

COMBATTING OPPOSITION, BARRIERS & THREATS: EVIDENCE FROM THE GROUND

SAFE ABORTION DIALOGUE
ASIA

04 JUNE 2021
20:00 PM-22:00PM PST
(UTC+8 TIME)

Welcome Remarks

Payal Shah
Kristine Chan
Anna Lynam
Safe Abortion Dialogue Asia Organisers

Mapping the Barriers of Abortion Rights in Asia

Atty. Jihan Jacob
Senior Legal Adviser for Asia
Center for Reproductive Rights

Access to Safe Abortion in an Extremely Conservative and Patriarchal Setting

Dr. Yaqoob Muslih
Country Director
MSI Reproductive Choices- Afghanistan

Foreign Influence in Local Abortion Policy

Dr. Marcia Soumokil, MPZ
Country Director
Yayasan Inisiatif Perubahan Akses menuju Sehat
(IPAS) Indonesia

Opposition to Abortion in Liberal Law Setting

Sonali Regmi
Advocate and member of the Reproductive Health
and Rights Working Group (RHRWG)
Nepal

Archaic Law on Abortion

Atty. Clara Rita Padilla
Spokesperson, Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy
Network (PINSAN)
Executive Director, Engenderights

Experience and Challenges in Advocating for Medical Abortion in the Private Sector

PSI Laos

Ways Forward

Debanjana Choudhuri
Asia Advocacy and Partnerships Advisor
Marie Stopes International

Marevic Parcon
Executive Director
Women's Global Network for
Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
Moderator

Combating opposition, barriers & threats: Evidence from the ground

Asia Safe Abortion Dialogue

04 June 2021 20:00 PM-22:00PM PST (UTC+8 time)

Register

The status of abortion is diverse across the region, from broadly legal to highly restrictive. Regardless of the legal situation, women and pregnant persons continue to face multiple barriers to obtaining safe, legal procedures. Obstacles include difficulty finding providers willing to perform abortions, substandard conditions in health facilities, lack of awareness of the legal status of abortion, and fear of stigmatization for terminating a pregnancy. These, along with social and moral stigma, gender inequality, restrictive abortion laws, and the presence of the organized opposition at the country level, limit abortion access in the region.

The session

The session highlights the challenges and initiatives of safe abortion rights advocates in Asia. Speakers from Afghanistan, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, and the Philippines will present case studies of how these barriers and opposition to abortion are manifested at the country level. The 2-hour session will also provide an opportunity for safe abortion activists in the region to come up with strategies to counter the opposition and break down the barriers to safe abortion rights.

PROGRAMME

10:00 - 10:05 PM - Opening and Reminders

10:05 - 10:15 PM - Welcome Remarks

10:15 - 10:20 PM - Introduction to the Session

10:20 - 10:30 PM - Mapping the Barriers of Abortion Rights in Asia

10:30 - 11:20 PM - Country Experience

- **Afghanistan:** Access to Safe Abortion in an Extremely Conservative and Patriarchal Setting
- **Indonesia:** Foreign Influence in Local Abortion Policy
- **Nepal:** Opposition to Abortion in Liberal Law Setting
- **Philippines:** Archaic Law on Abortion
- **Laos:** Experience and Challenges in Advocating for MA in the Private Sector

11:20 - 11:45 PM - Open Forum

11:45 - 11:55 PM - Synthesis and Ways forward

Debanjana Choudhuri

Asia Advocacy and Partnerships Advisor

Marie Stopes International

11:55PM - 12:00AM - Closing

LANGUAGE

The presentations and discussions will be in English.

PLATFORM AND REGISTRATION LINK

The session will be conducted on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvdeyqqjgsHt1XakV4lwfc4cvHUhm8BVNj>

FORMAT

The speakers will have 10 minutes each for their presentation. The discussion is divided into two parts – the first part will present an overview of the opposition in the region. The second part presents case studies and initiatives in combatting the barriers, challenges and opposition at the country level. An open forum will follow after the country presentations. Mentimeter will be used during the open forum to get the insights of the participants. The participants are also encouraged to share successful initiatives and ideas to counter the challenges to abortion rights in the region.

ORGANISERS

WGNRR, MSI Reproductive Choices, IPPF ESEAOR, Asia Pacific Alliance for SRHR, Center for Reproductive Rights, Ipas Indonesia, Anna Lynam, Payal Shah, and Kristine Chan