


WE ARE APTN

WE ARE APTN



WE ARE A TRANS



THAT ENABLES



TRANS & GENDER



ACROSS THE ASIA





S-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.









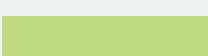


GENDER EXPRESSION: A person's way of communicating gender externally, for example, androgyny, masculinity and/or femininity. This is done through physical appearance (including clothing, hairstyle, and the use of cosmetics), mannerisms, ways of speaking, and behavioural patterns when interacting with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

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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.

*Adapted with minor changes from Health Policy Project, Asia Pacific Transgender Network, and the United Nations Development Programme, Blueprint for the Provision of Comprehensive Care for Trans People and Trans Communities, Washington DC: Futures Group, Health Policy Project, 2015

TRANSGENDER WOMAN GENDER
SGENDER GENDER EXPRESSION
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08 ENVISION

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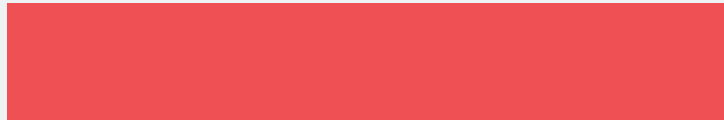
18 FRAMEWORKS



F



24 FROM BEGINNING



36 FOSTER INITIATIVE

NEW

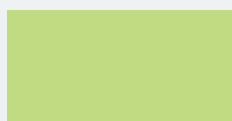
WORLD



FOR

THE

FUTURE



GS TO TOMORROWS



ES PIONEER CHANGE

08 ENVISION  A



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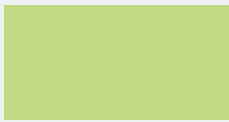


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WORLD

IMAGINE  A 

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WE  ARE  REL

STEPS  TO  REAL

WORLD THAT
RESPECTS THE
HUMAN RIGHTS OF
ALL DIVERSE PEOPLE
TRANSFEMINIST
TRANSFEMINIST NETWORK
CONTINUOUSLY TAKING
ACTION TO REALISE 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, organisers, 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



PAKISTAN

NEPAL

INDIA

BAH

SRI LANKA

AFRICA

PACIFIC We
are directly
working with
The Pacific
Sexual and
Gender
Diversity
Network
(PSGDN) in

● 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

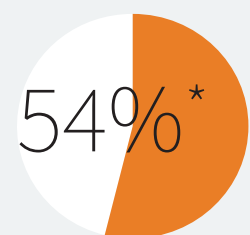
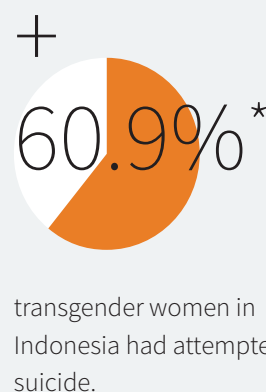
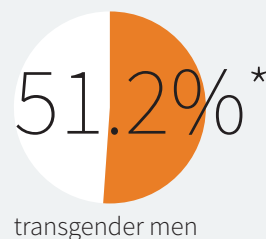
The violence faced by trans and gender-diverse people every day is the biggest driving force behind our mission.

INDONESIA

MALAYSIA

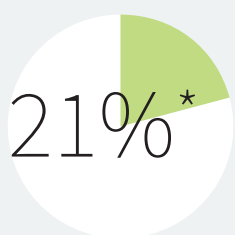
“When I was little, my grandmother said, “I would rather have dead grandchildren than trans grandchildren.”

“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

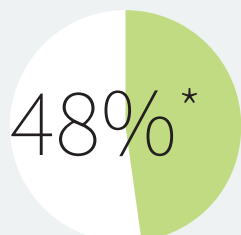
“My uncle tied a rope around my neck and hung me from a tree.”



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.”

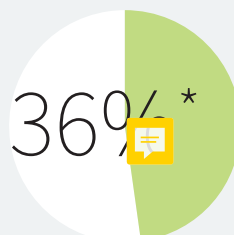


of trans and gender-diverse people in Fiji, Samoa, and Papua New Guinea experienced violence due to their gender identity.

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

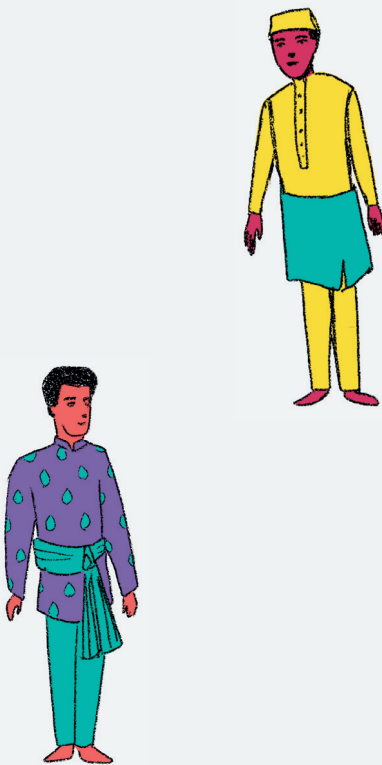
Providing technical skills by involving participants in projects and developing capacities in areas like advocacy, campaigning, financial reporting, project management, fundraising.

Bridging Spaces

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

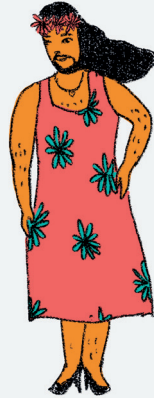
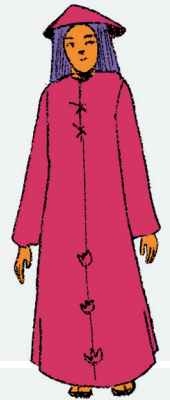
COLLABORATORS

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

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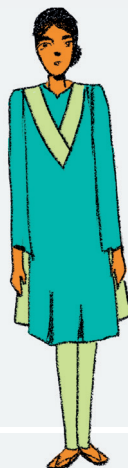
Regional/
International

International

MPs/ Government/
Ministers/ Special
Advisers/ Foreign
Bodies

Bilateral/ Multilateral/
Foundations/ Feminist
Funds/ Philanthropic
Organisations
+ Individuals

International
Organisations/
Governmental Bodies/
Non-Governmental
Organisations



To advance inclusive
and holistic healthcare,
specifically in trans
health/ gender
affirming care.

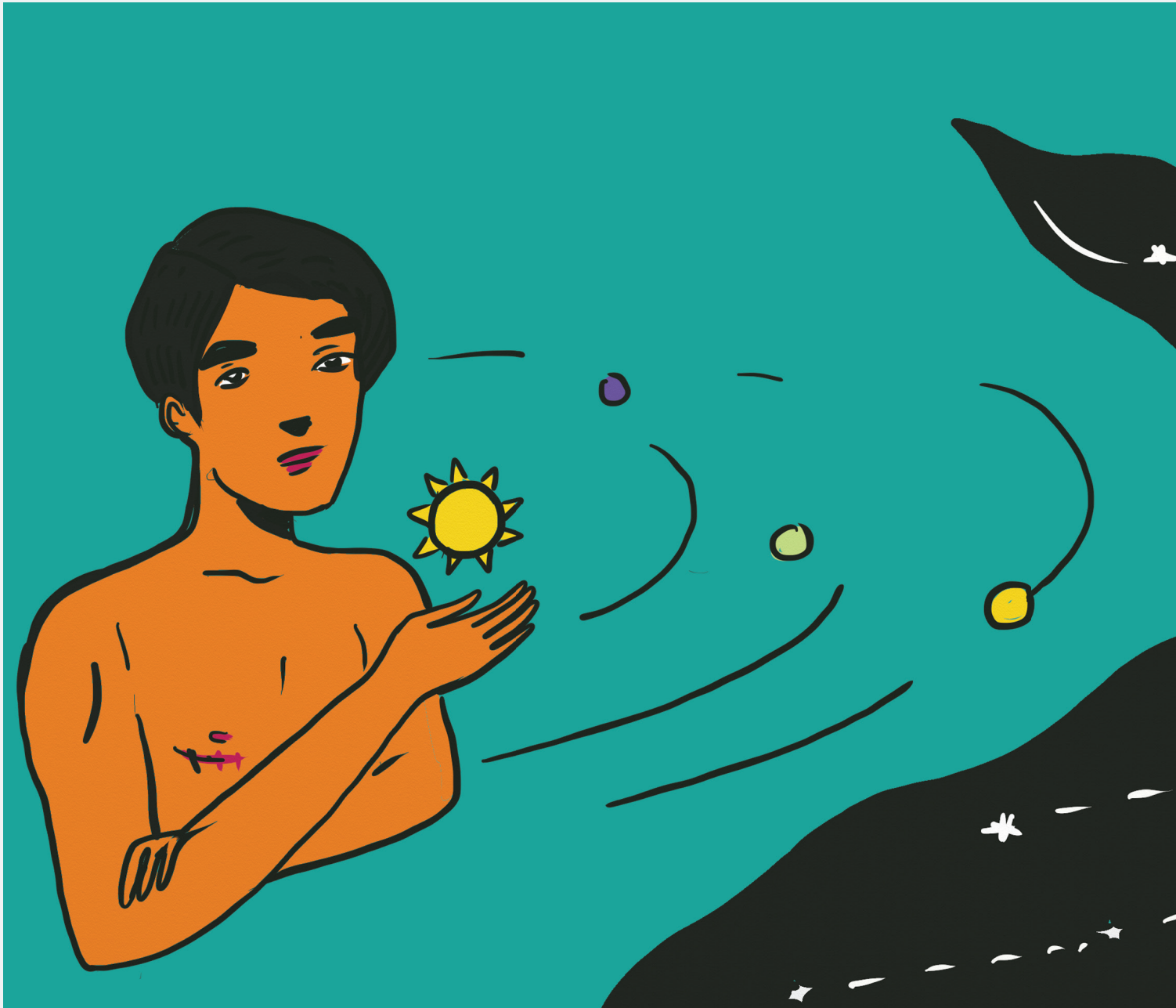
For human rights
advocacy, gender
justice in opposition
to anti-gender agenda,
and to create & ensure
trans-inclusive space in
feminist spaces.

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 (APTNet) in 2009 - representing special demographic populations including drug users, muslims, sex workers, youth, PLHIV (People Living with HIV), and the elderly - Nachale (Hua) Boonyapisompan, a Thai transgender woman, is appointed as the initial coordinator.

APTNet'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 APTNet's mission (which was initially focused on transgender women's rights).

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

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

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

APTNet 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

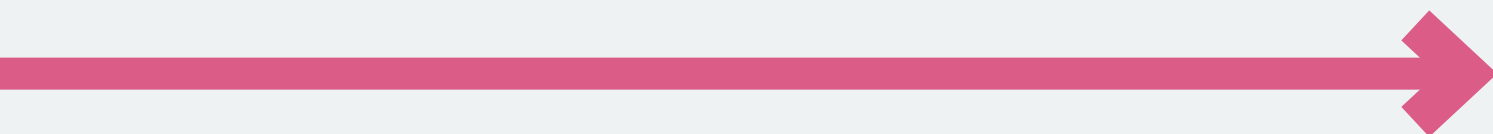
Introduces a Human Rights and Advocacy Officer position

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.

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.

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.

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA
Hijra, Kinnar, Jogti, Maitya, Mogha, Aravani, Mangal-mukhi, Jogappa, Shivashakti Thirunangai Koti, Cha, Durani Bhai (means 'brothers' and commonly used by transmen), Tomboy, Tonna (trans men)

PAKISTAN
Khawaja Sara, Morat, Zanan, Khusra, Hijra

NEPAL
Meti, Kothi, Singaru, Maruni, Fulumulu, Natuwa, Maugiya, Dhuranji, Nechani Cha, Durani

SRI LANKA
Nachchi, Hijra

BANGLADESH
Bandhu

EAST ASIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

CHINA
Kua xing bie (跨性别, transgender) Xiong di (兄弟, trans men, means 'brothers') Jie mei (姐妹, trans women, means 'sisters')

HONG KONG
Bin-sing-jan and Kwaa-sing-bit

INDONESIA
Banci, Bencong, Waria, Wandu, Calalai, Calabai, Wadam, Bissu, Transpuan (trans women) Calabai, Calalai, Bissu (Bugis society has five genders) Priawan, Transpria (trans man)

MALAYSIA
Transwanita/Mak nyah (transwomen), Thirunangai - transwomen (Indian), Thiruthambi - transman (Indian) Kua xing nan - transmen Nonya - transwoman Pak nyah, Pengkid - transman

VIETNAM
Chuyen gioi, Chuyen doi gioi tinh, Bong lo, Bong lai cai, Dong bong, Chan ciu ciu

MYANMAR
Sant kyin phet lain ket tho pyu hmu nay htaing thu; Main ma sha (transwoman - derogatory usage but widely accepted by the transwomen community) Tomboy (usage by transmen community) Acault (transwoman)

PHILIPPINES
Transpinoy/Transpinay, FTM/MTF Bayot, Bayog, Babyalan, Asog, Bantut, Bakla, Binabae (transwoman) Tom, Lesboy (transmen)

THAILAND
Kathoey (transwoman, also used for cisgender gay man) Tom (transman, also used for cisgender lesbian woman) Pumia, Pumae, Phet tee sam, Sao, Phuying praphet song (transwoman); activists have started using terminologies like Kkhon (or Phuying, Phuchaa) Plaeng phet ('a person/ woman/man who has changed sex')

SINGAPORE
Ah kua

LAO PDR
Kathoey

PACIFIC

FIJI
Vaka lewawa/ Vaka saleawawa, BRASTOS

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Palopa

SAMOA
Fa'afafine (transwomen) Fa'atama (transmen)

TOKELAU
Fa'afafine (transwoman)

NIUE
Fakafifine

TONGA
Leti

COOK ISLANDS
Akava'ine

FOSTERING



PIONEERING

INITIATIVES

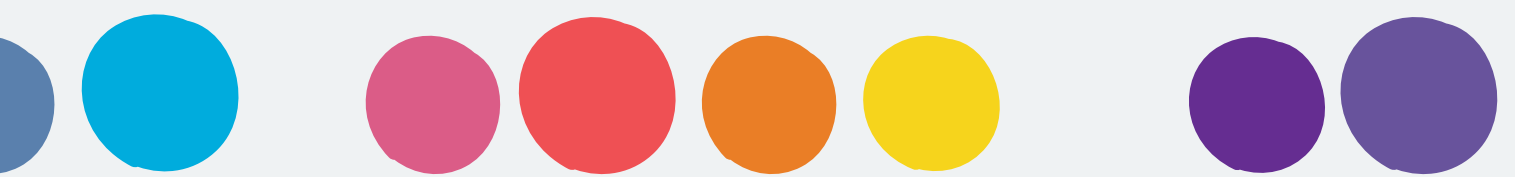


CHANGE

INTRO



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



y by endorsing our strategic
serve as a bridge between
the 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
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
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

PILOT APTN Amplifying Trans
Advocacy

AREAS

Asia Pacific

APPROACH

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
MOVEMENT BUILDING

YEAR


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  E 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
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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.

AN EMERGING FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

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.

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.

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

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



PROJECT

AREAS

APPROACH

YEAR

SCOPING/RESEARCH
Conversion Therapy

India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia
Malaysia

RESEARCH

2020

CAMPAIGN Transcending
Transphobia

Asia Pacific

RESEARCH
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

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

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

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

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 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 Persekitaran Positif / Malaysia (SEED) (Malaysia) / SISTERS Foundation (Thailand) / The Foundation of Transgender Alliance for Human Rights (Thailand) / Yayasan Srikandi 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

PROJECT Social Experiences Study on Pacific countries and Legal Gender Recognition Law Review on Fiji, with workshops, forums and advocacy materials.

AREAS

Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea

APPROACH

RESEARCH
ADVOCACY

YEAR

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 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

APTAN 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





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



ASEAN SOGIE CAUCUS

REGIONAL

TGEU / African Trans Network / ILGA Asia / 7 Alliance / Asean Sogje 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



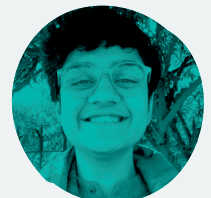
“I participated in APTN’s Amplify Trans Advocacy Fellowship program 2020, where we worked on a project creating an Advocacy Tool - a book with a draft bill on Gender Identity - to reform discriminatory laws, policies and practices related to marginalised gender identities. Reflecting on the journey, 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)



“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



“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

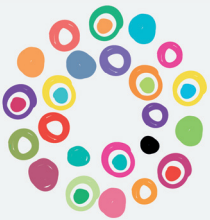


“When APTN offered the Trans Health and Rights Module in 2022, I was excited to give it a run. The information presented was simple, concise and substantial even for someone who’s a novice in GAC. What I liked most about this training module are Chapters 2, 3, and the self-reflection parts – For me, these parts of the module equip providers that 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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If you want to support, collaborate or know
more, write to us at hello@weareaptn.org



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