

WE ARE APTN

WE ARE APTN

WE ARE A TRANS

THAT ENABLES

TRANS & GENDER

ACROSS THE ASIA

LEADERS-LED ORGANISATION

AND EMPOWERS

DIVERSE PERSONS

A PACIFIC REGION

# TERMINOLOGY

**TRANS** ‘Transgender’ (or simply ‘Trans’) is used as an adjective describing persons who identify with a gender other than the one that matches the sex they have been assigned (usually at birth). The English term ‘trans women’ is used to describe transfeminine people, ‘trans men’ to describe transmasculine people, and the broader phrase ‘trans people’ to describe these groups collectively.

**TRANSGENDER MAN** (or ‘trans man’) A term used to refer to a transgender person who identifies as male (i.e. a person whose sex was assigned female at birth but who identifies as male).

**TRANSGENDER WOMAN** (or ‘trans woman’) A term used to refer to a transgender person who identifies as female (i.e. a person whose sex was assigned male at birth but who identifies as female).

**GENDER DIVERSE** It is an adjective describing individuals whose gender identity and/or expression does not conform to the traditional binary understanding of gender as strictly male or female. Gender diversity is a broad term that encompasses a range of gender identities and expressions beyond the binary. These individuals may identify as non-binary, genderqueer, genderfluid, agender, bigender, or have other gender identities that do not fit within the traditional gender categories.

**TRANSITION** The process many, but not all, transgender people undergo to live ‘authentically’ in their gender identity. This process may involve altering their gender expression (such as name, clothing and hairstyle). Transitioning may also involve biomedical and surgical interventions (gender-affirming healthcare) that align the individual’s body more closely with their gender identity.

**USE NAME** The name used by a trans person to be consistent with their gender identity, which is different from their legal name.

**CISGENDER** (or ‘cis’) A term used to describe a person whose gender identity matches their sex assigned at birth. It is the opposite term, or antonym, to transgender.

**GENDER EXPRESSION:** A person’s way of communicating gender externally, for example, androgyny, masculinity and/or femininity. This is done through physical appearance (including clothing, hairstyle, and the use of cosmetics), mannerisms, ways of speaking, and behavioural patterns when interacting with others.

**GENDER IDENTITY** A person’s internal sense of being a man, a woman, a third, or some alternative gender, a combination of genders, or no gender. Everyone has a gender identity. A person’s gender identity may not correspond with their sex assigned at birth.

**GENDER MARKER** How a person’s gender is recorded on official documents. Gender markers usually include the designations of Male (M) and Female (M) as well as gendered name titles in the forms of Ms., Mrs., and Mr. In a few jurisdictions, the non-binary gender marker ‘X’, ‘other’ or ‘third-gender’ is allowed on some identification.

**GENDER NON-CONFORMING** This term is used to describe people who identify in a way other than male or female.

**INTERSEX/SEX CHARACTERISTICS** Intersex people are born with sex characteristics (including genitals, gonads and chromosome patterns) that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies.

TRANS

TRANSGENDER MAN

DIVERSE

TRANSITION

USE NAME

GENDER IDENTITY

GENDER MARKER

SEX CHARACTERISTICS

INTERSEX

SEX

SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH

SEXUAL

**INTERSEX** is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations. In some cases, intersex traits are visible at birth while in others, they are not apparent until puberty. Some chromosomal intersex variations may not be physically apparent at all. Being intersex relates to biological sex characteristics and is distinct from a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. An intersex person may be straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or asexual, and may identify as female, male, both, or neither.

**NON-BINARY** A term used for gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or feminine and are outside of the gender binary. The term is synonymous with 'gender nonconforming', as used in this report.

**SEX** This term refers to the biological characteristics typically used to categorise people as either male or female (see definition of 'intersex').

**LGBT AND LGBTI** Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and LGBT and intersex. The terms 'LGBT' and 'LGBTI' are increasingly used by community-based organisations in Asia and the Pacific. While different sexual orientations, gender identities, and intersex variations should not necessarily be grouped together, it can be helpful to group issues affecting LGBTI populations together for the purposes of advocacy and solidarity, while acknowledging that there are significant differences between the issues and priorities of each of these populations. However, it is equally important that when referring to the specific needs of one group, the group is mentioned explicitly.

**SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH** The sex to which a person is assigned at, or soon after, birth. This assignment may not accord with a person's own sense of gender identity as they age. Most people's gender identity coincides with their sex assigned at birth. However, for transgender people, their gender identity is different from their sex assigned at birth.

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION** A term referring to a person's emotional, affectional and sexual attraction to, and intimate and sexual relations with, other individuals. A person may be attracted to people of the same gender (homosexual/gay/lesbian), to people of a different gender (heterosexual), or more than one gender (bisexual or pansexual).

**SOGI, SOGIE and SOGIESC** The terms sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE), and sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) are often used as a way of describing minority groups without making assumptions about how they identify. SOGIESC is used to be inclusive of intersex individuals. However, because the reports on SOGI referred to in this report are not inclusive of intersex individuals, it is accurate to use the acronym SOGI and not SOGIESC.

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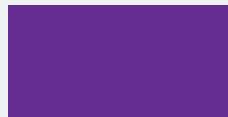
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# 08 ENVISION

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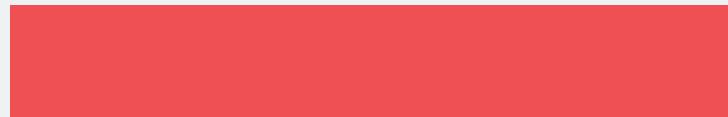


# 18 FRAMEWORKS

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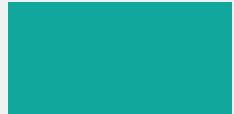


# 24 FROM BEGINNING



# 36 FOSTER INITIATIVE

# NEW WORLD



# FOR THE FUTURE

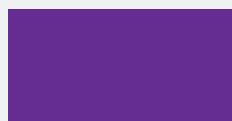


# GS TO TOMORROWS



# ES PIONEER CHANGE

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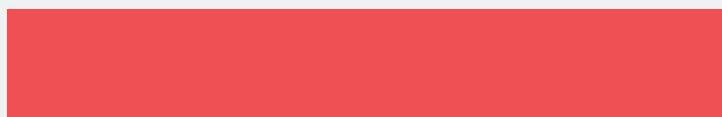


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# 24 FROM BEGINNING



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NEW  WORLD

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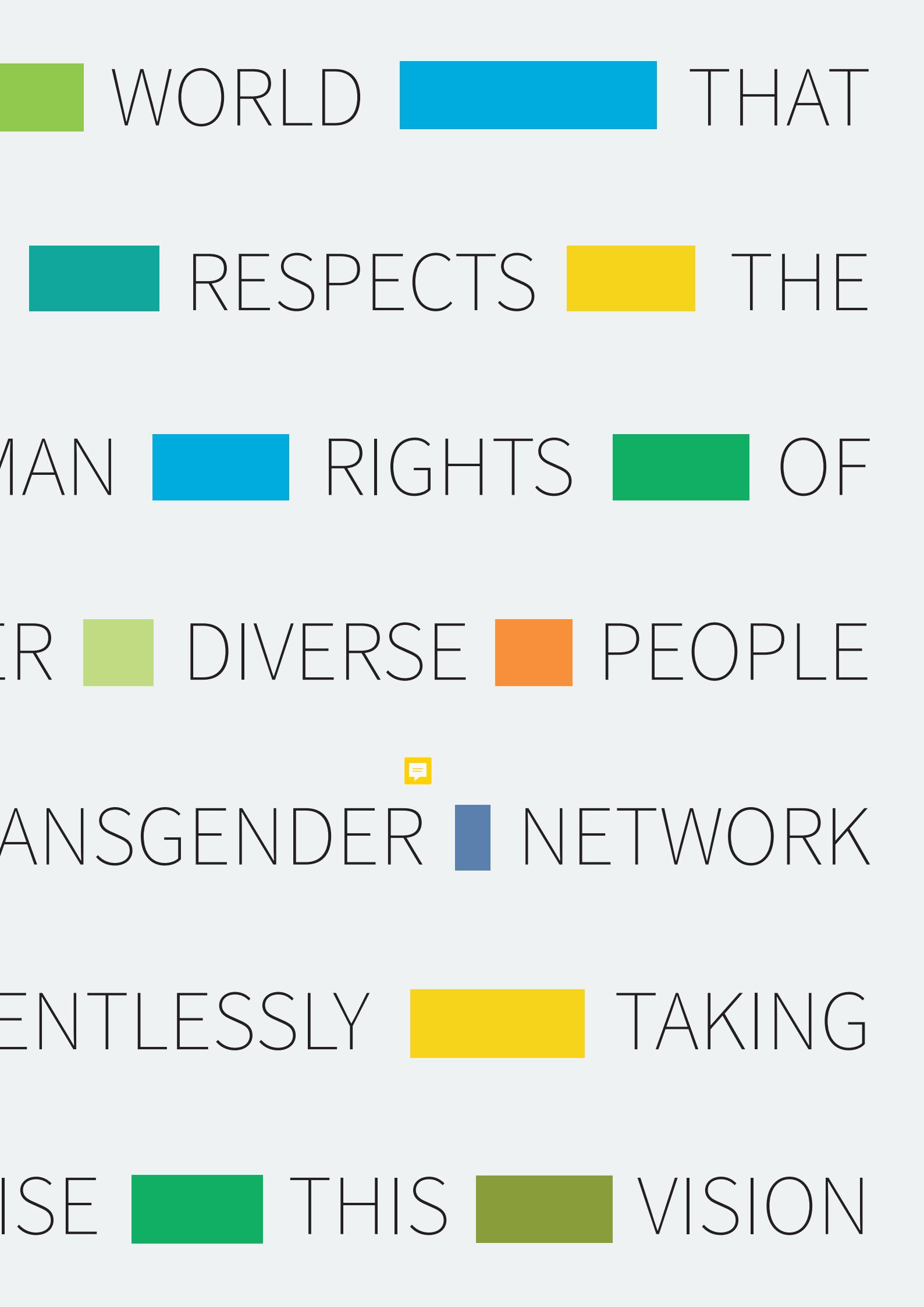
# TRANS AND GENDER

# AT ■ ASIA ■ PACIFIC ■ TRA

# WE ARE REL

# STEPS TO REAL

WORLD THAT  
RESPECTS THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS OF  
DIVERSE PEOPLE  
TRANSGENDER NETWORK  
ENTLESSLY TAKING  
WISE THIS VISION



# MISSION



Trans and gender diverse people in the APAC region are being denied fundamental human rights, from legal recognition to employment, housing and health services. This puts severe roadblocks in their ability to live a fulfilling, healthy, and dignified life.

APTN, together with a range of partners - supports, organises, and advocates for the advancement and protection of the rights of trans and gender diverse people so that they can live an authentic, safe, and good quality life.

CULTURALLY ■ SENSITIVE ■ EQUAL ■ RIGHTS  
SELF ■ AUTHENTICITY ■ DIVERSE ■ AND

# VISION

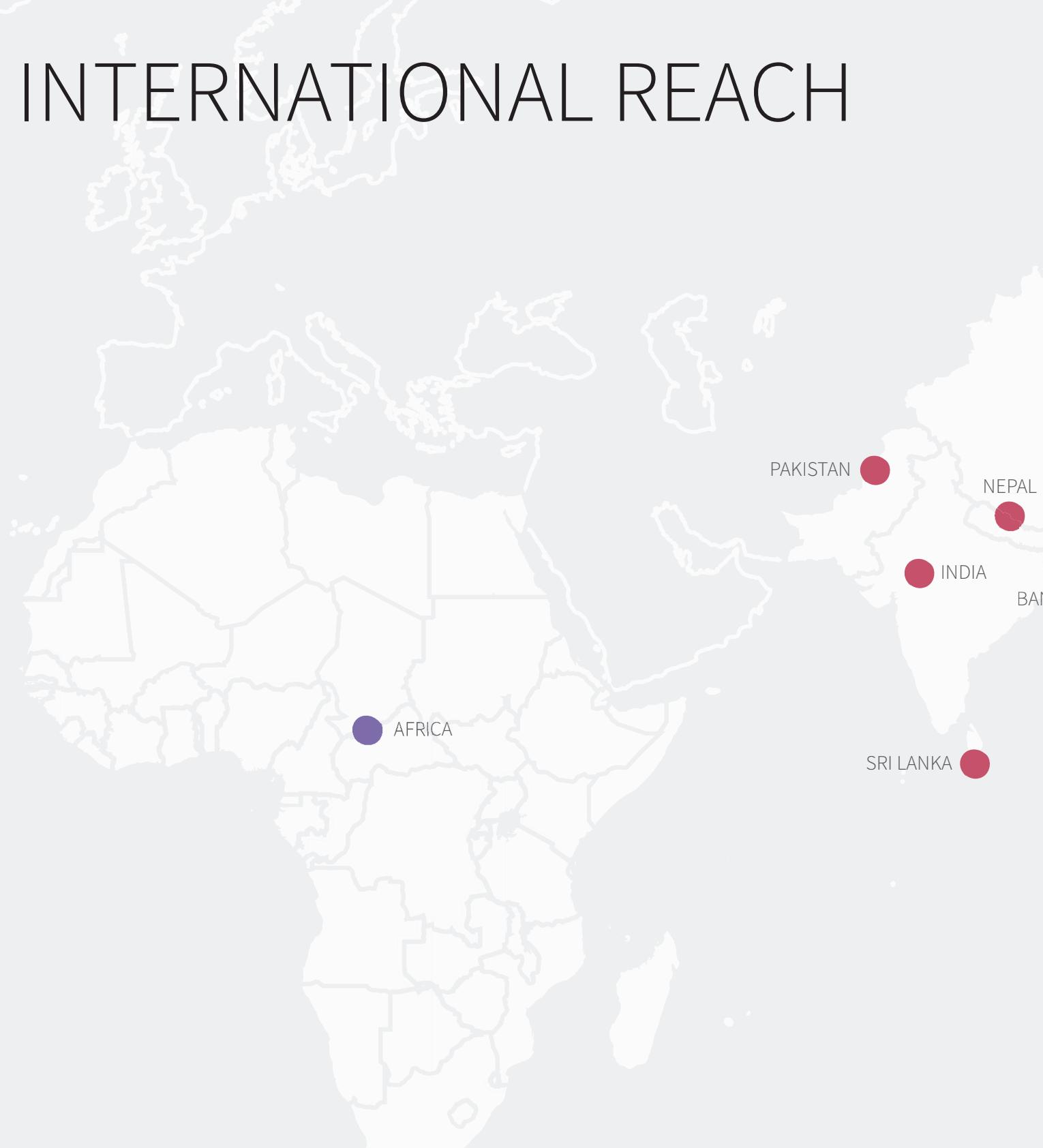


Imagine a world that understands and respects the fundamental human rights of trans and gender diverse people. A world that upholds and protects their diversity, safety, equality, and dignity.

A world where trans and gender diverse people can feel strong and thrive. At Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN), we are relentlessly taking steps to realise this vision.

# TS ■ AND ■ OPPORTUNITIES ■ INNOVATIVE ND ■ INCLUSIVE ■ POWER ■ SHARING

# INTERNATIONAL REACH



● SOUTH ASIA

● Network (PSGDN) in

● EAST ASIA

● SOUTHEAST ASIA



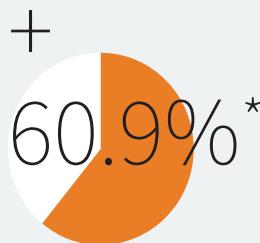
- AFRICA We are currently working on institutional strengthening of the Africa Trans Network.

# A LEGACY OF VIOLENCE

The violence faced by trans and gender-diverse people every day is the biggest driving force behind our mission.

## INDONESIA

“When I was little, my grandmother said, “I would rather have dead grandchildren than trans grandchildren.”



## MALAYSIA

“I was beaten and stabbed in my face, near my eyes, with scissors, within an inch of my life. My brother’s intent was to kill me, [just] because I, a trans woman, was his sibling.”



## SAMOA

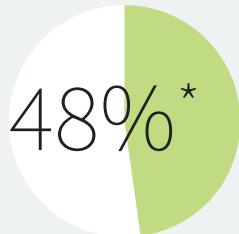
“My uncle tied a rope around my neck and hung me from a tree.”



of the respondents in Samoa have experienced disrespectful treatment, including violence, from teachers due to their gender identity.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

“I almost got raped by the 2 boys in the toilets.”



of trans and gender-diverse people in Fiji, Samoa, and Papua New Guinea experienced violence due to their gender identity.

## INDIA

“At one point, I was tied up and hung from the ceiling fan as my uncles would thrash me non-stop while I cried.”

“If I ever sat down, random men would be sent into the same room to sit with me. It was constant harassment, and I didn’t know how to stop it.”



of Transmasculine people in India ever attempted suicide

Trans people’s right to health is compromised across the region. An audit of employment discrimination on the basis of gender identity in South-East Asia revealed disturbing levels of discrimination against trans applicants in seeking employment

Our research data offers a glimpse into their lived experiences, shedding light on the situation. Daily struggles involving rejection by families, routine institutional harassment, lack of affirmative healthcare access, and inadequate support systems indicate that trans and gender diverse people continue to face a large number of hurdles and hardships.

# FRAMEWORKS



THE

FOR



FUTURE

# INTRO





NOTHING  
ABOUT US



# 5 KEY APPROACHES

MOVEMENT  
BUILDING



RESEARCH



ADVOCACY



APTN's five key 'Work Approaches' always begins with a consultative process that involves the trans communities in Asia Pacific.

# PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING



# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



## RESEARCH

### CONSULTING

Identifying and convening with relevant partners & countries to explore the community's case and focus on their demand.

### FRAMEWORK

Co-creating with community to build the research framework & testing it. Data gathering with community, building capacity with technical/project partners to carry out research.

### TRAINING

Training on the framework & research methodology with community data gatherers. Setting up the focal point to organise data collection.

## MOVEMENT BUILDING

### CONSULTING

Researching trans led organisation's & individuals' networks to be mapped - including the issues that organisation is working on.

### STRATEGIES

The elements of 'well-being' are integrated across to address activists' burnout and mental health

## ADVOCACY

### CONSULTING

Identifying the approach by discussing community's demands.

### RESEARCHING

Researching on specific issues to build evidence/data for the case.

### STRATEGIES

## PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING

### CONSULTING

Consulting with trans community/national partners of the campaign.

### STRATEGY

Crafting campaigns that align with current priority issues in programs / advocacy.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### CONSULTING

Conducting a survey for prospective participants to identify the skills required for their activism endeavors.

### STRATEGIES



## DATA GATHERING

Gathering research and data - led by community, for community.

## RESEARCH WRITING

Composing the data as per research framework, reviewing and collaborating with partners in the community to create a publication.

## DISSEMINATING

Collaborating with queer and trans designer & artist to create a publication disseminated through APTN's and other channels.

## MEL

Monitoring Evaluation & Learning at every stage of the process.

## Convenings

Creating workshops (consultation, capacity development, well-being & networking) or convenings to get trans & gender diverse activists at national level to meet and also network with stakeholders at regional & global level.

## Nurturing

Building capacity, technical support, project partnership & bridging the national partners to regional or global spaces.

## Resource Mobilisation

Providing seed/small funding to the organisation and info on available knowledge dissemination and tools to equip the communities. Creating partnership with donor organisation to be introduced to the network.

## Statement

Creating statement with evidence - disseminating it via advocacy spaces. Collaborating with organisations/ individuals working on policy advocacy.

## Public Campaigning

Creating social awareness to gain more support on certain issues & create pressure to advocate for changes.

## Advocating

Organising community partners to participate in policy making spaces. Building partnerships with international human rights mechanism & policy makers

## Policy Recommendations

Making policy recommendations and guidelines for policy makers, medical associations, government, & development agencies.

## CAMPAIGN CREATION

Collaborating with queer, trans & gender diverse artists to create campaign materials, including short videos, films, graphics, infographics, etc.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

Disseminating campaign collaterals through APTN and partner media channels, Key Opinion Leaders & media allies.

## ADVOCACY SUPPORT

Creating public awareness to garner support on specific issues.

## MEL

Quantitative analysis on social media insights to determine campaigns' effectiveness.

## Workshops / Fellowships / Internships

Enhancing capacities through learning sessions, presentations, panels. Engaging with experts & stakeholders within a global learning setting.

## Technical Support

Providing technical skills by involving participants in projects and developing capacities in areas like advocacy, campaigning, financial reporting, project management, fundraising.

## Bridging Spaces

Offering support and facilitating access & opportunities for participation, scholarships & representation at international events.

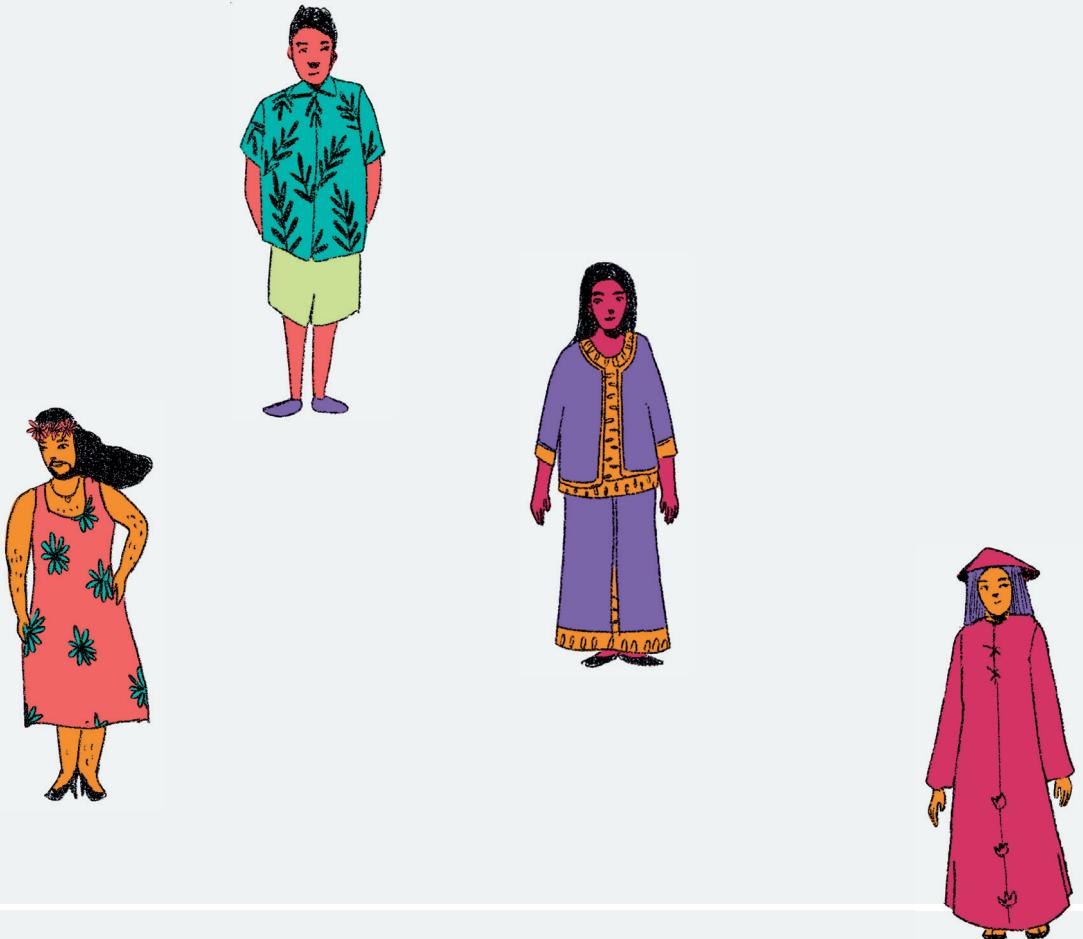
# COLLABORATORS

Partners consistently and actively participate in APTN, implementing its vision. Stakeholders influence or have interest in the activities, but are not direct participants.



| CATEGORY      | HEALTHCARE  | TECHNICAL/ PROJECT PARTNERS   | COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS  | LGBTQ+ ORGANISATIONS  |
|---------------|---|---|--|---|
| COLLABORATION | PARTNER   | PARTNER   | PARTNER  | PARTNER   |
| LEVEL/ ROLE   | Gender Affirming Clinics/ Doctors/ Nurses/ Medical Officers   | Trans-Led & LGBTQ+ Organisations/ Researchers/ Academics/ Designers/ Transgender Artists/ LGBTQ+ Media/ Trans/ Gender Diverse Key Opinion Leaders/ Influencers/ Media Organisations/ Journalists. | CBOs/ National LGBTQ+ Organisations/ Trans Communities/ Trans-led Organisations/ National Key Populations Organisation/ Trans/ Gender Diverse Activists. | Regional/ International   |
| PURPOSE       | To advocate for inclusive healthcare in cross learning spaces, and also the beneficiaries of capacity building to create gender affirming healthcare practices. | To execute tasks in a project that require specific technical skill.  | To be the beneficiaries of our leadership development and movement building, and/or work with APTN in project implementation.                            | To create regional/ international queer spaces that works on LGBTQ+ rights and push the priorities on trans rights in these spaces. |





| KEY POPULATION ORGANISATIONS   | FEMINIST ORGANISATIONS AND ALLIES   | POLICY MAKERS  | DONORS  | HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| PARTNER  | PARTNER   | STAKEHOLDER  | STAKEHOLDER   | STAKEHOLDER   |
| Regional/<br>International   | International   | MPs/ Government/<br>Ministers/ Special<br>Advisers/ Foreign<br>Bodies              | Bilateral/ Multilateral/<br>Foundations/ Feminist<br>Funds/ Philanthropic<br>Organisations<br>+ Individuals | International<br>Organisations/<br>Governmental Bodies/<br>Non-Governmental<br>Organisations                  |
| To advance inclusive and holistic healthcare, specifically in trans health/ gender affirming care. | For human rights advocacy, gender justice in opposition to anti-gender agenda, and to create & ensure trans-inclusive space in feminist spaces. | To collaborate on trans rights advocacy within national and international context. | To collaborate on resource mobilization and fund programs.  | To create participation in human rights mechanisms and for advocacy with trans individuals and organisations. |

# FROM



# TO

# BEGINNINGS



# TOMORROWS



# ORIGINS



2006 ● 2007 ● 2008 ● 2009  
2010 ● 2011 ● 2012

A workshop in Chiang Mai, Thailand and a conference in Delhi, India - both in 2006 - lay the foundation to create a regional network to advocate for transgender people's rights and their legal recognition.

The network is formalised as the Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN) in 2009 - representing special demographic populations including drug users, muslims, sex workers, youth, PLHIV (People Living with HIV), and the elderly - Nachale (Hua) Boonyapisomparn, a Thai transgender woman, is appointed as the initial coordinator.

APTN's representatives attend The Congress on Human Rights and Gender Identity in Barcelona, one of the largest gatherings of trans activists from around the world, in 2010.

In 2010, the Interim Board unanimously takes the decision to integrate trans men into APTN's mission (which was initially focused on transgender women's rights).

APTN evolves its structure for greater inclusivity - dropping 'key populations' and introducing sub-regional representations.

In 2011, an APTN Working Group composed of Joe Wong, Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, and Khartini Slamah was established to steer the network's growth and fundraising efforts.

APTN begins sharing resources about Asia Pacific's transgender populations, focusing on HIV, STI, and other transgender issues.

APTN releases a report in partnership with UNDP - 'Lost in Transition: Transgender People, Rights and HIV Vulnerability in the Asia-Pacific Region'

# BUILDING



2013 ● 2014 ● 2015 ● 2016

First successful fundraising effort - UNAIDS RST (Regional Support Team) collaborates with the APTN Working Group, investing in a proposal to the Robert Carr Network Fund for organisational strengthening and supporting national transgender initiatives across six countries.

Hires Natt Kraipet as APTN Coordinator and Joe Wong as Programme Manager

‘Joint Regional Technical Brief: HIV, STIs and Other Health Needs among Transgender People in Asia-Pacific’ is developed by the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in collaboration with APTN, the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNDP, and the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia

In collaboration with WHO, APTN releases a report on ‘Regional assessment of HIV, STI and other health needs of transgender people in Asia and the Pacific’ that includes concerns related to HIV, STI and sexual health, and technical recommendations to WHO and Member States in the region

APTN expands its Secretariat team from two to four members. The two members include Stephanie Halim, programme officer and Thanapoom Amatyakul, administrative and finance officer.

APTN conducts a community session at the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), and introduces its inaugural video ‘Trans Rights Are Human Rights’ with multi-language subtitles.



A regional community consultation of 23 transgender participants and 20 additional invited participants from the UN and development agencies discusses 'Agenda in Transition: Advancing Actions to Secure the Health and Rights of Transgender People in Asia and the Pacific.' This paves the way for identifying the priority needs for APTN's work in 2014 and 2015.

Publishes first strategic plan 'Agenda in Transition' - 2014-2017

APTN further evolves its structure and appoints its first interim steering committee, moving away from founder organisation structure

APTN drops sub-regional representations to look at individuals expertise, knowledge and skill sets that can guide APTN work in the region

Work with partners on the Robert Carr Network Fund proposal begins in Malaysia with Justice for Sisters; in Thailand with Thai Transgender Alliance; in Nepal with Blue Diamond Society; In Tonga with Tonga Leitis Association; in Cambodia with CamASEAN; in India with Astitva; and in Pakistan with Naz Male Health Alliance.

Starts first cross-collaboration with TGEU (Transgender Europe) to collect and monitor data on trans murders.

Starts the development of the 'Blueprint for the Provision of Comprehensive Care For Trans People'.

Sets up a dedicated position for one trans man and one Pacific representative on the APTN Steering Committee.

Releases an open call for nominations for five Regional Steering Committee members

APTN is registered legally in Thailand.

'Blueprint for the Provision of Comprehensive Care For Trans People' gets translated into Chinese, Japanese, and Bahasa Indonesia.

Conducts workshops and outreach on trans health in the Pacific.

Lancet releases a series on Transgender Health and Wellbeing wherein APTN's Trans Health Blueprint is included as a guidance document on trans health.

Conducts job audit research in Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore.

Celebrates its 7th Year anniversary - while turning its attention to a three-year strategic plan for the period 2017-2019.

Appoints five new members to the Regional Steering Committee

Interim committee members step down

Introduces a Human Rights and Advocacy Officer position

# GROWING



2017 • 2018 • 2019 • 2020 • 2021

- 'From Barriers to Bridges: Trans Health Conference' in Bangkok brings in over 150 attendees from 15 countries; produces a mapping report of the state of trans health in the region - this has been the impetus for action planning throughout the region on access to health.
- Work starts for Legal Gender Recognition: A Multi-Country Legal and Policy Review in Asia
- Hosts a trans man camp: a pilot well-being programme and the first that APTN ever conducts for trans masculine people in this region.
- Hosts the first ever Trans Advocacy Week.
- APTN revises its organisation structure, introducing an Executive Director position and an open call for applications.
- BBDO Pakistan creates 'Change the Clap' campaign - that would challenge societal norms and stereotypes, particularly surrounding the transgender community in Pakistan - with the help of APTN. APTN plays a pivotal role by facilitating the connection to its extensive network in Pakistan and utilising its platform to amplify the campaign's message. The video produced through this collaboration reaches an impressive 1.1 million views, with over 15,000 engagements and thousands of comments.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) releases the official version of the ICD-11 (the eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases) in which all trans-related categories were removed from the chapter of Mental and Behavioral Disorders - this marks a historic shift in the treatment and social acceptance of diverse gender identities. APTN is among many trans activists, international organisations, academics and health officials that have advocated for the reclassification of trans identity-related diagnoses from the ICD.
- APTN starts work on a peer-led study on trans rights and transphobic violence in Fiji, Samoa, and Papua New Guinea (PNG).

## 2021 ● 2022



- Appoints Joe Wong as APTN's Executive Director.
- Launches the strategic plan for 2018 - 2020
- Celebrates its 10th Year anniversary at the New Zealand Ambassador Residence, where a regional partnership meeting is also organised.
- APTN's employees benefits are reviewed; Gender Affirming leave is added.
- Releases an extended version of its strategic plan for 2019 - 2021.
- External policy review (financial structures, policies and systems) by a top audit firm, KPMG
- Introduces an Advocacy Manager position.
- Calls for nominations for new RSC (Regional Steering Committee) members.
- Launch of the Trans Fellowship Programme called APTN Amplifying Trans Advocacy 2020. 25 selected fellows from 14 countries in the region participate in a month-long immersive online course on international human rights accountability mechanisms, held between 15 September – 20 October 2020. The course provides an opportunity to the fellows to gain an in-depth understanding of the international human rights law and learn its application from human rights experts and peers.
- Provides a relief / support fund for the trans community to aid their COVID response.
- Increases materials online for the trans community
- Conversion Therapy review in Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia and Indonesia.
- UPR (Universal Periodic Review). Submission to UN IE SOGIE (Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression)
- Trans health module releases, online and offline.
- Community Based Monitoring Training (CBM). CBM tool is administered and led by

- community members, to measure the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality (AAAQ) of healthcare services provided to trans people.
- Releases an online survey in four languages to review the progress made towards the Strategic Framework (2018 - 2020) and to evaluate the difference APTN's work has made.
- Revives the regional networks of key population consortium.
- Remote staff hiring - introduces three new positions, RNs Coordinator, Trans Thrive Project Officer, and IT Support Officer.
- Reimagining our Future: Trans and Gender Diverse Peoples Convening in Southeast Asia. APTN has pioneered regional and subregional convenings of trans activists in the Asia-Pacific region, providing a platform for activists to network, learn, and build solidarity with each other.
- APTN builds partners' capacity in grant management and organisation sustainability for African Transgender Network (ATN), The Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network (PSGDN), and Blue Diamond Society (BDS).
- Sub-regional convenings

# MARCHING AHEAD



2023 • 2024



- APTN is granted the UN ECOSOC (The United Nations Economic and Social Council) Special Consultative status
- Joins initiative for Digital Resilience and Emerging Technology Training
- Participates in the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
- Launches 'Towards Transformative Healthcare Module' for Trans Health and Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region to empower trans individuals to claim their rights and health and to support healthcare professionals in providing gender-affirming healthcare.
- Holds 'Reimagine Our Future: Trans and Gender Diverse Peoples Convening' in South Asia
- Astraea Global Activist Convening is co-organised by Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice and APTN in Thailand
- APTN will be the main partner for the trans feminist conference at the global feminist conference organised by Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) in 2024.





Not one of our achievements are only ours. Our journey towards advancing transgender rights and fostering positive change in the Asia-Pacific region has always been a shared vision and a collective effort. Our own endeavors, combined with the dedication of activists, invaluable support from partners, contributions from donors, and the commitment of all stakeholders have been instrumental in driving progress.



# LOCAL TERMINOLOGY

The colonial history of many countries in the Asia Pacific region has often led to the erasure and marginalisation of indigenous gender identities and expressions. The Asia Pacific region is incredibly diverse, with each country having its own unique history and subsequent impact on gender diversity. Recognising this diversity is essential to understanding the nuanced challenges faced by trans and gender diverse individuals.

These terminologies were identified by the participants from the Regional Partnership Meeting: Transcending agenda on health, rights, and policy in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2019. The list is limited and relevant at the time it was documented, and is not exhaustive and does not fully capture the different and evolving identities and labels used by trans and gender-diverse people in the region.

Here is a list of local terminologies used for transgender and gender-diverse individuals. Please note that some of these local terms may be considered derogatory by different populations of trans people.



# FOSTERING



# PIONEERING

# INITIATIVES



# CHANGE

# INTRO



Be a part of APTN's journey programs. Our goal is to support national activists and their initiatives ranging from data



y by endorsing our strategic  
serve<sup>✉</sup> as a bridge between  
e global stage, fostering  
gap closure to seed grants.

# TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIVE HEALTH



Addressing the systemic deficiencies in healthcare provision for transgender and gender-diverse individuals.

## PIONEERING FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

### TRANS HEALTH BLUEPRINT DEVELOPMENT

The Blueprint is an extensive document with far-reaching potential and applications in trans health and human rights in the region. It aims to be a resource enabling health providers, programme planners and managers, policymakers, community leaders, and other stakeholders to promote and address the health needs of trans people.

### TRANS HEALTH MODULE

This free online course equips individuals and healthcare professionals with vital information and resources to enhance understanding and support for trans and gender-diverse health issues.

### TRANS COMP COMMUNITY BASED MONITORING TOOLKITS

These facilitate community-driven data collection and analysis, enabling us to better understand the challenges and successes in trans healthcare, and thereby, empowering us to advocate for targeted improvements.

### TRANS HEALTH MAPPING

A database to chart healthcare facilities that provide gender-affirming care across the Asia-Pacific region, and creates a comprehensive inventory of available services to better serve the healthcare needs of the trans and gender-diverse community.



| PROJECT  | AREAS  | APPROACH   | YEAR        |
|--|--|--|-------------|
| WORKSHOP Increasing access to healthcare services (South to South)                                   | Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Philippines, Nepal, India  | LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT                                   | 2016 - 2018 |
| MOBILISATION ICD-11 (International Classification of Disease) to stop pathologizing of trans people  | Global   | ADVOCACY   | 2016 - 2019 |
| WORKSHOP Expanding the Circle - a multi-country series of workshop on trans comprehensive healthcare | Malaysia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Singapore  | LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT                                   | 2017        |
| CAPACITY BUILDING for trans communities in engaging with Global Fund processes                       | Nepal, Vietnam, India, Thailand, Philippines   | MOVEMENT BUILDING  | 2018 - 2019 |
| RESEARCH Community-led study on barriers to access to HIV, SRHR and health services for trans people | Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam  | RESEARCH   | 2018 - 2021 |
| PILOT Trans COMP Community Based Monitoring pilot and Trans Health and Rights Modules                | Sri Lanka, Philippines, Laos, Mongolia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Bhutan, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Nepal | RESEARCH<br>LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT<br>PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING | 2019 - 2022 |
| CONFERENCE From Barriers to Bridges  | Asia Pacific   | MOVEMENT BUILDING  | 2017        |

# AMPLIFYING TRANS ADVOCACY



To establish this as a biannual initiative that empowers trans activists, particularly youth, by enhancing their capacity and advocacy skills.

A SUCCESSFUL PILOT PROGRAM INITIALLY LAUNCHED  2020

## A BRIDGE TO GLOBAL ADVOCACY SPACE

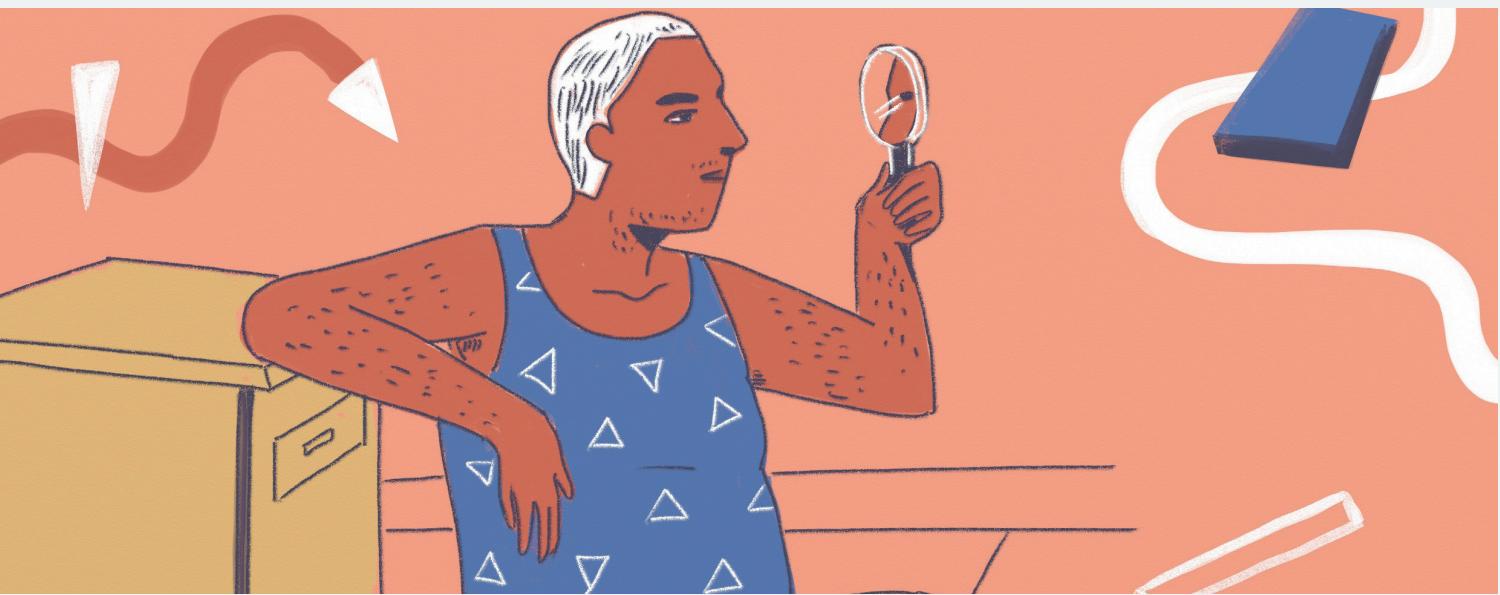
Under this program, fellows will benefit from mentorship from APTN advocacy experts and gain access to a valuable network that will facilitate their growth and development.



In a strategic partnership with 'Trans Advocacy Week', a global platform dedicated to trans advocacy within the UN Human Rights Council, we are creating a bridge that connects our fellows to the global advocacy spaces.

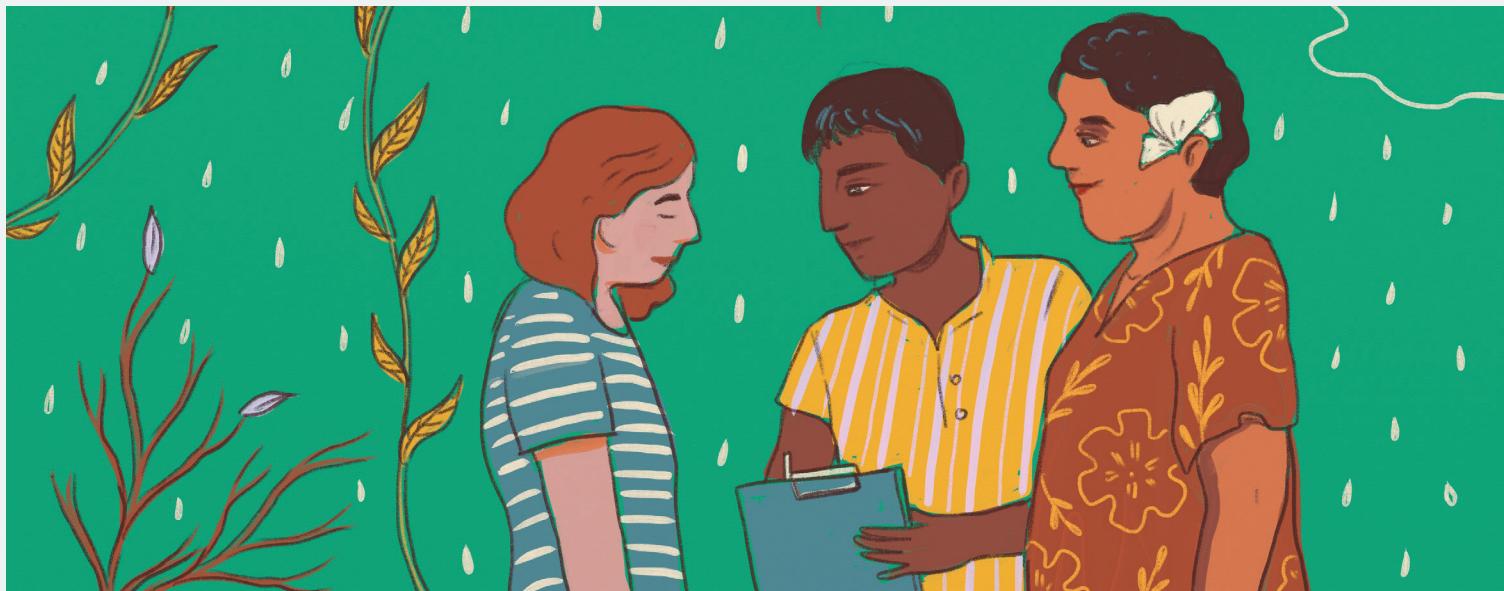
## LEARNING SPACE TO IMPLEMENT GRANT

Upon the culmination of the capacity-building program, fellows will have the opportunity to propose advocacy projects for consideration and potential funding through a seed grant provided by APTN.



| PROJECT                              | AREAS        | APPROACH                                    | YEAR        |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|-------------|
| PILOT APTN Amplifying Trans Advocacy | Asia Pacific | LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT<br>MOVEMENT BUILDING | 2019 - 2021 |

# TRANS AND GENDER - DIVERSE CONVENINGS



To give trans and gender-diverse people an opportunity to network, share learnings, do capacity building, and build regional solidarity.

DIVERSE PEOPLE CONVENINGS

Having networks in the Asia Pacific region, APTN is able to invite trans and gender diverse activists across the region, while handling all the travel and safety logistics and exercising sensitivity needed, thanks to APTN's highly experienced team.

Programming in these convenings focuses on building regional solidarity and sharing learnings, including bridging national activists to regional and international space in a global learning environment.

In APTN convenings, we also emphasise the importance of well-being to address activist burnout.

APTN also partners with global organisations that need technical assistance to create trans, feminist or other LGBTQ+ convenings in Thailand. For example, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice



| PROJECT  | AREAS   | APPROACH                                  | YEAR |
|--|---|---|------|
| CONFERENCE From Barriers to Bridges                          | Asia Pacific  | MOVEMENT BUILDING                         | 2017 |
| CAMP Trans Men Well-being                                    | India, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia   | MOVEMENT BUILDING                         | 2017 |
| CONVENING 'Reimagine Our Future' convening in Southeast Asia | Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam            | MOVEMENT BUILDING                         | 2021 |
| CONVENING 'Reimagine Our Future' convening in South Asia     | India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal   | MOVEMENT BUILDING                         | 2022 |
| CONVENING Astraea Global Activist Convening                  | Global  | MOVEMENT BUILDING                         | 2022 |
| WORKSHOP & CONVENING Trans Rights Now                        | Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Vietnam, India, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Philippines, Tonga, Mongolia | LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, MOVEMENT BUILDING | 2022 |

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| PROJECT  | AREAS   | APPROACH                                  | YEAR |
|--|---|---|------|
| CONFERENCE From Barriers to Bridges                          | Asia Pacific  | MOVEMENT BUILDING                         | 2017 |
| CAMP Trans Men Well-being                                    | India, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia   | MOVEMENT BUILDING                         | 2017 |
| CONVENING 'Reimagine Our Future' convening in Southeast Asia | Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam            | MOVEMENT BUILDING                         | 2021 |
| CONVENING 'Reimagine Our Future' convening in South Asia     | India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal   | MOVEMENT BUILDING                         | 2022 |
| CONVENING Astraea Global Activist Convening                  | Global  | MOVEMENT BUILDING                         | 2022 |
| WORKSHOP & CONVENING Trans Rights Now                        | Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Vietnam, India, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Philippines, Tonga, Mongolia | LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, MOVEMENT BUILDING | 2022 |

# TRANS THRIVE PROJECT



To address the significant data gaps surrounding transphobic incidents in the Asia-Pacific region.

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AN EMERGING FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

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We are diligently working on the creation of regional reporting tools that are designed to empower trans and gender-diverse individuals to document their personal experiences and incidents.

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Collecting data and narratives through these tools, in order to compile a comprehensive body of research that will inform future strategies for combating discrimination and promoting inclusivity.

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We work in multi-country settings partnering with national partners to conduct research and campaign in disseminating surveys or other data collection.

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APTN also acts as the fiscal host to undertake financial management and reporting across countries.



| PROJECT                                | AREAS                                   | APPROACH                       | YEAR           |
|--|---|--------------------------------|----------------|
| SCOPING/RESEARCH<br>Conversion Therapy | India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia<br>Malaysia | RESEARCH                       | 2020           |
| CAMPAIGN Transcending<br>Transphobia   | Asia Pacific                            | RESEARCH<br>PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING | 2022 - Ongoing |

# ASIA PACIFIC TRANS-GENDER MEDIA ALLIANCE



To connect with diverse audiences and to advocate for our cause more effectively.

## A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL CAMPAIGN

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We are embarking on a regional campaign aimed at garnering multi-country participation and raising public awareness for a specific cause

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Collaborating with talented individuals who identify as queer, trans, and gender-diverse from across the Asia-Pacific region.

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Striving to craft a unified and compelling messaging strategy together, conveyed through captivating visuals, professional media production, and various dissemination strategies.

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Forging strategic partnerships with social media Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs) and LGBTQ+ friendly media outlets to amplify our campaign's reach and impact.



| PROJECT                                 | AREAS                      | APPROACH                       | YEAR           |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| CAMPAIGN Change the Clap                | Pakistan                   | PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING             | 2017           |
| CAMPAIGN Transgender Day of Remembrance | Asia Pacific - India, Fiji | PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING             | 2018 - 2019    |
| CAMPAIGN Transcending Transphobia       | Asia Pacific               | RESEARCH<br>PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING | 2022 - Ongoing |

# SMALL GRANTS/ SEED GRANTS



To provide support to  
transgender organisations.

These grants will help in responding effectively to the emerging trends within the community.

Fostering growth and development of these groups while staying agile and responsive to the ever-evolving needs and challenges faced by the transgender community.

Gathering new and emerging leaders and trends in the movement.

## SEED GRANTEES FOR THE TRANS RESILIENCE PROJECT

### PACIFIC

Haus of Khameleon (Fiji) / HETURA NCD LGBT Group (Papua New Guinea) / MY GIRLS CLUB (Samoa) / Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network (Samoa) / Tonga Leitis Association (Tonga)

### SOUTH ASIA

Basera Samajik Sansthan (India) / Blue Diamond Society, Kathmandu, Nepal (Nepal) / Have Only Positive Expectations – HOPE (Pakistan) / Samabhabona (India) / Unity For Change (U4C) (Nepal) / Venasa Transgender Network (Sri Lanka) / Wajood (Pakistan)

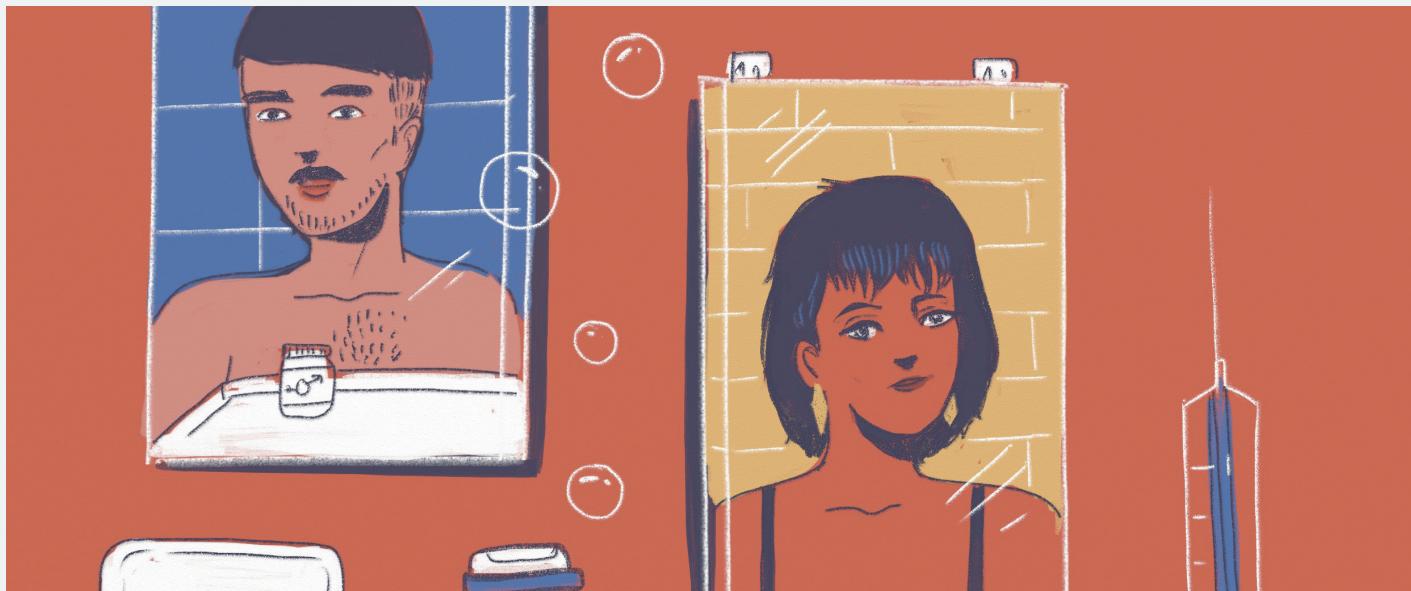
### SOUTH EAST ASIA

IT'S T TIME (Vietnam) / Jaringan Transgender Indonesia (JTID) (Indonesia) / LakanBini Advocates Pilipinas (Philippines) / Pertubuhan Pembangunan Kebajikan dan Persekutaran Positif / Malaysia (SEED) (Malaysia) / SISTERs Foundation (Thailand) / The Foundation of Transgender Alliance for Human Rights (Thailand) / Yayasan Sriandi Sejati (Indonesia)

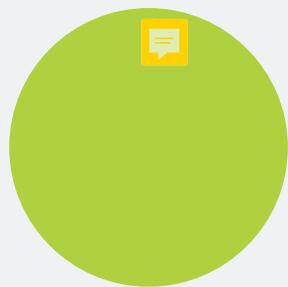


| PROJECT  | AREAS  | APPROACH           | YEAR        |
|--|--|--------------------|-------------|
| RESEARCH Human Rights Mapping; COVID relief support and research     | Asia Pacific   | RESEARCH           | 2019 - 2021 |
| REPORT COVID Trans Resilience Report and Trans Youth Leaders Stories | Indonesia, India, Thailand, Samoa, Hongkong  | PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING | 2020        |
| FUND COVID-19 Community Support                                      | Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand | MOVEMENT BUILDING  | 2020        |

# LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION



| PROJECT  | AREAS                            | APPROACH             | YEAR        |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| PROJECT Social Experiences<br>Study on Pacific countries<br>and Legal Gender Recognition<br>Law Review on Fiji, with<br>workshops, forums and<br>advocacy materials. | Fiji, Samoa, Papua New<br>Guinea | RESEARCH<br>ADVOCACY | 2017 - 2022 |

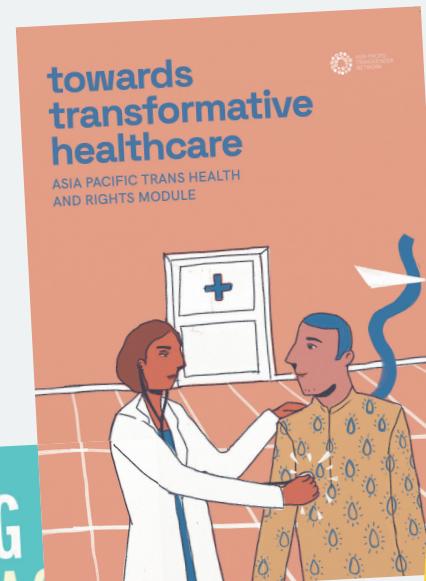
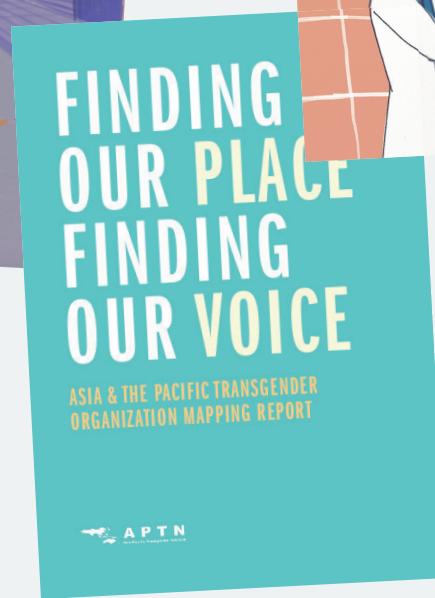
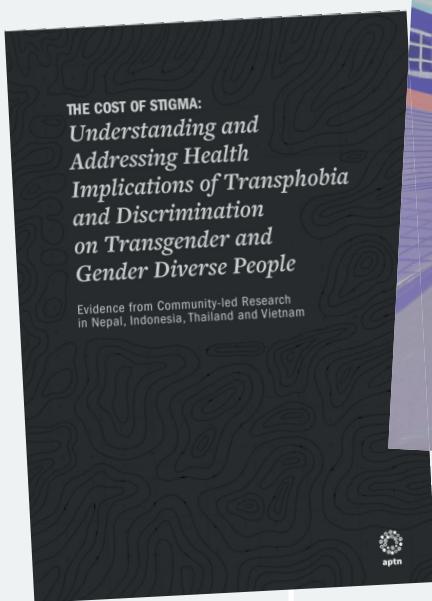


# ADDITIONAL



| PROJECT  | AREAS   | APPROACH                                    | YEAR           |
|--|---|---|----------------|
| REPORT Finding our place. Finding our voice  | Regional  | MOVEMENT BUILDING                           | 2015           |
| WORKSHOP Country workshops on the Global Fund's new funding model, sustainability and transitioning, community systems strengthening | Indonesia, India, Thailand, Nepal, Vietnam, Philippines | MOVEMENT BUILDING<br>LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT | 2015-2017      |
| ADVOCACY Lobbying with Human Rights independent experts on SOGIE and special rapporteurs   | Global  | ADVOCACY                                    | 2019 - ongoing |

# PUBLICATIONS



## Understanding and Addressing Health Implications of Transphobia and Discrimination on Transgender & Gender Diverse People

APTN embarked on an ambitious research project in January 2021 called 'The Cost of Stigma: Understanding and Addressing Health Implications of Transphobia and Discrimination on Transgender and Gender Diverse People'. The main purpose of the study was to document the barriers and gaps in access to HIV and other health services for trans and gender diverse people in four countries - Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, and Vietnam.

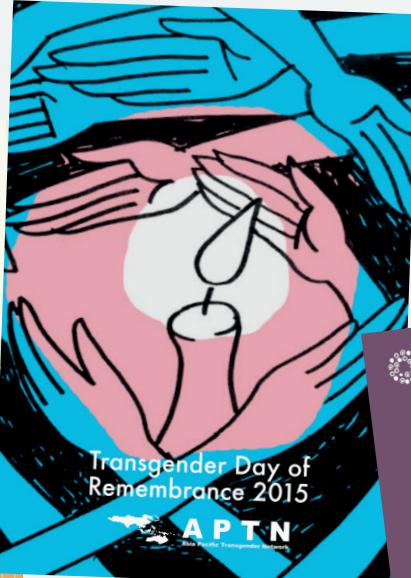
## Towards Transformative Healthcare (TTHM) Asia Pacific Trans Health and Rights Module

TTHM uses a rights-based approach to health to empower trans people to know and claim their rights and health professionals to be knowledgeable and support trans individuals in their medical journey. TTHM covers everything from how to create an affirming and welcoming environment for trans patients, to specific healthcare considerations for trans individuals related to mental, sexual and reproductive health, and more. It's available as an online course, a learning handbook, and a Trans Health Toolkit.

All our publications are trans-focused, trans-led, trans-informed, and community-driven — this is at the centre of all our work.

APTN's robust publication portfolio is a testimony to its commitment to developing accessible, accurate and comprehensive information for trans and gender diverse people throughout Asia and the Pacific. We achieve this through collaboration with different stakeholders and the community itself.

These publications are also meant for other members of the global community whose work touches the lives of trans and gender diverse people such as health providers, policymakers, stakeholders, and cisgender communities.



## The Trans COMP Community Based Monitoring Tool

is the very first community-based monitoring tool developed by and for transgender people in the Asia Pacific region, focusing on trans health. It aims to facilitate collective agreement and action with the eventual goal of improving service delivery and capacitation of health providers. Released in 2023, this document is a report on the key findings from the pilot implementation of the tool in 7 countries.

## Conversion Therapy Practices against Transgender Persons in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia

In 2021, we released a research project of the same name — that explored how trans and gender diverse people have been subjected to conversion therapy practices by documenting their personal narratives and lived experiences. It also presented recommendations for legal, policy, and programmatic change to address these harmful interventions and provide protection.

# PROGRAM & PROJECT PARTNERS



OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS





**ASEAN SOGIE CAUCUS**



## NATIONAL

partners who have been working with APTN for more than 5 years

Blue Diamond Society, Nepal / Thai TGA / SISTERS / Tonga / Leitis Association / SFA (Samoa) / PSGDN (Fiji) / JTID / HOPE, Pakistan / Sambhabhona, India / Sri Lanka Trans Network / It's T Time, Vietnam / Trangender SG, Singapore / HETURA NCD LGBT Group (Papua New Guinea) / SEED, Malaysia / LakanBini Advocates Pilipinas (Philippines)

CLINICS Tangerine / Rakyat (Malaysia) / IPPF Sri Lanka

## REGIONAL

TGEU / African Trans Network / ILGA Asia / 7 Alliance / Asean Sogie Caucus

## GLOBAL

Astraea / ITF / Global Philanthropy Project / ILGA World / AWID

## DONORS

Robert Carr Foundation / The Global Fund / Open Society Foundation / FHI 360 KPIF-EpiC (Key Population Investment Fund – Maintaining Epidemic) / Global Equality Fund EIDHR (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights) VOICE – FIFF (Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures) / UNAIDS Women's Fund Asia / COC Netherlands / AJWS (American Jewish World Service)

# TESTIMONIALS

"We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support from APTN to the Tangerine Clinic since its inception. Their support has been instrumental in helping us establish and operate much-needed gender-affirming healthcare for and by the transgender communities in Thailand."

JEMMA SAMITPOL

Tangerine Clinic Supervisor  
Institute of HIV Research and  
Innovation (IHRI)



"I am really thankful for the comprehensive resource list the APTN team has laboured to create. As a physician myself, my own clinical practice is informed by the "Guidelines for Healthcare Providers On Trans-competent Healthcare Services for Transgender Patients". I strive to improve my service delivery to keep up the standards proposed by APTN."

DR JEREMIAH PEREIRA

(they/them)  
MBBS (S'pore) MRCP (UK) M.Med (Int Med)  
Medical Director | MANADR Clinic



"I participated in APTN's Amplify Trans Advocacy Fellowship program 2020, where we worked on a project creating an Advocacy Tool - a book with a draft bill on Gender Identity - to reform discriminatory laws, policies and practices related to marginalised gender identities. Reflecting on the journey, the knowledge and the network I gained during this time continue to guide me in my ongoing commitment to advocating for the rights and dignity of individuals with marginalised gender identities."

ELYN BHANDARI  
(He/Him)  
Blue Diamond Society



"I attended a regional convening of transgender and non-binary activists hosted by APTN in January 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The convening expanded my knowledge, perspective, and capacities to work on transgender and non-binary persons issues, including a more holistic understanding of the discrimination and violence they experience in different national contexts. Apart from the convening strengthening my knowledge, I also found the space filled with community and care, providing me with the much needed rest and relaxation, and inspiration that I needed in my work."

AVALI KHARE  
(they/them)  
Programme Officer  
Youth Coalition for Sexual  
and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR)



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“The Amplify Trans Advocacy Fellowship program was nothing short of life-changing. APTN’s commitment to fostering grassroots initiatives was evident when I was granted a seed grant to launch a campaign project. This project went on to establish the first all-nonbinary support group in Indonesia. The APTN fellowship was a catalyst for personal and professional growth, sparking a journey that has allowed me to be a part of the transformative initiatives and contribute to a more inclusive and equitable future.”

ERIK NADIR  
Communication Coordinator  
Asia Pacific Transgender Network



“Being the only transgender person from the Pacific Islands to attend the Asia Pacific Transgender Network Convening in November 2023, I felt like I was representing the entire Trans Pacific community. We trans people now have the opportunity to share our experiences and learn more from experts at this conference, which is a step towards securing the rights of the Trans community in the Asia-Pacific region to defend their rights and obtain high-quality healthcare.”

DIAMOND VEA  
Tonga, Pacific Islands



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“APTN’s gatherings and events have significantly influenced our organisation’s approach to future projects, providing valuable insights and fostering meaningful connections. I’m particularly impressed with APTN’s collaborative efforts with medical professionals in Southeast Asia, aiming to enhance services for the trans community. One standout moment for me was attending my first convening, where APTN ensured that activists’ well-being is important through their memorable well-being session that enable us to create solidarity and cross learning across different countries.”

KEVIN MARIAN  
Program Manager  
Jaringan Transgender Indonesia



“When APTN offered the Trans Health and Rights Module in 2022, I was excited to give it a run. The information presented was simple, concise and substantial even for someone who’s a novice in GAC. What I liked most about this training module are Chapters 2, 3, and the self-reflection parts – For me, these parts of the module equip providers with a lens to see healthcare from the perspective of transgender and gender diverse people, and to approach their service with gender sensitivity and empathy.”

JAN DIO MIGUEL DELA CRUZ,  
Managing Director  
Chief of Medicine - LoveYourself Inc.  
Philippines





ASIA PACIFIC  
TRANSGENDER

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more, write to us at [hello@weareaptn.org](mailto:hello@weareaptn.org)

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