



WOMEN'S
GLOBAL NETWORK
FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

WGNRR



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



www.wgnrr.org

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Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights

With stringent and devastating rollbacks affecting the SRHR movement globally, the need for collective action and resistance is at an all-time high. At present, WGNRR does not receive financial support or funding for our global reproductive justice campaigning. In order to continue our global campaigning, we need your support! Please donate and help us fund-raise for future global initiatives, and to sustain our work. <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/srhr-advocacy-globally/>

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ABOUT

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

International Board Members

Felistah Mbithe, Kenya (Board Chair)
Jeanette Sloombeek, The Netherlands
Nirvana González Rosa, Puerto Rico
Kathy Mulville, UK/Philippines

WGNRR Africa Board

Martha J. Ibrahim, Tanzania (Board Chair)
Easter Mwanjesa, Tanzania
Jeannette Sloombeek, The Netherlands
Elinaquenit R. Mushi, Tanzania
Eunice Maringo, Tanzania



Lara Cousins, Interim Executive Director
(January-June)
Marevic Parcon, Interim Executive Director
(July-December)

PROGRAMME TEAM

Philippine Coordination Office

Marevic Parcon, Asia Regional Coordinator
Maria C. Ritual-Penaverde, Operations Manager
Benily Valerio-Dimabuyu, Finance Manager
Christelyn Sibugon, Project Manager
Sarah Jane Biton, Project Officer
Joralen Wenceslao, Operations Officer
Abigail Roa-Matres, Part-time Research Assistant
Precy Ob-jaan, IT Consultant
Ron Villegas, Website Management Consultant
Andrea Fullido, Intern
Research Consultants:
Ladylyn Mangada
Romeo Marcaida, RN
Ma. Dulce Natividas, PHD
Cielito Perez
Rosario Bella Guzman
Elaiisa Marina Mendoza



Mexico-based staff

Marisol Ruiz, Communications and Campaigns
Coordinator

Tanzania Office

Nondo Ejano, Africa Regional Coordinator
Dorice Tesha, Advocacy Officer
Catherine Swai, Finance Officer
Gillian Carter, Communication Consultant
Millicent Knopp, Programme Associate
Hilda Stuart Dadu, Programme Associate
Numbilya Kiseko, Programme Associate





Dear friends, partners, allies and members,

2018 has been an exciting yet challenging year at WGNRR. We implemented a transition plan to address the urgent organisational matters such as hiring of a new Executive Director, fund-raising and recruitment of new board members while we also continued our programmatic work and commitments. We welcomed Kathy Mulville into the Board. Lara Cousins and Marevic Parcon served as Interim Executive Director for the year.

This report highlights key achievements of WGNRR in 2018.

We thank you for your support to the network!



WGNRR Team





SAVE THE DATE

28 MAY 2018

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

#OURHEALTHOURRIGHTS
#WOMENSHEALTHMATTERS
WWW.MAY28.ORG



**Campaigning for
Our Rights**

For this year's Global Campaigns, May 28 International Day of Action for Women's Health and the September 28: International Safe Abortion Day, formerly known as the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion, has been celebrated by women's rights activists all over the world. This year members and partners participated in diverse and creative ways. We were delighted with the outcome of the campaigns, as we had over 400 actions in more than 85 countries around the world, and engaged with over 12.2 million people online!

**DIVERSE ACTIONS,
DIFFERENT PLACES,
ONE DEMAND:
ACCESS TO
SAFE & LEGAL
ABORTION
NOW!**

**NO MORE SMOKESCREENS,
NO MORE LABELS,
NO MORE CODES**

28 SEPTEMBER
INTERNATIONAL SAFE
ABORTION DAY

ACCESSIBLE, LEGAL AND SAFE ABORTION

**#LET'S TALK
ABORTION**



OUR HEALTH OUR RIGHTS, OUR LIVES.

WWW.MAY28.ORG



May 28 has been celebrated for over thirty years by women's rights activists all over the world. This year members and partners participated in diverse and creative ways to both commemorate the day.



A number of SRHR activists and campaigners joined WGNRR and the Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN) on May 28 Day of Action for a special screening of Motherland Film and forum on Filipino Women's SRHR: Current State and Pressing Issues.



On May 28th WGNRR co-hosted a Twitter chat with Athena Network which addressed girls' health called #WhatGirlsWant. It was a huge success by all means, by the time we were wrapping up, we had approximately over 100 participants, slightly over a million impressions and 525 tweets! We're delighted to be creating dialogue with other SRHR allies online!

In Nepal, an event held saw a participation from civil society, government representatives and women from slums, women working in entertainment sector and women with disabilities. The program was jointly organized by WOREC Nepal, National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders, Nepal Disabled Women Association, WOFOWON and Mahila Ekata Samaj. Honorable Minister Tham Maya Thapa, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen showed her commitment to adopt gender friendly policies and program and ensure its implementation at local level.



In Guatemala, Coordinadora 28 de Mayo hosted a press conference which looked to address the SRHR landscape in Guatemala. The event addressed the government's commitment to realizing sexual and reproductive rights as well as discussing the rates of maternal mortality and morbidity as a result of poor access to SRHR. WGNRR is delighted to see such diverse and important discussions happening on #May28.

SEPTEMBER 28

#LETSTALKABORTION

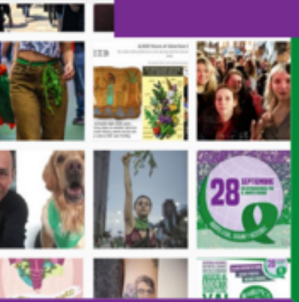
IN NUMBERS!

OFFLINE ACTIONS

400 actions!
In 85+ countries!



SOCIAL MEDIA



3,368 #letstalkabortion posts in Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.
Estimated reach: 12.2 million users!

TRADITIONAL MEDIA

30 articles in different news sources!



WEBSITE



15k visits!
3500 downloads!

In 2018, WGNRR, the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion, Campaña Nacional por el Derecho al Aborto Legal y Gratuito, ASAP and ARROW, joined forces and created the "28 September Working Group" to coordinate campaign activities and launch a cohesive name and hashtag.

The activities that took place in 2018 stimulated and generated support for ongoing campaigns in countries where women are still endangered by unsafe abortion, threatened with criminal punishment, and subject to stigma in the absence of progressive laws and services that recognise safe abortion as a public health necessity and a fundamental human right.



Drawing on the previous years' successes, this year we witnessed once more a wide and growing range of mobilisations, including "green wave" rallies all over the world, marches, conferences, cultural performances, focus groups, dialogues and a huge social media mobilisation throughout the month of September, peaking towards September 28.

The social media outreach counted in millions of on-line users participating in on-line discussions with the hashtags #LetsTalkAbortion, #Sept28, and #28S. We can successfully report that the number of activities in the participating countries and among the international NGOs involved in the Campaign has grown, and their impact is greater.

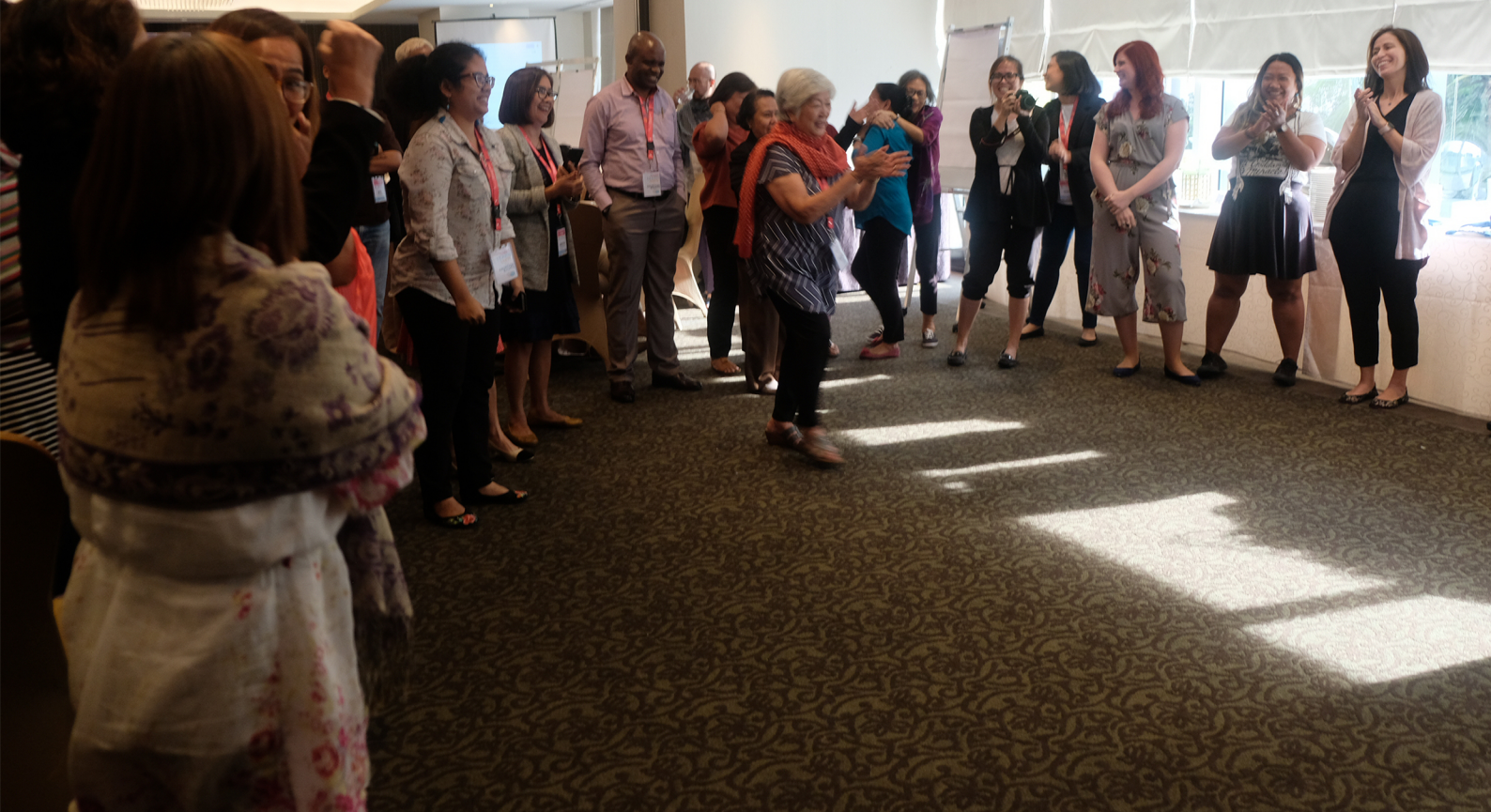
In collaboration, we created more than 20 posters, illustrations and visual materials together with feminist artists @liberaljane and @roferrer. We also translated all of the materials into French, Spanish and Portuguese.

The day has become a widely and internationally recognised day and it's impact in social media has been the greatest yet. We have seen more reports of these activities, and more reports of and visual materials together with feminist artists @liberaljane and @roferrer. We also translated all of the materials into French, Spanish and Portuguese.

The day has become a widely and internationally recognised day and it's impact in social media has been the greatest yet. We have seen more reports of these activities, and more reports of publicly important speeches being made, reported in national newspaper articles and in the visual media too. The September 28 website <http://www.september28.org/> as it has in the past years, served as a central platform for sharing resources, collecting information on international actions and joint on-line mobilisations. We also conducted 2 very successful webinars under the theme: "Normalise abortion: It's part of our lives" where we had the participation of more than 50 abortion rights activists from all over the world. The first webinar was in collaboration with RHRN and with a special focus on the Africa region, and the second webinar was held in collaboration with Inroads, and was a great conversation with activists from all over the world regarding their activities on normalising abortion.

Members have reported actions in more than 85 different countries, and we are still receiving activity reports and photos.

Overall the September 28 Campaign was a great success in raising awareness, continuing the conversation and normalising abortion around the world. Testament of this were the numerous marches and rallies held around the world with activists wearing green scarves. Hopefully the momentum will continue and next year's campaign will be even stronger. We want to give a special thanks to the great partners and members that collaborated with us during this campaign process.



NETWORKING TO ADVANCE SRHR FOR ALL

During this past year, the strengthening of alliances and partnerships remained at the core of our programmes. In March, Asia Project Coordinator, Christelyn Sibugon, delivered an oral statement in behalf of WGNRR at the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW), calling on member states to recognize rural women and girls' sexual and reproductive rights including right to access safe and legal abortion as central to the achievement of social, environmental, and economic justice. Soon after, Marevic Parcon, participated in the 2nd International Gathering of the International Network for the Reduction of Abortion Discrimination and Stigma (Inroads) in Zagreb, Croatia, where she co-facilitated a plenary session on movement building for abortion rights. More than 100 abortion rights activists from different countries around the world participated in the gathering.

In April, Marevic Parcon, participated in the CSO Session of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in where she had a presentation on SRHR realities of marginalized women. In May, Marevic and Christelyn participated the inaugural meeting of ARROW and RFSU to establish "Claiming the Right to Abortion" partnership in Asia. The partnership gathered together SRHR and safe abortion rights advocates from Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, Philippines, and Nepal.

In July, Marevic Parcon and the Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN) members Clara Rita Padilla (Engenderights) and Jihan Jacob (Center for Reproductive Rights) had a productive meeting with the CEDAW experts in Geneva, Switzerland on the persistent reproductive rights issues in the Philippines. The experts gave a warm encouraging applause for their long-standing advocacy work on reproductive right in the Philippines including decriminalization of abortion. During the same trip to Geneva, Marevic and PINSAN had a



a presentation with WHO staff and officials on burning reproductive rights issues in the Philippines.



In August, WGNRR coordinated PINSAN's 2nd International Exchange in Manila. The three-day event was participated by safe and legal abortion experts from Puerto Rico, Tanzania, Indonesia, Poland (via Skype). The co-chair of the Abortion Rights Campaign in Ireland, which recently won in the campaign to repeal the anti-abortion clause in their constitution, was also present and shared their successful strategies during the event. The international experts together with around 70 local RH and safe abortion advocates had an interactive 3-day learning sessions involving talks, workshops, focus group discussions, and community film-screening and forum. At the end of the 3-day event, the participants agreed to work on safe abortion advocacy in the Philippines and to align our work with the global movement to promote and advance the right to safe and legal abortion. During the event, we also invited government officials and members of the media for a sharing of local context of abortion and the comparative experience in Latin America and Ireland. Irish and Puerto Rican visitors shared their experiences on how they succeeded in changing laws in their country. A networking and solidarity night was also held where the International Exchange participants had an opportunity to meet with members of the diplomatic community and government officials. A unity statement was agreed upon to continue the conversation and advocating for safe and legal abortion.



In September, Marevic Parcon attended the International Safe Abortion Conference in Lisbon, Portugal where over 100 activists from about 60 countries participated. In November, Marevic participated in the 2018 EuroNGOs Conference titled "Act on Hope. How the European SRHR community can help unlock rights and care for all" took place in Gent (Belgium) on 6-7 November 2018. During the conference, many movements and organisations came together to discuss how reproductive and sexual justice is linked with understanding and overcoming other forms of structural oppressions that pose a threat to democracy as well as prevent the meaningful exercise of political, social, cultural and economic rights of women and marginalized groups, in particular. The two-day dialogue allowed participants to identify the ways in which the SRHR community can work together within human rights groups and other actors with linking interests such as LGBT, Disability or Migration movements.





WGNRR Manila Coordination Office and WGNRR Africa





Since its legal establishment in Tanzania, WGNRR Africa keeps growing and playing significant role in ensuring that efforts Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) aimed at advancing SRHR) are strengthened, coordinate sustained. In 2018 WGNRR Africa supported and was present in different networking spaces both nationally, regionally and internationally connecting members, partners and allies and promoting leaning and sharing among them. We also strengthened capacity of grassroots women communities to champion the right-based and women-centered advocacy for holistic empowerment of women and girls; mobilized members/partners and allies to take specific actions for women's sexual and reproductive health right including the right to access contraceptive methods and safe and legal abortion services and information; and we also strengthened our internal management capacity.

ACTIVITIES IN 2018

1. Movement Building & Networking

WGNRR AFRICA united local grassroots Civil Society organizations in Tanzania and Ghana where community voices were integrated into national policy level advocacy. In both countries the advocacy efforts aimed at ensuring that no women are dying from unsafe abortion and that all women have the social, political and economic power and resources to make autonomous decisions about their gender, sexuality and when, whether and how many children to have. In both countries we enhanced partnerships and alliances between community groups and national organizations/networks in order strengthen national movements and better coordinate national actions.

Also WGNRR Africa enhanced partnerships with national, regional an international organizations /networks at the same time strengthening relationships for regional and global actions.

2. Grassroots Capacity Strengthening

Most of our membership is grassroots based and often lack capacity and resources to fulfill their mission. WGNRR Africa has built capacity of its members and partners in Tanzania to develop advocacy and stigma reduction strategies and workplan to both challenge discriminatory laws and address social stigma and discrimination faced by women who seek and providers who offer SRHR services. They were also supported in implementing, monitoring and evaluating their workplans and given resources to do so.



3. Advocacy and Campaigning

Together with our members and allies we ensured that key influencers are informed about the SRHR realities of grassroots women and girls communities and in turn inform communities that SRHR are human rights.

We supported our members and partners to address stigma around highly tabooed and neglected SRHR topics such as abortion, menstrual health and access to contraceptives for girls and unmarried women. We developed and shared tools with our member for clarifying values on most stigmatized issues for attitude transformation.

4. Internal Capacity strengthening

A particular attention was also given to address challenges that affected negatively the operationalization of our annual plan. In two previous years, we faced considerable shortage in terms of limited funds and limited staffing that consequently limited our delivery capacity.

In 2018, our funding landscape has considerably improved comparatively to the two past year, the number of staff increased although we still relied on support of volunteers and back support from WGNRR Global. This has resulted into the improvement of our delivery capacity and the effective implementation of our annual plan.

In the course of 2018 WGNRR Africa has grown both in management and effectiveness. In term of management, the organization held its first ever face-to-face board meeting involving all Africa board members, the Executive Director, the Finance Manager, and the Africa team of staff. Through this meeting important decisions on the management of the organization have been taken.

In terms of staffing, WGNRR Africa has completed the recruitment of his first ever Africa Finance officer. This has increased our capacity in financial management from Africa with support from the Manila Coordination Office. Due to this development, the board of WGNRR Africa has decided that the organization annual audit of WGNRR Africa shall be done separately from the global audit and this shall be done from Tanzania instead of Manila/Philippines. Also we have been able to fill the gap left by the advocacy and communication consultant who went to continue her studies through the recruitment of a volunteerto support the advocacy and communication work.

WGNRR Coordination Office in Manila as the fiscal sponsor and secretariat of PINSAN coordinated various events in 2018, among them was the 2nd International Exchange which was participated by 70 advocates from six countries and major campaign activities that were participated by over 500 individuals. We also continued our strong engagement at the grassroots level, supporting our youth members, and conducted several highly attended community-based activities. We've made a number of activities in schools, with medical and legal associations, and with legislators. The media, both local and international, sought WGNRR and PINSAN's opinion on abortion related issues.

In 2018, WGNRR developed a national baseline study report on the status of SRHR in the Philippines. The study was supported by ARROW through 'Claiming the right to safe abortion: Strategic Partnership in Asia'. Funded by RFSU, the project aimed at facilitating and strengthening capacities to improve engagement and ensure rights around access to safe abortion services across five countries in Asia. The initiative is implemented in five countries in the South Asian and South-East Asian regions namely, Bangladesh (Naripokkho), India (CommonHealth), Nepal (Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC)), Cambodia (Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC)), and the Philippines (Women's Global Network on Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) – Asia and the Pacific) with ARROW partners.

WGNRR Coordination Office continue to host Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRDIC), 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.

WGNRR Coordination Office implemented the transition plan to address urgent matters at WGNRR including staffing, board and ED recruitment, and fundraising. Despite the challenges that the Coordination Office faced in 2018, we continued our work nationally, regionally and internationally in changing the narratives on abortion; we continued to create spaces to share thoughts and experiences on abortion; and it increased its capacity to advance abortion rights.

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.



AMPLIFYCHANGE



To donate to WGNRR, you can contact us via our email at: office@wgnrr.org or go to <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/srhr-advocacy-globally/>