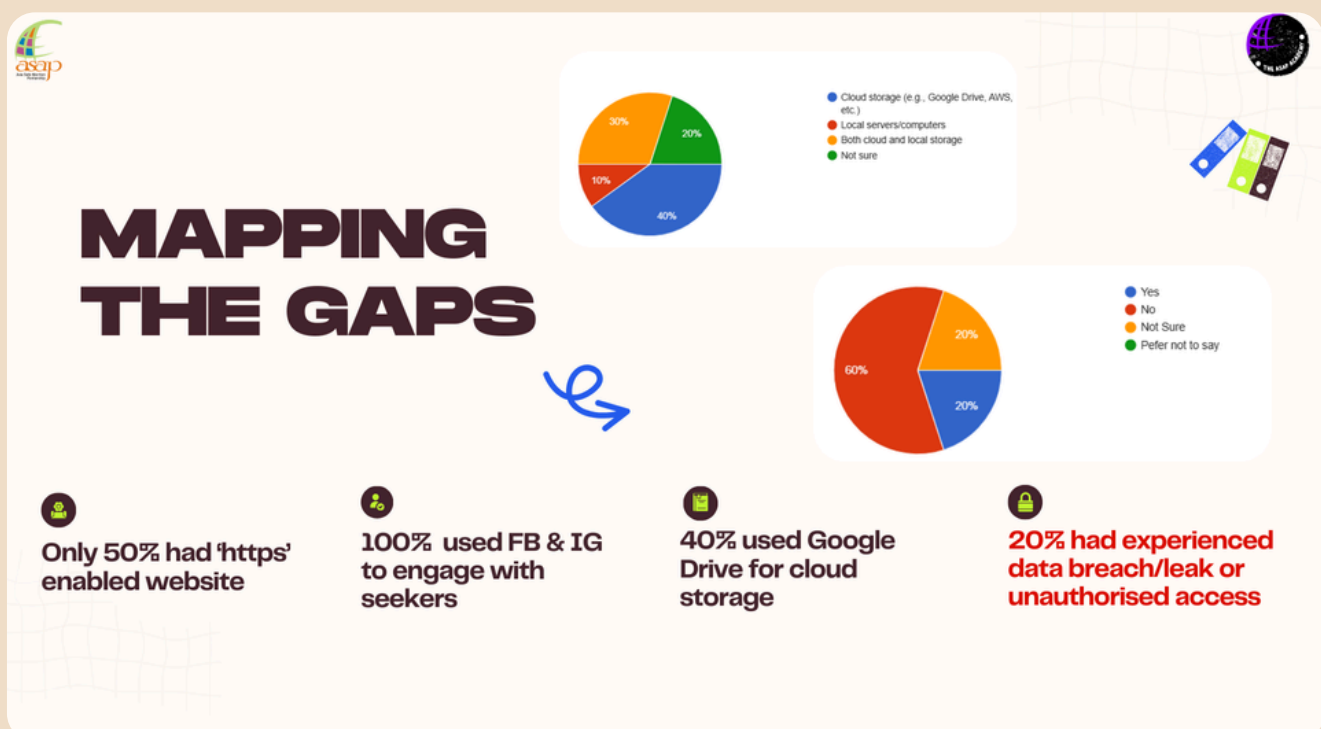
The Secretariat team is writing a book each to document our perspective of the work we do simply because women's voices and feminist voices on safe abortion rights movement that is rooted in a gender and justice lens and are from the Global South, are extremely important and yet remain extremely rare.

## Mapping the Gaps in Data Protection

Similar to ASAP's Shaping Safer Online Spaces campaign, through which we mapped the activities of individuals who're navigating these system, we decided to map the data flows within SRHR service delivery systems online which involved:

- Identifying the stages of information flow from initial user interaction to final data storage and reporting.
- Assessing the security measures in data entry, cloud storage internal data handling as well as social media and external facing delivery points.
- Conducting risk assessments from both individual and organizational perspectives.

We gathered this information by conducting a pilot survey with a few selected global and regional organizations. This was a pioneering survey through which we got a basic understanding of the current protocols being used and the potential vulnerabilities and ways of reducing them.



# International Safe Abortion Day | 28<sup>th</sup> September | Online

ASAP celebrated 28th September with a vigour to unlearn, learn and grow with our newly launched ASAP Academy and the only online learning space for everything around safe abortion issues to connect with like-minded and passionate people, so that we can together empower ourselves and others to fight for our SRHR and help make #unsafeabortionhistory





# ASAP AS PANELIST



## YO.DH Fest Panel | KABOOM Social Impact | July 2024

ASAP's Communication and Network Manager was invited by KABOOM Social Impact to speak as a panelist at a session to share about SSOS and the research insights highlighting the current digital health trends among young people, emphasizing their online behaviors, perceptions, with a key focus on data-governance and digital privacy.

## Navigating Digital Censorship of Essential Sexual Health Information | IPPF SARO | September 2024

ASAP's Communication and Network Manager was invited by IPPF SARO to speak as a panelist on our ongoing campaign of Shaping Safer Online Spaces to protect safe abortion rights advocates in Asia from digital threats such as surveillance, hacking, online harassment etc.

#UncensorHealth

IPPF  
South Asia Region

**NAVIGATING DIGITAL CENSORSHIP OF ESSENTIAL SEXUAL HEALTH INFORMATION**

Webinar | 25 September 2024 | 5-6 PM IST/  
7:30-8:30 AM EST/1:30-2:30 PM CET

MARTHA DIMITRATOU  
Digital Strategist  
Repro Uncensored

AYESHA BASHIR  
Communications Manager  
Asia Safe Abortion Partnership

DR TANAYA  
Doctor and Online Sexuality Educator

TASFIA RIDITA  
Young SRHR Activist

[Register to Join!](#)

She highlighted the urgent need to politicize and reclaim digital spaces, rather than abandon them, especially when so many rely on the internet and social media for vital SRHR information.



## **ASAP led learning session on Decolonization and Reproductive Justice | IPPF Global learning series on Anti-Racism | October 2024 | Online**

As a part of IPPF's global learning cohort for their staff and members, ASAP was invited to lead an online learning session on Anti-Racism from the Reproductive Justice lens.

- Opening remarks were by Dr. Suchitra Dalvie–Coordinator, ASAP, followed by a panel moderated by Nandini Mazumder, Assistant Coordinator–ASAP and panellists included Manisha Gupte, India, Sandra Suryadana, Indonesia, and Saraswati Palnitkar, India.

- Closing remarks were by Dr. Subatra Jayaraj, Chairperson of ASAP, Malaysia. During the one-and-a-half-hour-long learning session, we explored deeper into the following ideas and unpacked them:

- Deconstruction of Power and an analysis of power imbalances and structural issues created by colonization and its impact on laws, healthcare services and medical education that perpetuate misogyny and exploitative dynamics that prevent women and pregnant persons from exercising autonomy and agency, especially in the context of managing unwanted pregnancies.
- Decolonization and indigenization – What are our post- colonial identities in this context and from these what do we own and retain, what do we discard? Using examples of restrictive abortion laws, misogyny and eugenics as well as the erasure and suppressions of indigenous medical systems, branding women healers as witches, we will explore how medical education and practise needs to evolve so as to be intersectional, inclusive and built on a deeper understanding of our individual and collective identity, the power differentials based on this identity, such as othering and exclusion.



## **ASAP at an abortion panel | Reprosex Conference on SRH | November 2024 | Sri Lanka**

ASAP was invited to attend the Reprosex Conference and speak at a panel on Safe Abortion Rights moderated by IPPF.

Nandini Mazumder, Assistant Coordinator, represented ASAP including our work towards building an intersectional and inclusive safe abortion rights movement in the region.

The presentation also addressed key landmarks in the Safe Abortion Rights movement in the region such as the Lakshmi Dikhta case in Nepal that led to the law change in the country and made safe abortions a constitutional right. The concluding points were:

- Learn from each other and replicate good practices. For example, Nepal approved telemedicine for safe abortion services during COVID 19 pandemic.
- Importance of accessible, sensitive and inclusive safe abortion information and services to be made available through the public healthcare system.
- Post-colonial law reforms and decriminalization abortions or induced miscarriages in our penal codes.



## Reality check on promises for gender equality and human rights | SHE & Rights



Sexual Health with Equity and Rights  
(SHE & Rights) Media Initiative

**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024**  
**12noon** Geneva/South Africa

**Register**

[www.bit.ly/sheandrights2](http://www.bit.ly/sheandrights2)



## Reality check on promises for gender equality and human rights



KAVUTHA MUTUA



DR RATHNAMALA DESAI



MENKA GOUNDAN



STEPHANIE MUSHO



DR SUCHITRA DALVIE



SHOBHA SHUKLA

APCAT  
Media

IPPF

WOMEN'S  
GLOBAL NETWORK  
FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS  
WGNRR

arrow

ASAP Coordinator was invited to speak on "Global brief on promises for safe abortion rights and SRHR enshrined in a range of agreements, legally binding treaty CEDAW, ICPD and PoA, Beijing & PfA, SDGs and others." by the Sexual Health with Equity (SHE) and Rights initiative (or SHE & Rights initiative) which was launched to increase media understanding and engagement around sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) particularly abortion care with the lens of equity and right to health.

Co-hosted by Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media), Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR), and CNS.



# ASAP AS A PARTICIPANT



## ASAP at AWID | December 2024 | Bangkok, Thailand

ASAP participated in the AWID Conference, where we had the opportunity to learn from incredible advocates and build meaningful connections to strengthen and support each other's movements.





# ASAP IN PUBLICATION

THE PANDEMIC  
AND SEXUALITY

APRIL-MAY 2024



Suchitra Dalvie

In Conversation with Shikha Aleya



INTERVIEW

In Plainspeak

“

[My] biggest, fascinating, and slightly alarming observation is how quickly we have forgotten that we went through a global pandemic, unprecedented in scale, which caused a lot of deaths. What we've done is, whoever has moved on and survived, we've just gone back to where we were earlier.



That is quite disturbing, because we had this huge opportunity to shift things in a big way. That's really a failure of people like us, policymakers, leaders, who had the privilege and the potential to do that.

I think what I would urge is, creating systems of support within existing systems which already take on that role.

“

We think it's ludicrous now, that one person should be allowed to dictate, control and rule over people. So maybe this is the other future we need to aspire towards, where we dismantle all these oppressive structures and see children as our opportunity to do better with the next generation.



If each person is comfortable with who they are and can live with acceptance and compassion towards their own self, then there is no need for external validation and any desire to control or assert power over others.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE ON  
[TARSHI.NET/INPLAINSPEAK](https://tarshi.net/inplainspeak)



# ASAP BLOGS

## ADVOCACY



What Happens When We All Come Under One Roof?

## ASAP'S EVENTS



What does climate change have to do with a global abortion rights conference? By Jessica Work, Fiji (IPPF ESEOR SROP YOUTH NETWORKER)



# ASAP BLOGS



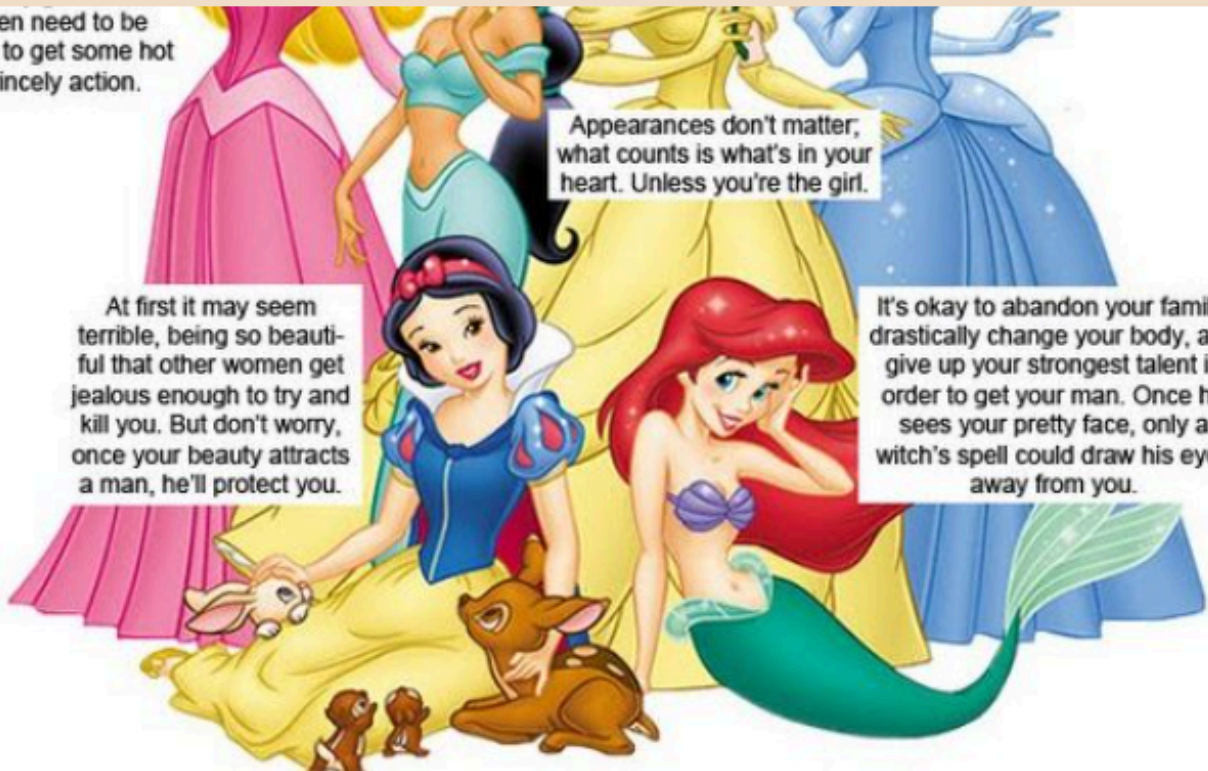
Eye Opening Revelation of Patriarchy in Medicine at ARJC 2024!

even need to be  
alive to get some hot  
princely action.

Appearances don't matter,  
what counts is what's in your  
heart. Unless you're the girl.

At first it may seem  
terrible, being so beauti-  
ful that other women get  
jealous enough to try and  
kill you. But don't worry,  
once your beauty attracts  
a man, he'll protect you.

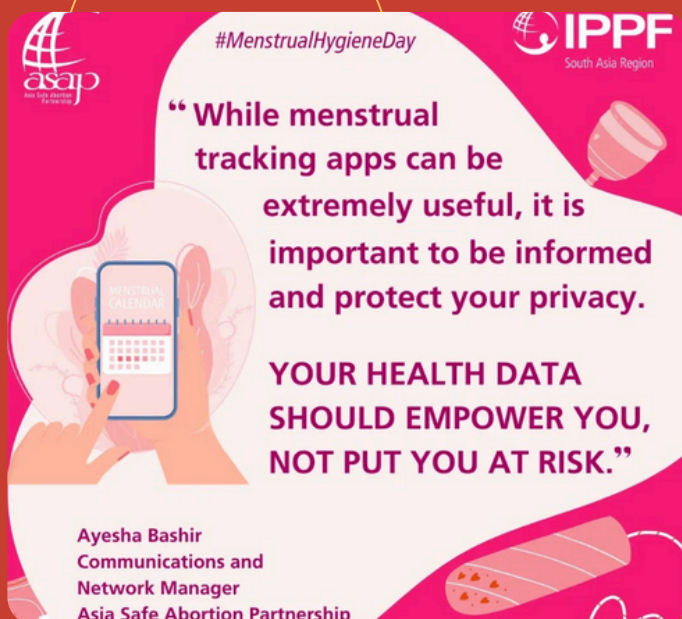
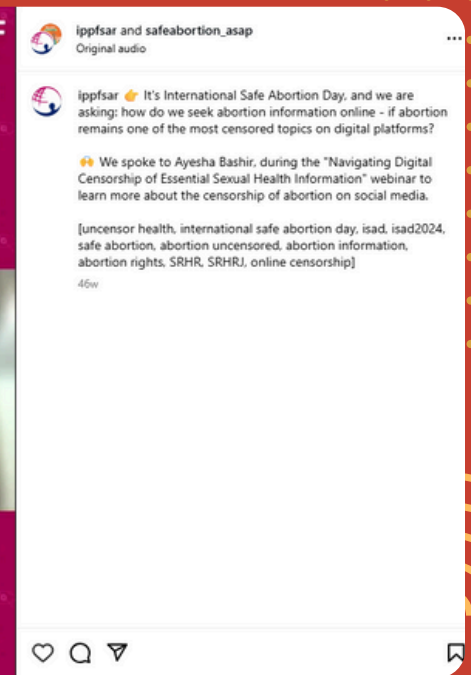
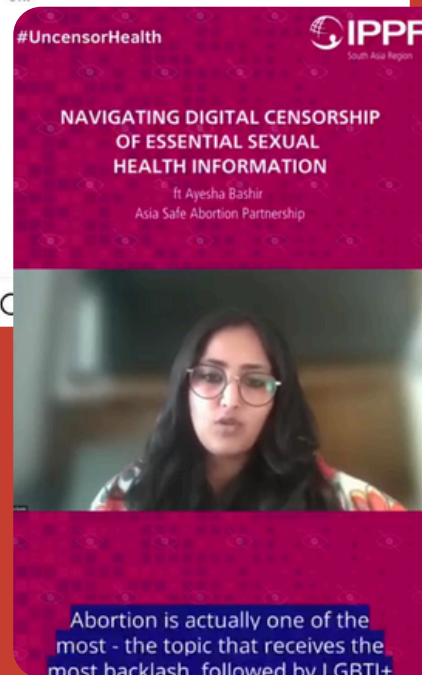
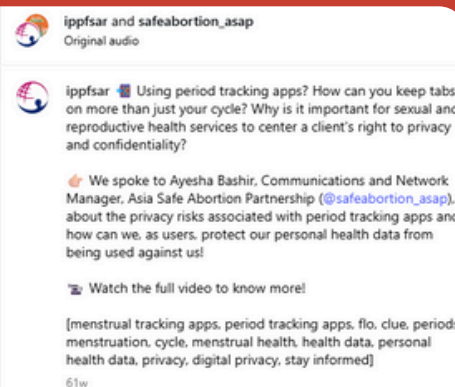
It's okay to abandon your family,  
drastically change your body,  
and give up your strongest talent in  
order to get your man. Once he  
sees your pretty face, only a  
witch's spell could draw his eyes  
away from you.



Breaking the glass slipper: How patriarchy shaped female characters in Disney. By Geilee Skandakuma.



# ASAP SOCIAL MEDIA

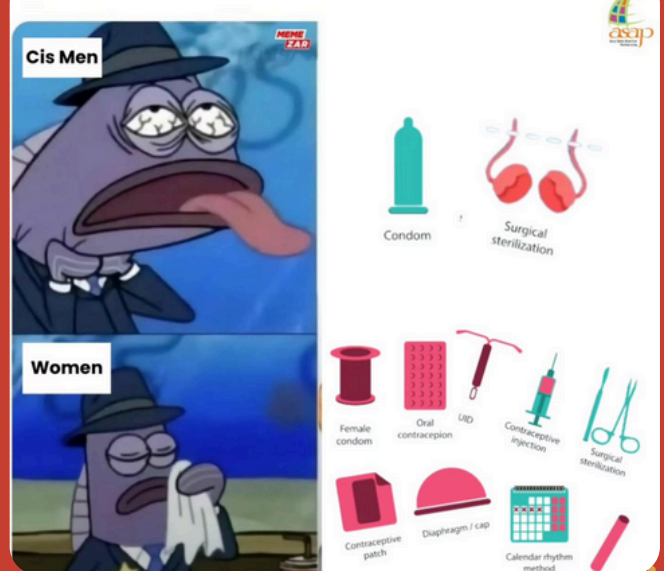
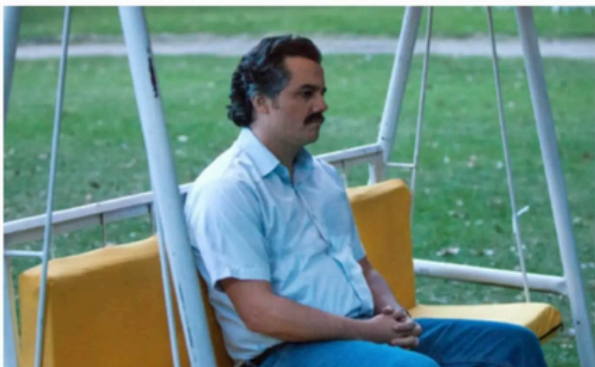


ASAP collaborated with IPPF SARO for a social media campaign to mark the Menstrual Hygiene Day.

Given our work on Shaping Safer Online Spaces, we were invited by IPPF SARO to highlight the threats that are faced by SRHR advocates online, along with the risks being taken by seekers when trying to access information or service online.

# ASAP SOCIAL MEDIA

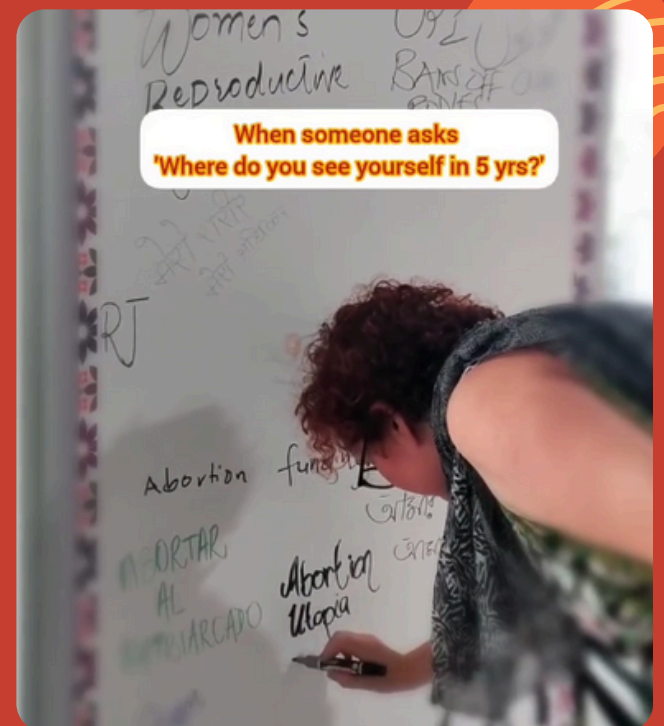
Women in Asia realizing that the 'right to work' only translated into women doing the work outside AND inside , so now we have to deal with a society that wants a 'financially independent, traditional woman'



Us when our ad/post with the words 'safe abortion' gets through Meta, without being flagged for 'promoting self harm'.



This day is bananas, B-A-N-A-N-A-S  
This day is bananas, B-A-N-A-N-A-S





# ASAP SOCIAL MEDIA

o o o o

**DISEMPOWERED HEALTHCARE  
IS NOT JUSTICE.**

**NON-INCLUSIVE  
HEALTHCARE IS  
NOT JUSTICE.**

**MEDICAL  
PATRIARCHY IS  
NOT JUSTICE.**



**ACCESS TO**

**SELF MANAGED  
ABORTIONS**

**IS A CRITICAL KEY**

**IN DISMANTLING  
MANY OPPRESSIVE  
STRUCTURES!!**



**ABORTION RIGHTS**

**ARE ABOUT  
RECOGNIZING**

**THE FULL**

**HUMANITY AND  
DIGNITY OF  
INDIVIDUALS.**



**THE FIGHT FOR  
VISIBILITY IS  
INTERTWINED WITH  
THE FIGHT FOR BODILY  
AUTONOMY AND  
REPRODUCTIVE  
JUSTICE.**



# ASAP SOCIAL MEDIA

The move to regulate the emergency contraceptive pill appears to be a response to **moral** concerns rather than public health needs.

DR SUCHITRA DALVIE

“Public healthcare in India is often under-resourced, with limited access to doctors and facilities, particularly in rural areas.

Placing the **ECP** under prescription control would make it more difficult and costly to obtain, especially for those who need it most,”

DR SUCHITRA DALVIE



ASAP  
@asapasia

If the Govt agencies cannot even use the word 'breast' while talking about such an important health issue, then what's the point of these hollow awareness campaigns that only further spread misinformation, confusing people even more. On top of that a society that views sex education as obscene, is also inept to answering questions that young kids might raise after viewing such vague, disrespectful advertisements.





# ASAP SOCIAL MEDIA



I think it's a privilege to be here



safeabortion\_asap and 2 others  
Original audio



safeabortion\_asap Big thank you to Aishath for being so kind with her words and for us too each training is privilege as we get to learn & hear from such amazing participants ❤️ If you have missed the chance to sign up for the First Semester of the [#ASAPAcademy](#) there's still chance for you to join us for the next semester, so stay tuned for updates!

[#instareels](#) [#successstories](#) [#asapacademy](#) [#ASAPYai](#) [#asapyouthchampion](#) [#maldives](#) [#skillbuilding](#) [#advocacy](#) [#capacitybuilding](#) [#training](#)

55w



big\_afrika Kool 🍌  
49w 1 like Reply



youthsouthasia 🙌🙌❤️  
53w 1 like Reply



You realize that there's so much subconscious



safeabortion\_asap and isayadvocates  
Original audio



safeabortion\_asap [#ASAPAcademySuccessStories](#)

Here's why [@nikkiagarwal20](#), a medical student from India and an alumni of ASAP, you need to immediately sign up for the [#ASAPACADEMY](#)

Join this amazing network today!

🌟 Deadline extended to 27th June! 🌟

[#ASAPAcademy](#) [#LearnWithASAP](#) [#onlinelearning](#) [#onlinecoaching](#) [#skilldevelopment](#) [#elearning](#) [#friday](#) [#fridayvibes](#) [#signup](#) [#signupnow](#)

60w

# THANK YOU!



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