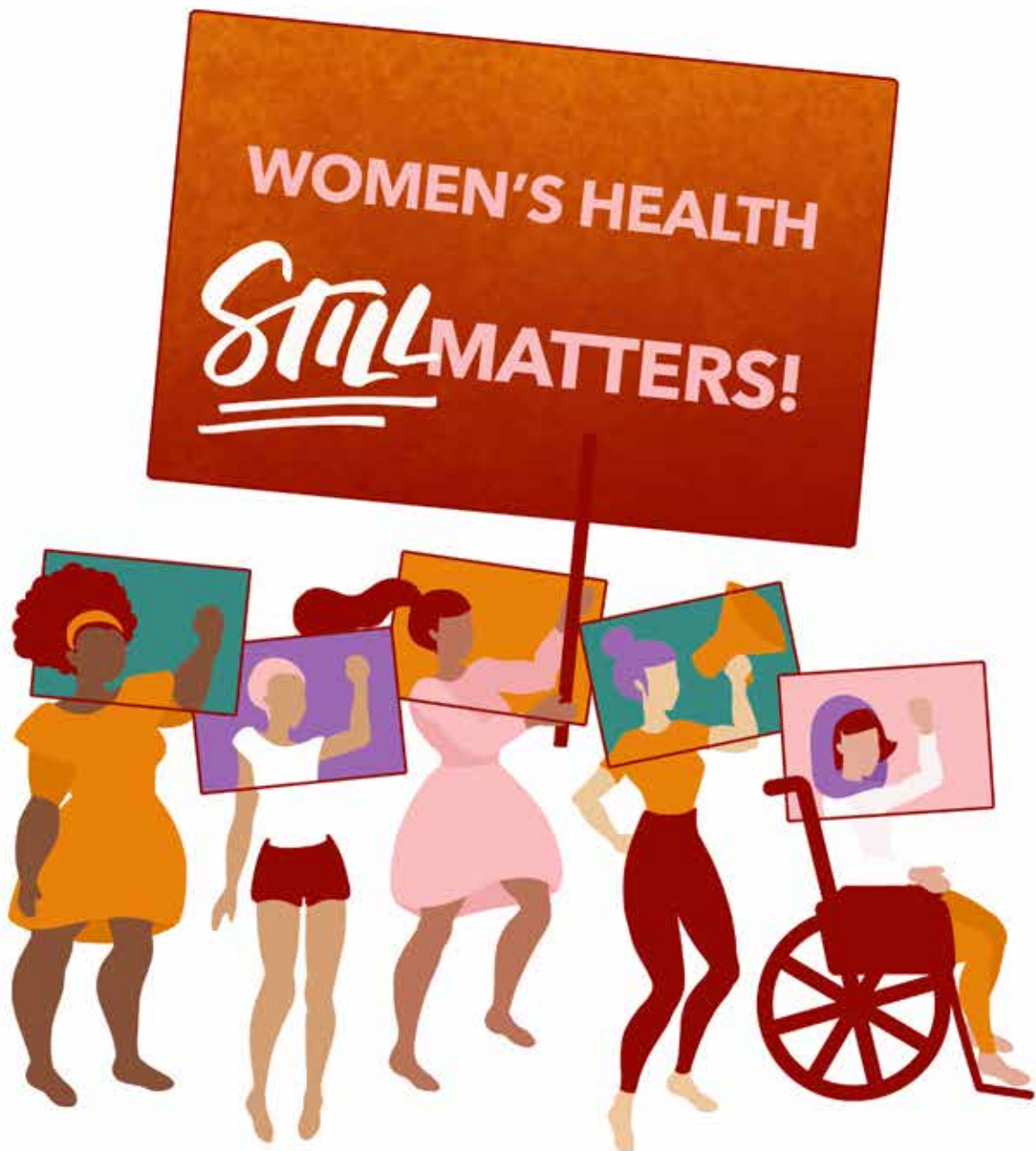




# 2020 REPORT

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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It is with great pleasure that we present WGNRR's 2020 report on May 28 actions undertaken by members and partners worldwide for the International Day of Action for Women's Health.

As with previous campaign reports, this year's report aims to capture the number, range and geographical spread of actions taken during the May 28 campaign, but more importantly to provide inspiration for campaigners all over the world!

This year's campaign finds itself against the backdrop of a public health crisis that directly impacts women's and girls' health, and, particularly, their sexual and reproductive health.

As Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) activists, feminists and allies the world over uncovered stories and experiences of women who had been placed in precarious, even fatal situations, because of reallocation of resources and priorities to respond to the pandemic, the call to ensure SRHR in COVID-19 response became critical.

Hence, this year's Call for Action, "Women's Health STILL Matters: Women's access to essential SRHR information and services remains critical in responding to COVID-19."

Despite the limitations brought about by our current situation, SRHR activists, feminists, and allies all over the world have responded creatively and innovatively to be able to deliver on the call for action.

Our partners mobilized, asserted and demanded through a diverse range of actions, from webinars and zoom talks to twitter rallies and chats to live video pitches and photo challenges to online contests and

Anticipating that most actions would be projected online, the May 28 campaign expanded the campaign toolkit to include profile photo frames, cover photos, social media cards and sample tweets and messages. These have also been made available through the May website ([www.may28.org](http://www.may28.org)). Check out how our partners have adapted these materials and made them their own further down the pages of this report.

This year, we can successfully report that the number of actions among local, regional and international NGOs resulted in a total of more than fifty actions worldwide. Proof of the success of these actions are the commitments made by government leaders, numerous landings on mainstream media, and the hundreds of thousands of impressions made online, where most of these actions have taken place.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of our partners and allies—from global, regional and local organizations to individual advocates and activists—in making this year's May 28 campaign a success.

# CAMPAIGN BACKGROUND

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May 28 has been commemorated by women's health advocates and their communities since 1987, when during the International Women's Health Meeting in Costa Rica, Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN) proposed to celebrate May 28 annually as the International Day of Action for Women's Health. Being the leading regional network LACWHN took the responsibility of promoting and coordinating the regional actions, while Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) being the global network was requested to spearhead May 28 campaign globally. Both networks worked closely together with the group of core active members in coordinating the campaign efforts. Since 1987, May 28 has been maintained as an annual campaign through yearly collaborative calls for action focused on a particular topic related to women's health. The range of topics throughout the years includes access to quality health care, the feminization of poverty, access to safe and legal abortion, women and HIV/AIDS, VAW as a Global Health Emergency, and Young People's SRHR, among others.

# PARTNERS

This year, Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, Center for Reproductive Rights, Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), MenEngage, Strong, Harmonized and Empowered Advocacy Actions in Africa (SHE ACTS Alliance), Safe Abortion Advocacy Initiative Global South Engagement (SAIGE), Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN), South Asia Reproductive Justice, Accountability Initiative (SARJAI), Ipas Africa Alliance, and International Campaign for Women's Rights to Safe Abortion jointly developed the Call for Action, "Women's Health STILL Matters: Women's access to essential SRHR information and services remains critical in responding to COVID-19."





# BY THE NUMBERS

More than 50 actions



**20** FEATURES  
& MENTIONS  
ON MAINSTREAM MEDIA  
(RADIO, TV, PRINT AND ONLINE NEWS)

**20,000** TWEETS  
USING

#MAY28

CAMPAIGN HASHTAGS

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CAMPAIGN



**HUNDREDS OF  
THOUSANDS**  
OF IMPRESSIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

# Actions

#SRHRisEssential #WomensHealthMatters  
#NoLockdownonRights #May28





# WEBINARS, ZOOM DISCUSSIONS AND LIVE PITCHES

Mobility restrictions due to the pandemic did not stop partners and allies from having meaningful discussions over the state of sexual and reproductive health and rights. Our partners and allies went online! We hosted public webinars and zoom discussions to commemorate the Day of Action.

**Safe Abortion in the midst of a Pandemic**

WEBINAR INVITE  
27 MAY 2020 • 08:00PM TO 09:30PM (GMT+8)

**PANELISTS**  
 • Cara Rita Padilla, Executive Director, Engenderlight/Speakup, PHGAI  
 • Magdalena Exulyn, Network Coordinator, WGNRR Africa/SHEACT's Africa  
 • Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson, BBC Nepal  
 • Sumanthi Thanthirion, Executive Director, ARROW  
 • Susana Chavez, Executive Director, PROMSEX

**MODERATOR**  
 • Marek Parson, Executive Director, WGNRR

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

SCAN ME

SAIGE  
Safe Abortion  
Advocacy Initiative  
Amen and Engenderlight

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN'S RIGHT TO SAFE ABORTION

MenEngage Alliance  
WGNRR AFRICA  
SHE ACT's

WEBINAR INVITE

**STRATEGIC COLLABORATION FOR SRHR CAMPAIGNING ON #MAY28 DAY OF ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH**

**Speakers:**  
 • **Kassoum Coulibaly**  
 CIO, Global Institute for Women's Empowerment (GIWE GROUP), Mali  
 • **Harriet Chibuta**  
 Executive Director, Young Women in Action, Zambia  
 • **Hassan Sekajoola**,  
 Straight Talk Foundation, and Chair, MenEngage Africa, Uganda  
 • **Nondo Ejano**  
 Regional Coordinator, WGNRR Africa, Tanzania

**Host:**  
 • **Mageda Esolyo**  
 Campaigns Officer, WGNRR Africa

May 22, 2020, 4:00pm Eastern Africa Time (UTC+3)  
 Join via <https://un2zweb.zoom.us/j/83324909652>  
 or with meeting ID: 833 2490 9652

28 May

May 28 campaign organizers, WGNRR Africa, and MenEngage Africa Alliance had a webinar on "Strategic Collaboration on SRHR campaigning for May 28" on May 22, while the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) and Safe Abortion Advocacy Initiative (SAIGE) had a webinar on "Safe Abortion amid a pandemic" on May 27 with guest speakers from WGNRR, Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal and PROMSEX in Latin America.

28 May  
Women's Health Still Matters

Zoom  
Zoom Meeting  
28 May 2020  
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
Meeting ID: 478 838 8564  
Passcode: 232152

**Dissemination of MOH Covid 19 Reproductive & maternal health guidelines**

**Speakers:**  
 • Dr. John Kibuka  
 Director, MOH  
 • Prof. Joseph Njoroge  
 Director, MOH  
 • Dr. Margaret Njoroge  
 Director, MOH  
 • Dr. Susan Njoroge  
 Director, MOH  
 • Dr. Susan Njoroge  
 Director, MOH  
 • Dr. Susan Njoroge  
 Director, MOH

**#SRHRisEssential #WomenHealthMatters #NoLockdownOnRights #May28**

YOHQ  
WGNRR  
ANMA KENYA  
PIS

YOUR QUESTIONS POURED IN,  
AND NOW WE HAVE ANSWERS!

Join us for a live webinar  
with  
Dr. Subhasri Balakrishnan,  
Ob-Gyn

TUNE IN TO OUR FACEBOOK  
28 MAY 2020, 9 PM

HER SAFETY FIRST  
In Commemoration of  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

Presents  
"Women's Health Matter"  
22nd – 28th May 2020

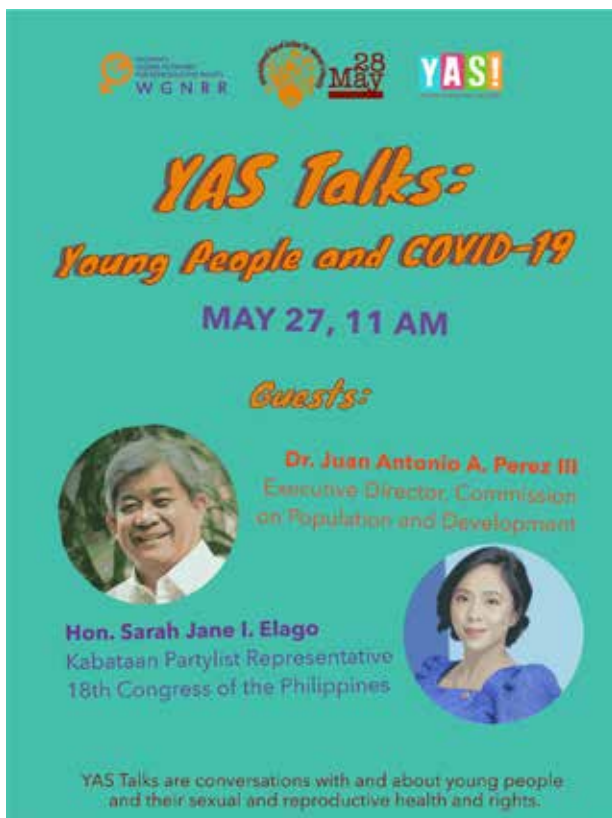
#YouAre  
#WomenMatter  
#WomenHealthMatters

Let's Connect For A Cause  
 • [www.facebook.com/ggnrd.com](https://www.facebook.com/ggnrd.com)  
 • [www.youtube.com/watch?v=...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)  
 • [www.instagram.com/ggnrd.com](https://www.instagram.com/ggnrd.com)

WOMEN'S HEALTH MATTERS ON MAY 28

WGNRR  
ARROW  
PROMSEX  
SAIGE

A number of online talks also featured policy-makers which would make their commitments to SRHR in COVID-19 response during the sessions and after on their respective parliamentary platforms.



**"कोभिड-१९ संक्रमणका दौरान छायाँमा पारिएको यौन तथा प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य अधिकार र आउन सक्ने चुनौतीहरु"**

वक्ता: माननीय सांसदहरु	मोडरेटर	वक्ता: महिला मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरु
 <b>मा. विषा भड्गवाई</b>	 <b>डा रेणु अधिकारी</b> अध्यक्ष, महिला मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरुको राष्ट्रिय सन्जाल समुदाय तहमा क्रियाशील महिलाहरु पनि वक्ताका रूपमा जोडिनु हुनेछ	 <b>डॉक माया तिम्वु</b>  <b>श्याम शाह</b>  <b>निर्मला पित्तल</b>  <b>निर्मला बागचन्द</b>
 <b>मा. मन जिर्सी केसी</b>	<b>आयोजक: महिला मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरुको राष्ट्रिय सन्जाल</b> <b>मिति: १४ जेष्ठ २०७४ (३० मे २०२०)</b> <b>समय: दिउँसो १ देखि ३ बजे सम्म</b>	
 <b>मा. मगन थापा</b>	 जुम लिंक: <a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/91013901991">91013901991</a> र पासवर्डको लागि <a href="mailto:communication@tarangini.org.np">communication@tarangini.org.np</a> मा ईमेल गर्नुहोला	



**National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders**  
@NAWHRD1

A pleasant effect of the webinar, Hon. lawmaker @PandeyBinda raised the issues of women's sexual and reproductive health rights and violence against women at @pratinidhisabha yesterday! She was one of our keynote speakers for the webinar.  
#SRHRisEssential #WomensHealthMatters



On May 28, several advocates and activists also contributed their own pitches to the ongoing conversation by going live on facebook.





# TWITTER CHATS, RALLIES, AND SRHR INFO DISSEMINATION

On May 28, a global tweet-a-thon, “#WomensHealthStillMatters: A Twitter Rally for our Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights!” was led by young south-based feminists and our partner organizations. This hour-long activity prompted more than 200 tweets and thousands in likes and retweets, which resulted in all four campaign hashtags trending globally.

This May 28, join young feminists from the global south in a twitter rally for our sexual and reproductive health and rights! Together, let us call on our authorities to ***ENSURE SRHR IN COVID-19 RESPONSE!***

#May28

#WomensHealthMatters

#SRHRisEssential


#NoLockdownonRights

# WOMEN'S HEALTH *Still* MATTERS!  
A TWITTER RALLY

Follow @WGNRR on Twitter  
3 p.m. East Africa Time (UTC+3)/  
8 p.m. Philippine Standard Time (UTC+8)

International Day of Action for Women's Health  
**28 May**  
[www.may28.org](http://www.may28.org)






QUESTION #1

### WHY DO YOU THINK #WOMENSHEALTHSTILLMATTERS?

Answer the question by filling in the blanks: "I am [name] from [city/organization] and #WomensHealthStillMatters because..."

#SRHRisEssential #WomensHealthMatters  
#NoLockdownonRights #May28



www.may28.org



QUESTION #3


### HOW ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS DEALING WITH THEIR CURRENT SITUATION?

Share personal and community responses to COVID-19. Big or small, mundane or innovative, they are all welcome. Share photos or videos as well!

#SRHRisEssential #WomensHealthMatters  
#NoLockdownonRights #May28



www.may28.org



QUESTION #2

### WHAT IS THE SRHR SITUATION IN YOUR COUNTRY AND HOW ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS AFFECTED?

Share personal experiences or anecdotes from friends or your community. You can also give a larger account and share links to news articles or media stories online.

#SRHRisEssential #WomensHealthMatters  
#NoLockdownonRights #May28



www.may28.org



QUESTION #4

### WHAT SHOULD DUTY-BEARERS DO TO ENSURE THAT SRHR IS PART OF COVID-19 RESPONSE?

Tag the government and nongovernment bodies relevant to your demands. You may also retweet any of our May 28 messages found in the tweets below.

#SRHRisEssential #WomensHealthMatters  
#NoLockdownonRights #May28



www.may28.org



**#SRHRisEssential**

Trending

**#WomensHealthMatters**

Trending

**#NoLockdownonRights**

Trending

**#May28**

Trending



**Keikantse E. Phele** @ke\_phele · May 28

I am Keikantse Phele from Botswana [#WomensHealthMatters](#) because women experience unique and intersectional SRHR issues and need access to quality and efficient health services. [#SRHRisEssential](#) [#NoLockdownonRights](#) [#May28](#)



**Manal** @manalkhan07 · May 28

Even today, the draconian Pakistan Penal Code criminalises abortion seekers and providers if the fetus is older than a 120 days. The woman gets no say in the matters of her right to her own body and this is why [#SRHRisessential](#). [#WomensHealthMatters](#)



**Mickreen Adhiambo** @Adhyambo\_mickey · May 28

Replying to @WGNRR @sarahelago and 10 others

I am Mickreen Adhiambo a gender, women and SRHR advocate from Kenya and I believe [#WomensHealthStillMatters](#) because women's health rights are human rights and paramount [#SRHRisEssential](#) [#May28](#) [#NoLockdownonRights](#) [#WomensHealthMattersKE](#)



6



4



**Sarah Elago** @sarahelago · May 28

I am Sarah Elago from Kabataan Partylist and [#WomensHealthMatters](#) because it serves as an indicator of promotion and protection of everyone's right to health. [#SRHRisEssential](#) [#NoLockdownonRights](#) [#May28](#)



**Nawmi Naz Chowdhury** @n\_nazchy · May 28

Replying to @ARROW\_Women

I am Naz from Kuala Lumpur, ARROW and [#WomensHealthMatters](#) because we have every right to live a healthy life through access to quality services and support that are both accessible and affordable for all. [#SRHRisEssential](#) [#NoLockdownonRights](#) [#May28](#)



**ARROW** ✓ @ARROW\_Women · May 28

Replying to @ARROW\_Women

The #pandemic has seen a surge in #ViolenceAgainstWomenandGirls across the globe.

Jakarta Feminist Association found that the # of reported #DomesticViolence cases against women has tripled in Indonesia since the start of the pandemic.

#SRHRisEssential #NoLockdownonRights #May28



**Regine Cabato** ✓ @RegineCabato · May 28

I first covered reproductive health issues back in 2017. Those running the Tondo clinic I immersed in said many of the women have to sneak out to get contraceptive shots, because many men still think using contraceptives "emasculates" them. #WomensHealthMatters #SRHRisEssential



**Michelle Abad** ✓ @michelleabad\_ · May 28

Mass public transport is restricted if not suspended entirely in diff areas of the Philippines. Imagine if a poor pregnant woman goes under labor and has to walk to the hospital, which might not even be able to accept her because of overwhelmed capacity from COVID-19?



**Zamara Foundation** @Zamara\_fdn · May 28

Replying to @WGNRR @sarahelago and 10 others

In Kenya with the quarantine measures and curfew has led to inaccessibility of SRHR services for women and girls especially youth-friendly services and organisations have been forced to go online in offering services and information especially on SRHR #SRHRisEssential #May28



**Nalwoga Deborah** @deborah\_nalwoga · May 28

Replying to @WGNRR @sarahelago and 11 others

In Uganda, besides the curfew & its associated effects e.g poverty, restrictions to access SRH services, there has been displacement of people due to floods thus women & girls are extremely affected. ( such situations when even their clothes/ undies are hard to get)



**Silakbo PH** ✓ @SilakboPH · May 28

Apart from the physical health impact, nobody should have to suffer the trauma of VAW or looking for safe abortion options in PH: if others know, they are stigmatized. If they keep it secret, they are isolated and at a loss for what to do. #SRHRisEssential #NoLockdownonRights

Partners and allies have also kept the conversation going for weeks by having twitter chats and rallies leading up to May 28.

## #Actions4SafeAbortions

**TECH & COVID-19:  
SUPPORTING SAFE ABORTIONS AT HOME**

**safe2choose.org**  
@safe2choose

**Safe Abortion App**  
@safeabortionapp

**ipas**  
@ipasorg

## Collaboration of Women In Development-CWID

Join Women's Rights  
Activists Around The World  
In Commemoration Of  
International Day Of Action  
For Women's Health

**ONLINE CONVERSATION**  
**WOMEN'S HEALTH MATTERS**  
Thursday 1 2PM - 4 PM  
2pm - 4pm  
**"SPEAK UP, MOBILIZE, AGENT"**

**Hashtags**  
#WOMEN'SHEALTHMATTERS  
#WAMC2020  
#WOMEN'SHEALTH  
#WOLKDOWNONRIGHTS  
#MAY28

@CwidaCwida  
@CollaborationofWomenInDevelopment\_CWID  
www.cwida.org

**WGNRR**  
WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

## #SRHRisEssential

**Zoom and Twitter Chat Session  
in Commemoration of  
INTERNATIONAL DAY  
OF ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH**  
Friday 22nd May 2020 10am - 12 Noon.

**Guests**

**Wendy Gumbo**  
Chief Executive, Youth Advocates  
& Trainer at MRC  
Family Health Options Kenya  
Mombasa Health Centre

**Mawani Mwangi**  
Chief Executive, Champion of  
Reproductive Rights and Change  
Founder / Executive Director  
Lent & Voice Africa

**28 May**

**FAMILY HEALTH OPTIONS KENYA**  
Your Health Our Concern

**WGNRR**  
WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

## Chat

**DAY: Thursday MAY 28th  
TIME: 11AM TO 1PM**

Recognizing women's health in Kenya as  
fundamental during this pandemic  
**#WomensHealthMatterKE**

In partnership with:

**TICAH**  
TICAH FOR THE YOUTH  
TICAH AND RIGHTS

**FAMILY HEALTH  
OPTIONS KENYA**  
Your Health Our Concern

## #NoLockDownonRights

**Zoom and Twitter Chat Session  
in Commemoration of  
INTERNATIONAL DAY  
OF ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH**  
Monday 18th May 2020 10am - 12 Noon.

**Guests**

**Winnie Maina**  
Lawyer

**Peggy Mburu**  
Lawyer

**28 May**

**WGNRR**  
WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

**KULIP**  
Kenya Union of Lawyering Professionals

**Mwambao Media**  
Kenya's First and Only Reproductive Rights Media

**May-28-2020**

## KUZA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

**in Commemoration of  
INTERNATIONAL DAY  
OF ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH**

**PRESENTS**  
**"Women's Health Matter-Thon"**  
18th- 28th may 2020

**28 May**

**Let's Connect for A Cause!**  
Email: info@mwambao-media.co.ke  
Text/WhatsApp: +254 799 628 628  
@Mwambao Media @MwambaoM @Mwambao\_Media

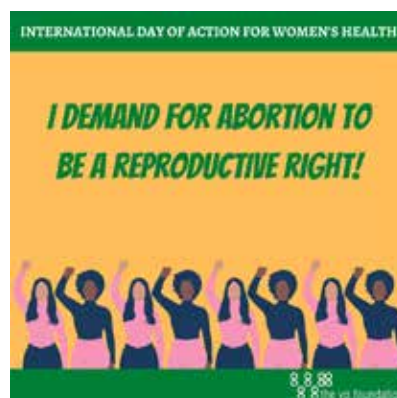
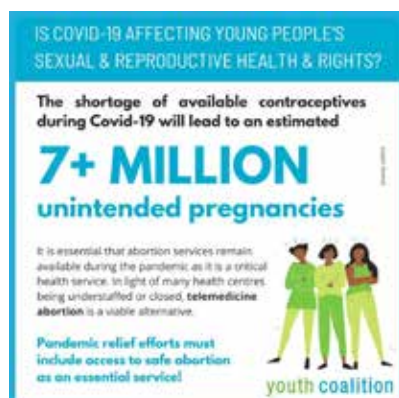
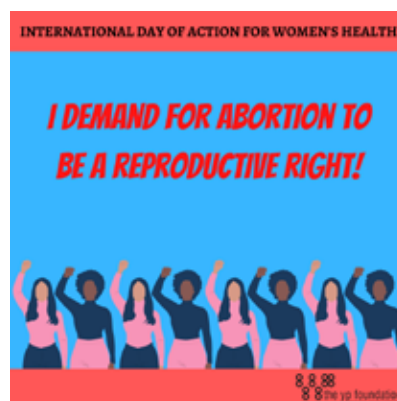
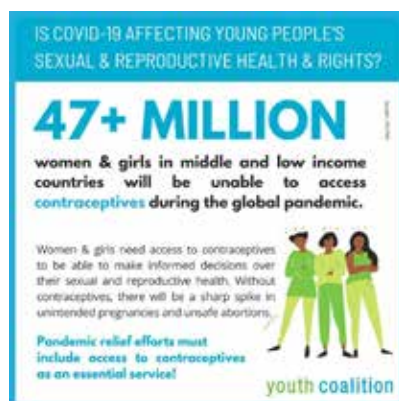
**WGNRR**  
WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

**KULIP**  
Kenya Union of Lawyering Professionals

**May28**



Partners also shared SRHR information materials, such as posters and infographics for dissemination on the May 28 channels.



Many also sent in social media cards featuring their community actions leading up to May 28. They even used the official My 28 profile frame!













**28 de mayo  
Día Internacional de  
Acción por la Salud  
de las Mujeres.**

**Durante el COVID19,  
los gobiernos deben  
garantizar la  
continuidad del  
acceso a servicios  
de salud integral  
para las mujeres y  
las niñas.**



**ALIANMISAR**



**05.28.20**  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH



**All those in LEADERSHIP should EXTEND  
to GUARANTEE Women's HEALTH**

#CMTMatters  
@WomenHealthMatters  
@NoLockDownMatters  
May 28





**#AbortionBeyondLockDown**  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH



**28 de mayo  
Día Internacional  
de Acción por la  
Salud de las  
mujeres.**

**Durante el COVID19, las  
mujeres continuamos  
requiriendo servicios  
integrales de salud sexual  
y reproductiva, mismos  
que deben ser  
garantizados por el  
personal de los servicios  
de salud.**



**ALIANMISAR**



# SPOTLIGHT:

## #YOUNGPEOPLEINQUARANTINE

With access to social media while in quarantine, young people play a critical role in mobilizing support for women and girls' health, and speaking on the challenges they face. In solidarity with the May 28 International Day of Action for Women's Health, the Young Advocates for SRHR (YAS) hosted the Young People in Quarantine Challenge through its Facebook page where young people were engaged in sharing information and creative work around COVID-19 and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

During the Young People in Quarantine Challenge, four online learning sessions on creative skills for SRHR campaigning, including photography, opinion-writing, short story writing, and an information session on SRHR.



YAS Talks, a series of conversations with and about young people and their sexual and reproductive health and rights was also launched, with its first talk on Young People and COVID-19 with guests from Commission on Population and Development, Executive Director Dr. Juan Antonio Perez III, and Kabataan Partylist Representative, Hon. Sarah Jane Elago. Both policy-makers committed to ensuring that SRHR would be part of their proposed policies for COVID-19 response.





Young People in Quarantine Challenge also held online contests where young people learn about SRHR, creatively advocate for their rights and win phone credits or cash for their creative work. The online contests received 663 entries in Health Quiz Bee, Essay Writing Contest, Photo Contest, Poster Making Contest, Creative Placards Contest, Opinion Writing Contest, and Short Story Contest. Out of the more than 600 entries in different contests, 135 young people received phone credits and cash prizes, with their work featured in the YAS Facebook page.

This shows that, despite the pandemic, when young people are engaged and have access to the online platforms and resources, they can become advocates of their rights.

# TAKING A STAND

Several organizations also took part in the May 28 campaign by releasing statements sounding the alarm on rollbacks in SRHR at both national and global levels.

Here are some of the statements released by WGNRR and their partners:

- Women's Health Still Matters: Ensure availability and equitable access to essential SRH services in COVID-19 Response co-signed by 62 organizations and individuals and responded to with commitments by the Department of Health, Philippine Commission on Women and the Department of Interior and Local Government.

- WGNRR statement on the U.S. administration's attempt to roll back SRHR.

- Statement of African CSOs and other organizations working in Africa on USAID's attempt to roll back SRHR in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Women's Health Still Matters: Ensure availability and equitable access to essential SRH services in COVID-19 Response**  
Posted on May 11, 2020



**Women's Health Still Matters:**  
Ensure availability and equitable access to essential SRH services in COVID-19 Response

We, as community and civil society organizations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, strongly urge the Philippine government to ensure the availability and equitable access of essential sexual and reproductive health services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We express our utmost concern and grief over the preventable death of Katherine Bulatao, 26 years old, who was unjustly refused emergency care by six hospitals. To avoid being infected with COVID-19, she decided to give birth at home with the help of a midwife. However due to complications, she needed to be referred to a hospital that could provide her life-saving care. The unjust refusals to provide the emergency

**WGNRR statement on the U.S. administration's attempt to roll back SRHR**  
Posted on May 28, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic should not be used as an opportunity by any one country's sitting administration to roll back on the rights women around the world have sought for decades.

The Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights is one of many SRHR and feminist organizations condemning Acting USAID Administrator John Barsa's [letter](#) to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres demanding that the United Nations remove reference to "sexual and reproductive health" from the [Global Humanitarian Response Plan's](#) (HRP) guidance on COVID-19.

We join the global feminist movement in opposing Barsa's move against SRHR and in expressing support for the global leadership of the UN and the World Health Organization during the COVID-19 pandemic. We affirm the UN's original position in the HRP that access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services is essential and must be prioritized. As emerging evidence from numerous countries show that demand for SRH services continues and is even increasing amid the pandemic, we must remain unequivocally committed to ensuring that sexual and reproductive health is part of COVID-19 responses globally.

## STATEMENT OF AFRICAN CSOS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN AFRICA ON THE USAID'S ATTEMPT TO ROLL BACK SRHR IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

African CSOs join forces to register our outrage at the Acting USAID Administrator John Barsa's letter dated May 18th 2020 to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres demanding the UN to remove reference to "sexual and reproductive health" and its derivatives from the Global Humanitarian Response Plan's (HRP) guidance, and drop the provision of abortion as an essential component of the UN's priorities to respond to COVID-19 pandemic.

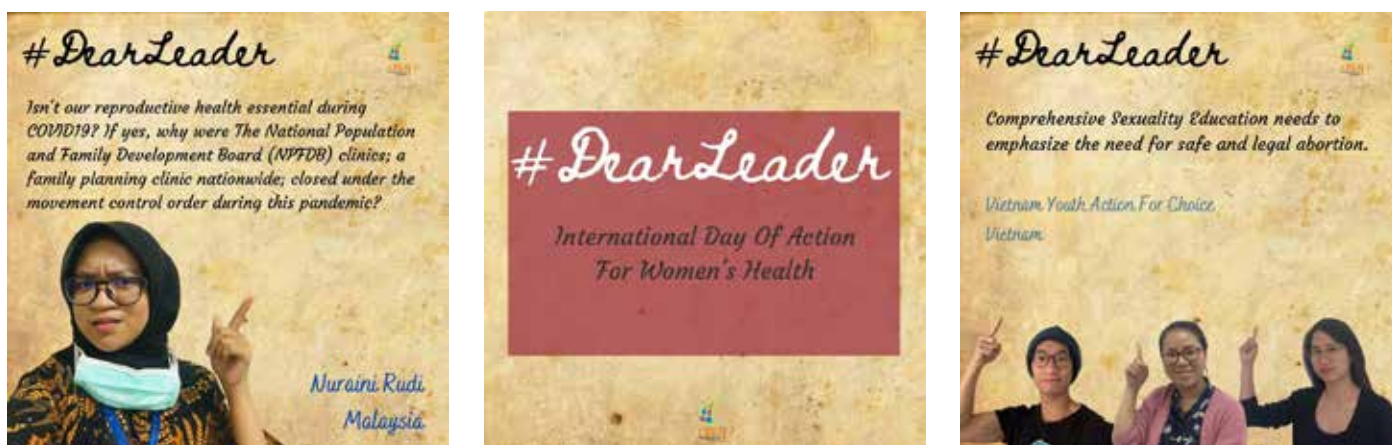


Meanwhile, volunteer members from Advocacy Network Sri Lanka used their voices to highlight their SRHR issues and challenges, including access to safe abortion, amid the pandemic.



The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership also published a series called “Dear Leader” featuring feminists from countries all over Asia addressing their country leaders to forward their #May28 demands.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/AsiaSafeAbortionPartnership/photos/>





# IN THE NEWS

The May 28 campaign was brought to millions of people through mass media. While our online campaigns were hugely successful, the circulation of mass media products helped to bring the campaign to the large masses of people that may have little or no access to the internet during this pandemic.

In Africa, Haki Zetu Tanzania conducted a total of five mass media sessions during a period of eight days. This includes one TV interview, two radio sessions, and two newspaper interviews. Many of the activities by our partners and allies were also covered by the news media.



In **Argentina**, rallies were held last May 28 by SRHR activists and feminists to secure their rights to safe and legal abortion. Such movements were covered by local and international news media.



In **India**, where the International Day of Action is celebrated widely by civil society organizations, news organizations also released articles disseminating information on the campaign and separately on a number of local actions, including the Virtual Press Conference hosted by the Pratigya Campaign for Gender Equality and Safe Abortion on May 28.



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## International Day of Action for Women's Health 2020: Safe abortion services

By The CSR Journal - May 28, 2020

In today's day and age, the restriction around women's access to safe abortion is preposterous. The Pratigya Campaign aims to destigmatize the conversation around abortion. Abortion is an essential healthcare service and should be a key constituent of universal health coverage.

In the Indian context, abortion is still a stigmatized subject and considered taboo, for most of the population. While abortion has always been and continues to be an extremely controversial subject, the Campaign aims to uphold the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all women and provide complete bodily autonomy to them.

Marking the International Day of Action for Women's Health 2020, the Pratigya Campaign for Gender Equality and Safe Abortion hosted a Virtual Press Conference on 28th May 2020 to elaborate on how denial of safe abortion services can disproportionately affect women's lives - both physically and mentally.

Around the world, at a time when health systems are overstretched due to COVID-19 pandemic, services for women are often among the first to suffer, resulting in increased maternal and child morbidity and mortality. In an attempt to understand the impact, Foundation for Reproductive Health Services India (FRHS India) had also commissioned a [policy brief highlighting the estimates of the loss of services during the COVID-19 outbreak](#).

## Gender rights lawyer drafts proposed bill to decriminalize abortion

By Gabriela Bernal

A gender rights lawyer and human rights executive director has drafted a proposed bill to decriminalize abortion in the Philippines.



Atty. Clara Rita Padilla is leading a first draft of the Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PHOSAN) Decriminalizing Abortion to Save Women's Lives bill, which aims to amend article 250-251 of the Revised Penal Code and establish institutional mechanisms for the protection and support of women.

"This bill, when passed into law, will save the lives of many women," Padilla told Manila Bulletin.

## Government urged to keep women's health a priority amid COVID-19 pandemic

Manila Bulletin, Philippines, May 11, 2020, 5:47pm

MANILA, Philippines — Women's rights advocates have asked the national government to ensure that women's health is still firmly in its priorities amid the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The rights groups echoed their call after a reported case of hospitals refusing to accept a pregnant woman for treatment.

In a joint statement, the Center for Reproductive Rights and the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights urged the administration to ensure the availability and access to essential sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services as part of its COVID-19 response.

**Related Stories**  
 10 of 7 pages women.com.ph/2020/05/11/...  
 Hospital, reminded against requiring reports for emergency cases  
 Struggle with neglected SRH patients with women, PHOs and rising burden in services and training

## [PODCAST] Making Space: Upholding reproductive health rights in a pandemic

MAY 28, 2020  
RAPPLER.COM



MANILA, PHILIPPINES

With the Philippine health system overwhelmed by the ongoing pandemic, are there enough resources to cater to non-coronavirus concerns?

Healthcare facilities in the Philippines are all hands on deck to the battle against the novel coronavirus. But what happens when a pregnant woman under labor walks to a hospital because of lack of mass transport, no help of hers the night before for emergency?

In the **Philippines**, the May 28 campaign was also covered by the country's major newspapers, aside from online news websites. Aside from the statements released by WGNRR, Oxfam and partner which garnered significant media coverage, an entry to the May 28 photo challenge also gained considerable media attention and public support. The facebook post by Atty. Clara Rita Padilla of Engenderrights announcing the organization's draft bill to decriminalize abortion in the Philippines was met with 11,000 positive reactions and publication in national broadsheets.

# CONTINUING THE CALL

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The #May28 campaign was a huge success!

As such, we would like to thank our partners and allies all over the world for mobilizing, asserting, and demanding with us!

Let us sustain the message of the May 28 campaign by continuing to call on governments and the international community to ensure that #WomensHealthMatters and #SRHRisEssential beyond May 28.

Again, thank you and we hope to have you with us in future campaigns. Ideas for collaboration? Email us at [office@wgnrr.org](mailto:office@wgnrr.org)! For updates, go to [www.may28.org](http://www.may28.org).

Continue speaking out, mobilizing and asserting!







# **MAY 28 2020 REPORT**

For more information on  
this report, you may contact  
Women's Global Network for  
Reproductive Rights at  
[office@wgnrr.org](mailto:office@wgnrr.org).