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, Engenderrights

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
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/tZcvdeyqqjgsHt1XakV4lwfc4cvHUhms8BVNj

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 combating 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