

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



AUGUST 12
2016

**YOUTH
VOICES
MATTER**

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY



ACCESSIBLE LEGAL SAFE ABORTION

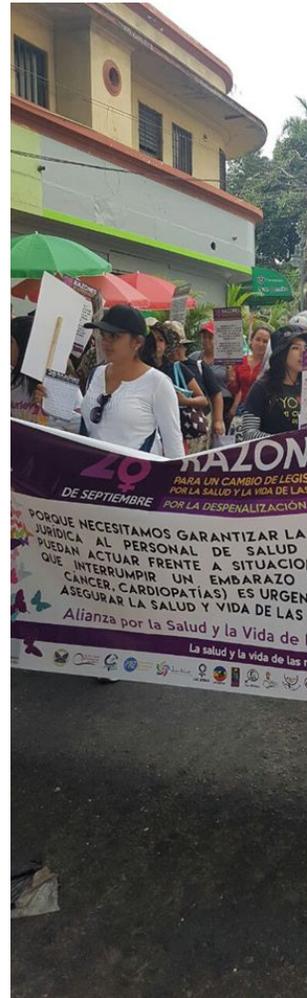
**Call
for
Action**

2016

Let's challenge #AbortionStigma
& #GenderStereotypes!

**Step into
Our Shoes**

#StepintoOurShoes



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

Advancing and Defending Women's SRHR for 30 Years!

W G N R R

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Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights

For more information regarding
partnerships, WGNRR's technical
expertise in developing SRHR
advocacy & capacity
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Front Cover: DRC, 2016; Bangladesh, 2016; DRC, 2016; El Salvador, 2016

Page 5: (bottom) LACWHN, 2016

Page 11: AWID, 2016

Page 13: (middle) Nigeria, 2016

Page 18: USA, 2016

Page 23: China Change, 2016; Love Matters India, 2016

Page 24: (left) Samsara Indonesia, 2016

Page 25: AI, 2015; Una flor por las 17, 2014

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WGNRR is a southern-based global network that builds and strengthens movements for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and justice. Our work is grounded in the realities of those who most lack economic, social and political power.

Through critical analysis and strategic actions, WGNRR connects members and allies, builds knowledge, organises campaigns and shares resources. WGNRR works to realise the full SRHR of all people, with a particular focus on the most marginalised. We believe that achieving this goal requires transformative social change. We therefore use a human rights, justice and feminist framework to advocate and campaign for the changes in social norms, legal frameworks, policies and resource allocation required to realize our vision.

We at WGNRR have **four priority programme areas**, which we believe are priorities for WGNRR, our network members and allies:

- I. Sexual Rights for all people
- II. Sexual and Reproductive Rights of Young People
- III. Access to Contraceptives
- IV. Access to Safe and Legal Abortion

We continue to be one of the few South-based global networks that primarily works with grassroots organisations, and we are inclusive and accountable in all that we do. Strongly committed to equality for all genders, WGNRR values diversity and intersectionality. We aim to be self-reflective, and we are independent of political, governmental or religious institutions.

WGNRR has consultative status at the United Nations (ECOSOC).

For more information regarding partnerships, WGNRR's technical expertise in developing SRHR advocacy & capacity strengthening strategies, or to donate to WGNRR, contact us via: office@wgnrr.org www.wgnrr.org



BOARD AND STAFF MEMBERS

Felistah Mbithe, Kenya (Board Chair)

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Kathy Mulville, Executive Director

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Nondo Ejano, Africa Programme Coordinator





To our friends, partners, members and allies,

We are delighted to share our annual report for 2016, providing an overview of WGNRR's work over the past year. In many ways, 2016 was a year of great accomplishments for WGNRR, among them the very successful September 28 Step into Our Shoes Campaign, which reached an audience of 3 million users online; and the consolidation of WGNRR's presence in Africa with our official registration in Tanzania. We also continued to have strong engagement at the grassroots level, supporting our members and partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Tanzania, Nigeria, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Kenya, and Uganda. In the Philippines, WGNRR together with the Philippines Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN) continued to make great strides in our efforts to counter abortion stigma in the country. In partnership with our local partners at the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN), we launched a number of regional and global campaigns, while also providing support and solidarity to women's rights advocates in the region. And globally, we continued our engagement in the 2030 Agenda related processes, actively collaborating with partners to advance collective advocacy and ensure the strongest possible SRHR-related outcomes.

2016 was not without its trials; in many ways it was also a difficult year for WGNRR, with the funding landscape for global SRHR networks becoming more and more challenging, resulting in considerable uncertainty about our long term future. Despite these challenges, the WGNRR team managed to power on and continue its contributions towards national, regional, and global advocacy processes; create spaces for advocates to share experiences &

strategies to advance SRHR advocacy; and increased our provision of consultancy and technical support to other INGOs in developing advocacy and capacity building strategies. We also developed exciting new partnerships, including ones with Amplify Change and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands, and further strengthened our relationship with Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW) and the International Community of Women Living with HIV West Africa (ICW WA).

As the global geo-political context threatens to become increasingly regressive, the struggle for realizing SRHR as human rights worldwide will no doubt become even more challenging. However, we at WGNRR stand ready and committed to seeking and strengthening partnerships, and consolidating our work on advocacy, campaigning, networking and capacity building, so as to counter rising conservatism, as well as both retain and advance the significant gains in SRHR advocacy around the world. We also consider it critical that we continue to maintain our focus in advocating for even the most stigmatized SRHR issues, such as access to safe abortion services, and access to contraceptives for young women and adolescent girls. In this regard we see networking and ongoing collaboration as all the more crucial, and look forward to both building and continuing strong alliances with our partners.

In solidarity,
Kathy Mulville,
Executive Director

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

LOOKING BACK



Campaigning

4 global campaigns with an audience of over 3 million users



Sharing Resources

Videos, social media factsheets and SRHR activist colouring books that reached over 500k people



Amplifying

Capacity-Strengthening of 200+ advocates in 15 different countries



Expanding

100 new members including grassroots organizations, individual activists + 1 new officially registered office in Tanzania



Informing & Outreach

We ran 4 multilingual websites with more than 80,000 visits



Championing

Supported advocacy networks in Philippines, Thailand, Nepal, Indonesia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and DRC



Shaping Global Policy

Advocacy for SRHR at CSW, CPD the IAEG & HLPF



Increased Social Media Presence

Our Facebook audience increased from 11,816 to 14,000

GLOBAL ADVOCACY: ADVANCING SRHR THROUGH THE SDGS

Over the course of the Post-2015 Negotiation Processes, WGNRR worked tirelessly with partners to ensure the strongest possible SRHR-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2016, the first year of implementation for the 2030 Agenda, the WGNRR team continued in our collaborative efforts to action and advance these commitments, in a number of advocacy spaces.

In the lead up to the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60), WGNRR Advocacy Manager Lara Cousins participated as a **panelist in the High-Level Forum for Adolescent Girls and Agenda 2030**, focused on how investing in adolescent girls – especially in their education and SRHR – will ensure sustainable development for all. During the CSW60, as part of the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)'s delegation, WGNRR worked closely with fellow allies to monitor the negotiation processes, and remind governments of their commitments regarding the SRHR of women and girls.

As part of these efforts, we submitted a **written statement** to the Commission, and WGNRR Campaigns and Communications Officer Marisol Ruiz delivered a **joint oral statement** on behalf of WGNRR and our regional partner, the Latin



American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN). The oral statement centered around the importance of recognizing women and girls' SRHR as central to the achievement of social, environmental, and economic justice, as part of a viable, balanced and rights-based approach to sustainable development and women's empowerment.

We then participated in the third meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), held from 30 March to 1 April 2016 in Mexico City, Mexico. At the meeting, WGNRR undertook advocacy efforts with other civil society partners, regarding the targets and indicators for Goals 3, 4, and 5; as well as regarding the Metadata Compilation on Global SDG Indicators (to read joint statements, click [here](#) and [here](#)).

And in July 2016, we participated in the inaugural High Level Political Forum (HLPF) reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the HLPF,



Asia Programme Officer Marevic Parcon both coordinated with other national CSOs regarding the Philippines' Voluntary National Review; as well as with other members of the Women's Major Group, working to ensure a strong focus on intersecting issues related to women's rights. As part of these efforts, Marevic presented on a panel on the experiences of women's organizations in various national review processes leading up to the HLPF. During the Voluntary National Review presentations of the Governments of the Philippines, Togo and Estonia, Marevic also represented the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism, the Women's Major Group and Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) from Estonia, the Philippines, and Togo where she also coordinated the consolidated statement of the MGoS from the three countries.

STRONGER TOGETHER: GLOBAL NETWORKING TO ADVANCE SRHR FOR ALL



During this past year, the strengthening of alliances and partnerships remained at the core of our programmes. In January, Marevic Parcon and Nondo Ejano, our Asia and Africa Program Officers participated at the 3rd International Congress on Safe Abortion (IWAC 2016). Together, they facilitated a capacity building session for 44 SRHR defenders and service providers from 18 countries (among whom were 8 African and 8 Asian WGNRR partners). Marevic and Nondo focused on our September 28 Campaign, as well as risk assessment and security strategies and protocols for the promotion of abortion rights globally, regionally and nationally.

Soon after, Marevic participated in the first International Network for the Reduction of Abortion Discrimination and Stigma (Inroads) members' meeting, where we shared the Safe Abortion Advocacy Project Advocacy tool as a basis for discussions in a panel on "Engaging Legal, Human Rights and Policy communities in ending abortion stigma." By the end of 2016, we were selected to join Inroads+ international steering committee.

In May, our Communications and Campaigns Officer, Marisol Ruiz along with our Executive Director, Kathy Mulville, participated in the 2016 Women Deliver Global Conference held in Copenhagen. More than 5,700 policymakers, researchers, advocates, journalists and young people from 169 different countries around the world participated in the conference. WGNRR was part of a number of events, among them a panel discussion focusing on "Exporting the War on Women: U.S. Abortion Policy and its Global Impact." Together with IWHC, Change: Center for Health and Gender Equity, Advocates for Youth and Pathfinder International, we took a centre role in discussing challenges and opportunities for the U.S. domestic political landscape on abortion policy. We also participated in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Caucus hosted by our partners, Elige: Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos, A.C. and REDLAC.

Participants gathered to present a general landscape of SRHR in the region and to advance solutions for girls and women, as part of the 2030 Agenda implementation process. Marisol was one of the 5 panelists and led the call to action to visibilize women and girls' needs in the region, with a particular focus on empowerment and SRHR. You can download the Caucus' outcome document, "Pact for the empowerment, sexual rights and the sexual and reproductive health of Girls, Adolescent Girls and Young Women" [here](#). At Women Deliver, WGNRR's team was also able to host a very successful consultation event in which WGNRR members connected, strategized and provided insights from their different countries, which in turn fed our planning for the 2016 September 28 Campaign.

In July, WGNRR Advocacy Manager Lara Cousins participated in an Expert Group Meeting on the rights of women sex workers under CEDAW. Organized and convened by IWRAW Asia-Pacific, the EGM included participation from sex workers groups and individual experts on women's human rights from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Western Europe, Latin America and

North America. As WGNRR and as a member of the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRD IC), we emphasized the centrality of sex worker advocates gaining recognition as women human rights defenders (WHRDs), as one of the basic advocacy goals for advancing the rights of women sex workers.

In September, Kathy Mulville attended the 13th International AWID Forum, on "Feminist Futures: Building Collective Power for Rights and Justice," where she also attended a member meeting of the WHRD IC. At the meeting, a decision was taken that WGNRR continue to host the coalition for an additional two years, through providing financial and administrative support. As a member of the Executive Committee of the WHRDIC, WGNRR remains committed to supporting WHRDs, especially those defending SRHR. In partnership with WHRDIC, WGNRR has been working to increase awareness amongst SRHR activists of the importance of documenting threats and attacks they may face because of their work; we are also incorporating the WHRDIC documentation manual in capacity-strengthening workshops with grassroots CSOs.





CAMPAIGNING FOR OUR RIGHTS

In 2016, we continued to build on and amplify the voices of those who most lack economic, social and political power via global campaigns. For this year's September 28: Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion, we re-joined forces with Love Matters/RNW Media, in launching the "Step Into Our Shoes" Campaign. The campaign centred around individual storytelling, where we aimed to harness the power of storytelling to spur conversations, challenge gender stereotypes, and in turn counter abortion stigma. Together with Love Matters, WGNRR developed 7 videos, centering around real-life personal testimonials of women who have had an abortion – with stories from the United States, Northern Ireland, Egypt, Mexico, China, Kenya and India.. We were delighted with the outcome of this year's campaign, as we had over 200 actions in more than 50 countries around the world, and engaged with over 3 million people online! The videos also generated over half a million views in just two weeks, as well as over 4000 likes and almost 1200 shares.. Check out the full September 28 Campaign report [here!](#)





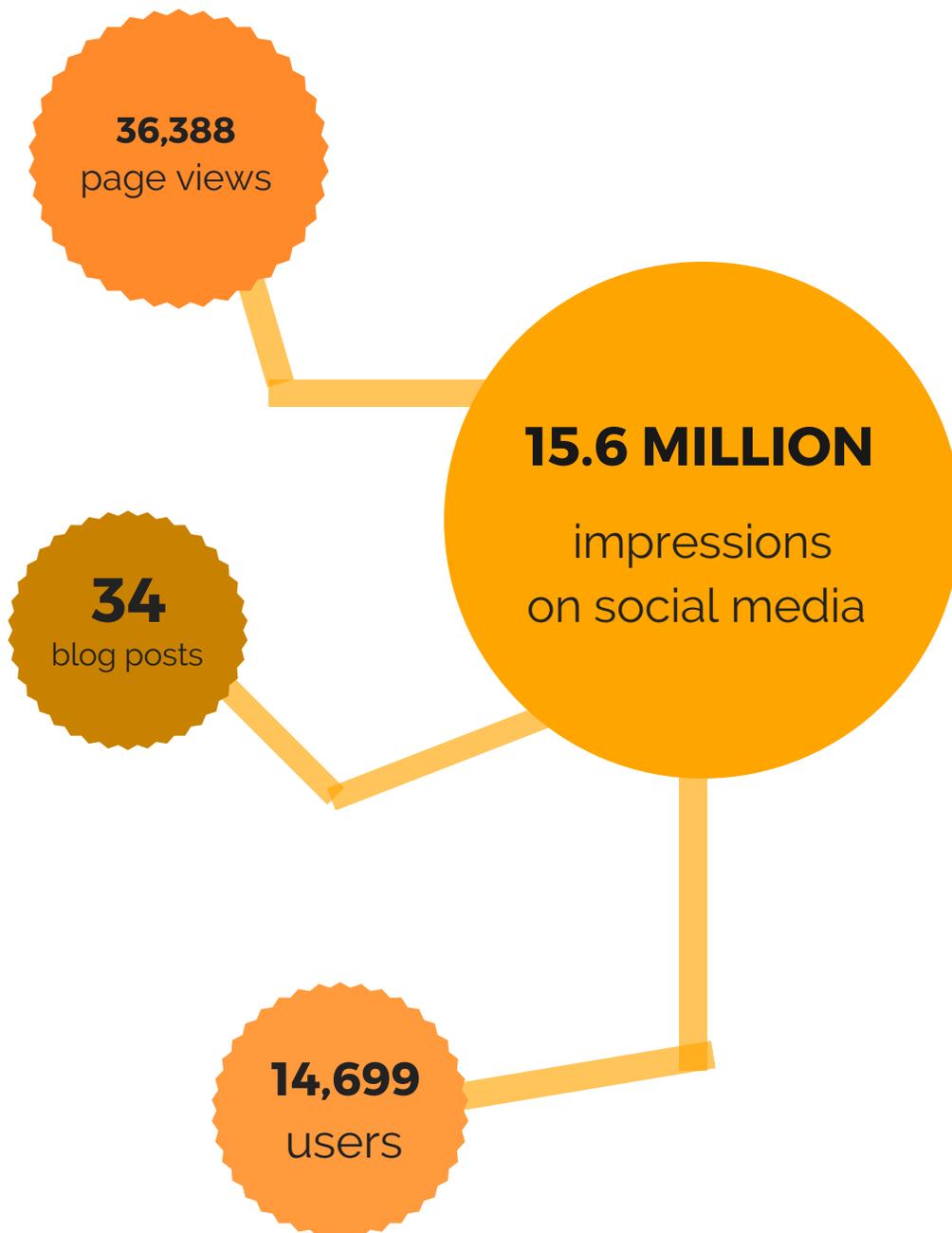
For this year's May 28, International Day of Action for Women's Health, WGNRR decided to step back and let grassroots organizations choose a thematic focus depending on the priorities of their own contexts. We supported with the creation of visual materials and sample messages for members and partners to use on social media. The response was very positive and we witnessed extensive participation with over 20 events in 18 different countries, as well as incredible online activity, including the production of over 30 articles! We are using social media to reach diverse audiences and the results are impressive. Together with campaign partners and allies, we ran a Twitter rally that reached over 1 million people across continents and time zones!

In collaboration with LACWHN, WGNRR also coordinated smaller-scale campaigns for International Youth Day on August 12th and International Day of Action to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls on November 25th. For August 12, together with youth-led & youth-serving partners we called for larger youth representation and civic engagement, with the hashtag of #YouthVoicesMatter. This year, particularly emphasized the need for governments to ensure young people's meaningful participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes affecting their lives. And for November 25, we coordinated the #StrikeTheStat campaign, where we highlighted the different types of gender-based violence still prevalent today, calling for action towards the elimination of these statistics. We also collaborated with LACWHN to honour May 17, the International Day of Action Against Homophobia Transphobia and Biphobia for which we created fun visuals and shared support messages for members to tweet during the day.



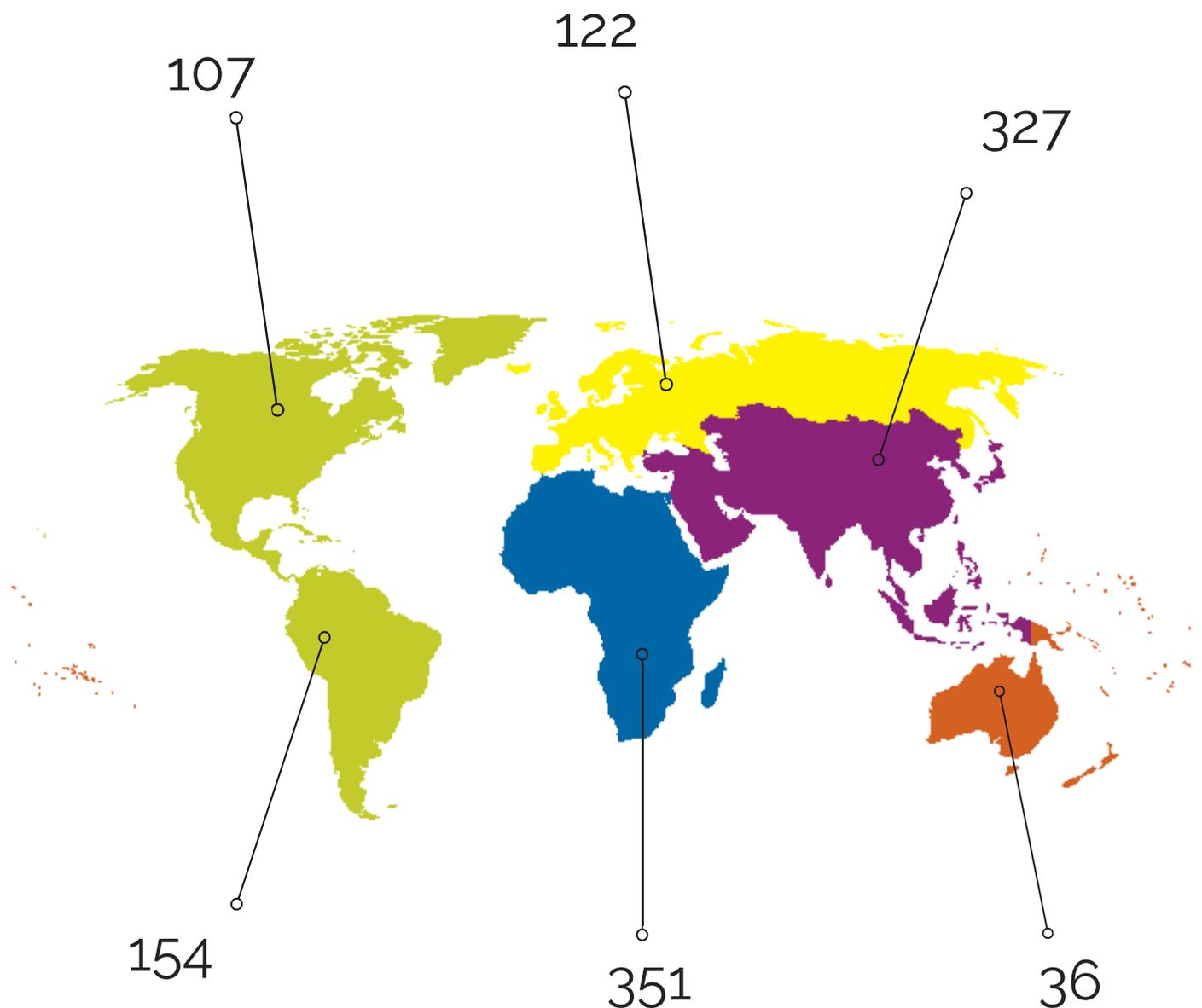
EXPANDING OUR REACH: SRHR COMMUNICATIONS

Two years after launching our interactive website and updating the member's database, WGNRR is proud to announce the following numbers



EXPANDING OUR REACH: SRHR COMMUNICATIONS

TOTAL MEMBERS PER REGION IN 2016



SPEAKING OUT FOR SRHR



Over the course of 2016, WGNRR continued to be a prominent voice speaking out on a number of SRHR issues. In Latin America and the Caribbean, in response to the 2016 outbreak of the Zika virus, WGNRR shared a powerful **statement** titled: "A Feminist Approach in responding to the Zika Virus." The joint statement was widely shared and reached an audience of 3,679 people. In the statement, WGNRR admonishes regional governments' limited public health advisories for women. After the release of our statement we were contacted by several media organizations to talk further about the issue. We also coordinated the release of a **statement** supported by over 80 partner organizations, condemning the ARENA Proposal for Longer Abortion-Related Criminal Sentences in El Salvador. As a result of many joint advocacy efforts which we supported, the proposal was never approved.



**63 STATEMENTS
SUPPORTED**

**13 STATEMENTS
PRODUCED**



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT: MAKING SURE WE ARE ALL HEARD

One of WGNRR's key programme areas consists of the recognition of young people's sexual and reproductive rights as human rights. For this, WGNRR works to strengthen, support and encourage youth leadership and activism in SRHR; support the creation of spaces where young people can meaningfully engage and voice their needs and perspectives; and facilitate intergenerational skills and knowledge sharing with partner organizations, members and allies.

In this regard, WGNRR continued to remain actively involved in the Youth Leadership Working Group (YLWG), established to ensure the inclusion of the 2012 Bali Declaration in ICPD Beyond 2014 and Post-2015 processes. As of 2015, WGNRR's Advocacy Officer was nominated by fellow members to coordinate the YLWG; over the course of 2016 WGNRR continued to co-coordinate the YLWG, working to ensure youth leadership and engagement in regional and global processes, and that youth SRHR-related priorities remain on the radar in various human rights and sustainable development advocacy spaces.

In December 2016, as part of ongoing collaboration efforts with local and regional CSOs for increased youth participation in the 2030 Agenda, WGNRR took part in the Morocco Forum for African and Arab Adolescents and Youth Driving Sustainable Development. Fellow participants included African youth activists and a couple of youth partners from Latin America, who shared their experiences regarding follow-up mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda, such as the ISO Montevideo tool.

The Forum concluded with an agreement to develop an accountability framework for two key bodies for youth rights and needs: the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development, and the Cairo Declaration on Population and Development. The other outcome of the meeting was the Marrakech Declaration on African and Arab Adolescents and Youth Driving Sustainable Development, which reaffirmed the young activists' commitment to follow the 2030 agenda implementation whilst ensuring the achievement of young people's rights and needs.

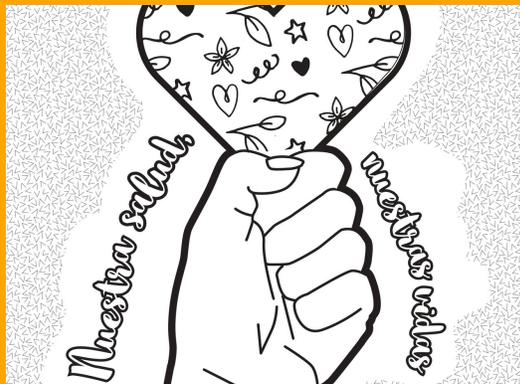
Over the years, WGNRR has developed and continues to maintain a strong global reputation as an organization that prioritizes youth leadership, long-term capacity-building and intergenerational collaboration, linking and building upon successful initiatives, and ensuring follow-up in youth advocacy strategies. WGNRR also maintains close ties with global, regional and national youth-led and youth-serving organizations such as CHOICE for Youth Sexuality, the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, ARI, Elige, Samsara, and RAHU, among others.





REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR WORK AROUND THE WORLD



HIGHLIGHTS FROM AFRICA

One of our most exciting developments over 2016 was the official establishment of our regional branch office, WGNRR Africa. In line with WGNRR's decentralization strategy, our first regional office in Africa was piloted in Tanzania, 2010. In February 2016, with a growth in membership and the institutionalization of strong relationships with national and regional networks, WGNRR formalised its presence in Tanzania, based in Dar Es Salaam.

Along with achieving this milestone, WGNRR actively worked with its strategic partners in Africa at the grassroots level, to empower its members and allies to take actions that contribute to the creation of enabling environments for women to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights. In Tanzania, WGNRR strengthened the capacity of 20 representatives of 10 CSOs regarding strategic communication in abortion advocacy. We also supported the Coalition to Address Maternal Mortality and Morbidity due to Unsafe abortion (CAMMAC) in hosting the first ever national High level advocacy meeting in Tanzania on unsafe abortion, where we stressed the urgency of updating Tanzania's national abortion laws in line with its commitments under the Maputo Protocol. At the meeting, more than 70 participants (including parliamentaries, Ministry delegates, development partners, CSOs) discussed the incidence and

consequences of maternal mortality in the country, and together came up with some concrete strategic actions to address this epidemic.

We also worked together with CAMMAC members in drafting and submitting an advocacy paper to the Universal Periodic Review, demanding the fulfillment of the country commitments toward SRHR, including safe abortion services.

In West Africa, WGNRR rejoined efforts with our close partner, ICW West Africa in the strengthening of the SHEWIH coalition, building on previous SRHR networking efforts to advance the SRHR of women living with HIV in Nigeria. As part of the activities, WGNRR's Executive Director Kathy Mulville attended an inaugural meeting in Abuja, focusing on strengthening the network's plan of action over the coming year; and supported an initial training on story and evidence-gathering, to support the coalition's advocacy and campaigning work. Through funding from Amplify Change, the SHEWIH coalition will build off and strengthen their previous work undertaken in 2014-2015 (as part of a Stop AIDS NOW!-funded project), in calling for an integrated, rights-based approach to SRHR and HIV programming and services, and respect for the SRHR of women living with HIV.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM AFRICA

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), we undertook some exciting work with our partner Love Matters (RNW), where Nondo Ejano (WGNRR Africa Regional Coordinator) and Lara Cousins (WGNRR Advocacy Manager) supported the organization and implementation of a series of 10 Focus Group Discussions with more than 80 young people in Kinshasa, DRC. Undertaken with the support of our local partner, Si Jeunesse Savait, the FGDs will inform the development of a Love Matters online platform for youth in Kinshasa, where young people can access, share, and discuss evidence and rights-based SRH information. Additionally, Nondo and Lara facilitated an advocacy planning workshop with a coalition of CSOs and INGOs in Kinshasa, to strategize and put in place an advocacy plan of action for the management of unwanted pregnancies in the DRC, from a human rights and SRHR-based approach. Together, participants (including 20 representatives from more than 8 CSOs and 4 local resource persons) reviewed the current SRHR-related context in the DRC; strengthened their capacities regarding various human rights-related frameworks for SRHR advocacy, including the DRC's commitments under the Maputo Protocol; and further refined their advocacy strategy and plan of action related to the coalition's objectives.

We also continued to provide support to the Community Health Rights Network (COHERINET) in Uganda, the WGNRR Alliance Kenya (WAK) in Kenya and the Generation Initiative for Women and Youth Network (GIWYN) in Nigeria.

Nondo also participated in a series of events, workshops and focus groups. Amongst these was the 7th Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights in Accra, Ghana where the focus was on "Realising Demographic Dividend in Africa: the critical importance of adolescents and Youth SRHR". We also supported the formation of the Africa Coalition for Safe Abortion (ACSA), a platform for national and regional CSOs and networks to advocate for access to safe and legal abortion services, in line with the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) commonly known as Maputo Protocol.

Altogether in
2016 we:

- strengthened the capacities of **140 grassroots African CSOs**,
- supported **6 national SRHR coalitions**,
- increased our regional membership from **92 people in 2010 to 292 in 2016**, with members coming from **24 African countries**.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ASIA & THE PACIFIC

2016 was a very active and eventful year for WGNRR in Asia-Pacific, at both national and regional levels. In the Philippines, we kicked off 2016 with an international exchange workshop on safe abortion advocacy held in Manila in early January, with Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN) members and partners. 28 SRHR advocates from the Philippines, staff of the Center for Reproductive Rights in Switzerland and Nepal, WGNRR staff from Mexico, and LACWHN's General Coordinator from Colombia came together to share experiences, achievements and strategies regarding safe abortion advocacy. After the international exchange, PINSAN held the very first public event on abortion in the Philippines, which consisted of an open forum on the realities of unsafe abortions for Filipino women. Over the course of 2016, the WGNRR team in Manila continued to support PINSAN

by coordinating the network and leading the development of its advocacy plans to focus on the decriminalization, demystification and de-stigmatization of abortion at national level.

Later on in the year, WGNRR's Asia Programme Officer Marevic Parcon attended the Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development, the first regional forum on sustainable development to take place following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, organized by the Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Mechanism. In this space, WGNRR played a key role in developing the Forum Statement and made inputs in the Women's Constituency Statement, with our particular contributions relating to the need for strong language on access to safe and legal abortion. Our participation in the regional forum also fed into our work undertaken at the global level during the HLPF.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM ASIA & THE PACIFIC

Marevic also participated as a facilitator for the Global Hotlines Meeting organised by Samsara Indonesia, with support from the Safe Abortion Action Fund. The meeting, attended by over 50 safe abortion hotline providers and advocates from all around the world focused on discussing challenges and good practices to ensuring access to medical abortion outside of the formal health care system. As well, we were part of the “Regional Advocacy Dialogue: Frameworks for accountability for women’s SRHR in the Sustainable Development Goals Era,” organised by ARROW on behalf of Women’s Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP) - South Asia*. The dialogue was organised to share experiences of ensuring accountability at all levels on issues of SRHR and to strategize on engagements with the Global Strategy and its accountability mechanisms.

Our regional work in the Asia-Pacific region also involved a number of capacity-building activities, including providing technical support to the Safe and Accessible Abortion Practices Project of Youth Action Nepal and the SRHR Coalition Nepal, where Marevic facilitated training sessions on SRHR and communications attended by 20 volunteers and Coalition members. We also co-organised and facilitated the Abortion Advocacy and Campaigning Linking and Learning online workshop, which centred around the management of work-related risks, with over 20 participants. We also facilitated a session on security and protection of safe abortion providers and advocates with SAAF Grantees, and altogether increased our regional membership by 275%. Last but not least, we were invited to be part of the international steering committee for the upcoming 9th Asia-Pacific RSHR Conference in Vietnam in November 2017. Our presence in the steering committee ensured that abortion topics are included in the programme of the conference.



*The Women’s Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP)-South Asia, is an international partnership with a regional voice that brings together women-led organisations and other civil society actors for evidence based advocacy on SRHR. Over the last 13 years, WHRAP-South Asia has facilitated and contributed to processes aimed at improving the quality of life of marginalised women in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan through empowerment, strengthening civil society engagement and public support leading to better accountability for health governance.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



In Latin America and the Caribbean, WGNRR supported campaigns and grassroots activism, in collaboration with our regional partner LACWHN. Specifically, this year WGNRR's advocacy efforts in the region were focused on the decriminalization of abortion, LGBTQI inclusion, and WHRDs' safety in countries such as El Salvador, Honduras and the Dominican Republic; as these countries not only have restrictive abortion legislations but also prohibitive environments for activists and WHRDs to undertake their important work.

In El Salvador, we continued to collaborate with our partners la Agrupación Ciudadana por la Despenalización del Aborto, in the fight to ensure that abortion is decriminalized in the country, and that El Salvador upholds its commitments under international and regional human rights law. In May, we celebrated the huge victory in the release of Maria Teresa, one of the women known as "Las 17," who have been wrongfully imprisoned on suspicion of having an abortion. Her release triggered a series of attempts by anti-choice

conservatives to both reverse her release, as well as reinforce and even exacerbate the total ban on abortion in the country. As such, and in collaboration with la Agrupacion, WGNRR coordinated global responses to garner support both for retaining Maria Teresa's release, and to end the total abortion ban, which together reached over 4000 people.

In Honduras, WGNRR condemned the murder of Paola Barraza, a trans human rights activist who had suffered threats and humiliations because of the nature of her work that eventually led to her wrongful death. We thus urged the government of Honduras to take immediate action to protect the human rights of all LGBTQI activists and WHRDs in the country. We also condemned the murder of Berta Cáceres, a widely-renowned feminist Honduran advocate for indigenous rights and environmental justice, and in March 2016 joined hundreds of voices at CSW60 calling for justice for Berta, in front of the Honduran Embassy in New York.*



It was recently announced that the company in charge of the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project, which was opposed by Berta, officially suspended the construction on the Gualcarque river. For more information: https://www.banktrack.org/project/agua_zarca_dam

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



This year, we also joined our partners across the region in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Magaly Pineda, one of the greatest feminist figures in Latin America. Magaly Pineda impacted the lives of millions and was a source of encouragement and inspiration for feminists of all ages. At WGNRR we cherish the wonderful joint efforts we made with Magaly, as she was passionate about making ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) accessible for girls and women, and she was always promoting the use of ICTs for gender equality. In the Dominican Republic, her native country, she will forever be remembered as the “mother of feminism.”

It was precisely in Magaly’s native country where WGNRR had to mobilize in July, releasing a statement that condemned the Dominican Republic’s Chamber of Deputies’ vote to uphold the country’s total ban on abortion. The Dominican Republic’s President, Daniel Medina Sánchez, introduced the amendment in 2014, a laudable attempt to decriminalize abortion in the cases of rape or incest; if the pregnancy poses a risk to a woman’s or girl’s health or life; or in cases where a fetus would be unable to survive outside the womb. Yet on July 19, 2016, the Chamber of Deputies adopted the deplorable New Penal Code which sets out a sentence of two to three years of prison for women who have an abortion or for persons who assist an abortion; four to ten years of

prison for medical personnel who provide abortions, and which completely eliminates the 2014 proposed amendment. We at WGNRR will thus continue to stand in solidarity with SRHR advocates and WHRDs in the Dominican Republic who undertake the important work of advocating for women’s access to safe and legal abortion, so that all Dominican women can live a life free from all forms of violence and discrimination.

Further to this, 2016 was a busy year for WGNRR in Latin America and the Caribbean, where we collaborated in a number of spaces with LACWHN, such as the 36th Session of ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) in Mexico City. The regional forum on economic and social development was an important networking space, where we strengthened our partnerships with regional SRHR actors and explored potential future collaborations. WGNRR also continued our role in harmonizing the global and regional September 28th activities in LAC, resulting in successful events in 14 countries. We also increased our regional membership from 250 to 467 over the last 12 months and signed over 20 regional statements supporting the decriminalization of abortion in the different countries and urging compliance with international agreements.

FUNDERS & PARTNERS

WE WISH TO THANK ALL OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED COLLABORATION AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR SUPPORT IN ENABLING WGNRR TO CARRY OUT ITS ACTIVITIES, AND WE WANT TO THANK MEMBERS FOR BEING THE REASON, INSPIRATION AND MOTIVATION FOR THE WORK THAT WE DO.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



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