

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
VIRTUAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS
IN ASIA

APRIL 2023

The Center for Reproductive Rights (the Center) invites applications from young lawyers, youth advocates, and development sector professionals working on SRHR and allied themes from South Asia, South-East Asia, and other regions of Asia for a 3-day virtual training program on sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) in April 2023. The training program is a collaboration between the South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative (SARJAI) and the Center.

The training program aims to take forward SARJAI's capacity-strengthening and learning mission and focuses on strengthening and building understanding of SRHR issues and challenges amongst a new cohort of young legal practitioners and advocates across the Asia region. Through expert talks, sharing by existing network members as facilitators, and workshopping ideas for future action, the training participants will have a stronger and more intersectional understanding of SRHR issues globally as well as specific to the region and be able to collectively develop legal advocacy strategies for the future. For newer participants as well as current SARJAI members, the program will focus on deepening technical understanding including in newer areas of interest, and brainstorming legal strategies, which they can take forward at their individual level and in collaboration with SARJAI/the Center. The training will bring together a panel of experts/resource persons from six countries across South Asia as well as from the Center's global teams, including practising advocates, legal scholars, public health and gender experts, and human rights experts.

At the conclusion of this virtual training, a small cohort of participants will be invited to share their proposals for an advocacy intervention on SRHR issues that is relevant to them at their country or regional levels.

Details of the Call

• **Who can apply:**

- If you are a lawyer with at least 1 year of post-qualification experience working on human rights, women's rights, disability rights, LGBTQI+ rights, youth advocate and/or working with young persons, or a development sector professional with 1-3 years' experience;
- Working on sexual and reproductive health rights and allied themes and/or keen to understand better the key issues that impact access to SRHR and to network with lawyers and practitioners from within the Asia region;
- Located in Asia;
- We strongly encourage women, youth advocates, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ persons to apply.

• **How to apply:**

Email us your resume along with a cover letter briefly highlighting your interest/work on SRHR issues, your expectation from this training program, and how you would like to take SRHR

issues forward within your local context. Please email Mahendra Panta at: MPanta@reprorights.org with a copy to Brototi Dutta at: Bdutta@reprorights.org.

- **Training Modality:**

This will be an online training (zoom-based with closed captioning) with virtual training aids. The training will be conducted over three (3) days with 2-3 hour sessions each day. The language used is English.

- **Important Dates:**

- Last date for submitting applications: 3rd March 2023
- Review of Applications and communication to identified applicants: 17th March 2023
- Training dates (tentatively scheduled): 25th April to 27th April 2023

About SARJAI

The South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative (SARJAI) was established in 2012 as a network of organizations, independent lawyers and legal experts from the region working to advance reproductive rights. The network is committed to advance access to safe reproductive healthcare, secure legal recognition of women and girls' reproductive rights, and hold governments accountable for their failure to guarantee such rights in law and policy. SARJAI regularly brings together leading lawyers and advocates from the region to discuss pressing reproductive rights issues, share best practices in advancing these rights, and chart the path forward for the realization of these rights across South Asia. Since 2019, two Working Groups on Abortion and on Adolescents' Reproductive Health and Rights have driven the network's joint strategy and advocacy and are regularly immersed in wide ranging advocacy efforts across the region.

For more information, see <https://reproductiverights.org/south-asia-reproductive-justice-and-accountability-initiative-sarjai/>.

About the Center for Reproductive Rights

The Center for Reproductive Rights is a global human rights organization of lawyers and advocates who ensure reproductive rights are protected in law as fundamental human rights for the dignity, equality, health and well-being of every person. The Center for Reproductive Rights uses the power of law to advance reproductive rights as fundamental human rights around the world.

In Asia, the Center has been a driving force behind strategic litigation in Nepal, India and Pakistan that has led to the recognition of reproductive rights and the implementation of laws and policies for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health. The Center has also provided technical support to advocacy strategies for crucial law reform that has strengthened guarantees for reproductive rights and health. In addition, the Center's Asia program has developed a strong network of reproductive rights advocates in South Asia including lawyers, academics and policy experts. The Asia program also works in the South-east Asia region to advocate for law reform on abortion and surrogacy.