

CONCEPT NOTE FOR SARJAI VIRTUAL TRAINING 2023

CENTER *for*
REPRODUCTIVE
RIGHTS

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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 advancing access to safe reproductive healthcare, securing legal recognition of women and girls' reproductive rights, and holding governments accountable for their failure to guarantee such rights in law and policy. Currently, SARJAI has three Working Groups on Abortion, Adolescents' SRHR, and Judicial Engagement on SRHR to facilitate more comprehensive and focused engagement and learnings on these priority issues.

Objectives of the Virtual Training:

The proposed virtual training takes forward SARJAI's capacity-strengthening and learning agenda and focuses on strengthening and building understanding of SRHR issues and challenges amongst a new cohort of young legal practitioners and advocates not only from countries where SARJAI already has its presence but also from other regions within Asia. Through expert talks, sharing by existing network members as facilitators, and workshopping ideas for future action, a broader set of participants including the new cohort, will have stronger understanding of SRHR issues and be able to collectively develop legal advocacy strategies for the future. Having experts from within the SARJAI network share their experiences will facilitate knowledge-transfer as well as strengthen exchange of ideas within the group. For current members, the focus of the modules/sessions will be on deepening technical understanding including in newer areas of interest, and brainstorming legal strategies, which could be taken forward in collaboration with SARJAI/the Center. 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.

Participants:

- 30-35 participants and resource persons/facilitators
- SARJAI network members as resource persons/facilitators
- Identified young lawyers, youth advocates, development practitioners working on SRHR/allied themes from within Asia (open call)
- Strongly encourage women, youth advocates, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ persons to apply

Duration:

This training is planned for a total of 8 hours over 3 days (2-3 hours per day) [being mindful of limitations of virtual mode and time commitments].

VIRTUAL TRAINING ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS IN ASIA**DAY I Welcome and Icebreaker**

Reproductive rights as human rights *[An introduction to health as a human right, key SRHR standards in IHRL (including jurisprudence of treaty bodies and regional human rights mechanisms), international political commitments, interrogating key framings such as reproductive justice and intersectionality. Followed by Breakout group discussion]*

Panel Discussion on Regression in SRHR: what it means and how prepared should we be? *[Contextualizing key developments globally that mark a regression on SRHR such as Roe v. Wade, Poland Constitutional Court decision for advocacy in the region as well as backlash within the regional context. The session will then move to understanding from regional experts on what we can expect in the Asia region and examples of what is already taking place]*

Breakout group Discussion**DAY II Recap and Identifying priorities for the day**

Panel discussion contd.

Breakout group Discussion

Technical session on non-discriminatory and equitable access to Assisted Reproduction and workshopping a roadmap *[This would include a technical session on AR by experts from within SARJAI/recommended by SARJAI members followed by workshopping possible legal strategies and interventions. The technical session would focus on specific realities and barriers to accessing AR in Asia, especially using the language/framing of infertility, criminalization of surrogacy, restrictions on equitable access, and ethical issues relating to AR technology. This will be followed by an intensive session where participants will workshop a roadmap for future action on advancing non-discriminatory and equitable access to AR]*

DAY III Recap and Identifying priorities for the day

Workshopping a roadmap for future action contd.: Presentation by the groups and Q&A

Technical session on developing a legal advocacy project

Open House: pulling together legal advocacy strategies relating to SRHR within the region and identifying points for action

Vote of Thanks