



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

This Terms of Reference is for a consultancy for the development of a regional analysis on SRHR

*for*

**Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA)**

Deadline for submission: 10 December 2019

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA), under the umbrella of Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT), mobilizes civil society advocacy across the region to hold governments and other stakeholders accountable for their obligations and commitments to realize the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of all persons in Asia and the Pacific

This consultancy is intended to support APA's advocacy work in the Asia Pacific region. The objective of the consultancy is to develop a regional analysis focusing on sexual rights in Asia and the Pacific and to highlight the voices of marginalized groups, for use as an advocacy tool for APA Coordinating Office, network members and potential members to undertake rights-based advocacy with key government representatives, policy makers and other stakeholders.

The analysis is intended to hone in on key SRHR issues for the region by highlighting neglected areas, such as comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), access to safe and legal abortion, eliminating discrimination on the basis of SOGIESC, and the right to a pleasurable sex life.

### 2. BACKGROUND

Advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is essential for achieving sustainable development. In order to realize SRHR for all in Asia Pacific, governments must look beyond health services, and address the laws, policies and norms that influence gender equality and empowerment, and address the stigma and discrimination present in health, education, the economy, and politics.

SRHR are covered in a number of international binding legal agreements such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), amongst others, with policy directions provided

in international consensus documents such as International Conference on Population Development (ICPD) Programme for Action (PoA), the Beijing Platform for Action, and Agenda 2030. However, the main aspects of SRHR that are covered by these documents are sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and reproductive rights (RR), sexual rights are omitted by a large part.

In Asia Pacific, there is also regional level policy guidance for advancing SRHR<sup>1</sup>. The 2013 Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development and the 2014 Asia Pacific Declaration on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment both include SRHR. The 2013 APMDPD framework in particular sets regional priorities for ICPD and goes further than the global level by including aspects of sexual rights such as eliminating violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ, and access to CSE and the sexuality of young people. Governments in Asia Pacific have agreed to a monitoring framework for the APMDPD which is currently being finalized, in a huge step forward for the region. The regional monitoring framework, which is linked to Agenda 2030, is still unlikely to address the more contested areas of SRHR.

Yet, sexual rights, and more broadly sexuality, are the areas of SRHR that most need to be addressed and championed<sup>2</sup>. Issues such as comprehensive sexuality education, the right to a pleasurable sex life, and to express sexual orientation and gender identity /expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) free from discrimination and coercion, as well as access to safe and legal abortion are still either minimally addressed or left out altogether from international agreements. When SRHR is included in development frameworks, the indicators to measure progress lack specificity.

The dearth of commitments specifically on sexual rights issues, combined with lack of monitoring framework that addresses these issues, leads to an SRHR deficit in the region of Asia and the Pacific. It creates challenges to holding states accountable for the implementation of commitments that have been made, makes it difficult to identify gaps in implementation, as well as having a lack of evidence needed to advocate for stronger commitments related to sexual rights. And where strong policy frameworks are in place it is difficult to assess their impact on the lived in lives of marginalized groups.

This project aims to contribute to a gap in knowledge and provide evidence for advocacy by developing a regional analysis of sexual rights in Asia Pacific for publication. The knowledge should be gathered and presented from a civil society perspective.

This project also aims to gather evidence that can be of use to those that are most affected by SRHR violations – such as people of diverse SOGIESC, women and girls, young people and adolescents, sex workers, people living with HIV, migrants, people who use drugs, people with disabilities, amongst others. All experience discrimination and face barriers to the fulfillment of sexual rights, though they may experience them differently due to intersecting and overlapping forms of discrimination.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: in Asia Pacific there is no regional human rights mechanism. There is a sub-regional body - the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

<sup>2</sup> While there is no internationally consensus agreement on the definition of these terms, for the purposes of this TOR APA considers the components of sexual rights as laid out in the 2018 'Accelerate progress—sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: report of the Guttmacher–Lancet Commission' (see The Lancet Vol 391 June 30, 2018, p.2645); and the working definition of sexuality proposed by WHO, available at [https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual\\_health/sh\\_definitions/en/](https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual_health/sh_definitions/en/)

### **3. SCOPE OF WORK**

The goal of this regional publication is to address a gap in sexual rights knowledge by collating data and presenting an analysis of the current situation of sexual rights in the region of Asia Pacific, and to cover neglected areas of SRHR, such as: CSE and sexuality of young people, access to safe and legal abortion, eliminating discrimination on the basis of SOGIESC, and the right to a pleasurable sex life.

A participatory methodology should be proposed to engage with members of the APA alliance, and partners and extended networks through the development of the publication to gather and verify evidence. The consultant will identify /acknowledge gaps in data and propose alternatives.

This publication has two main objectives:

- To produce a regional analysis of the current context of sexual rights in Asia and the Pacific using agreed upon indicators and a participatory process with APA members and extended networks
- To highlight the voice of marginalized groups through selected case studies

### **3. DELIVERABLES**

- Inception report within a week of contract with proposed method, timeline and detailed deliverable.
- Regional assessment of sexual rights in Asia and the Pacific.

### **4. TIMEFRAME**

- A maximum of 30 working days, expected to commence in December 2019 or as soon as possible.

### **5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Prepare inception report including methodology and timeline to deliver first and final draft of publication;
- Plan a participatory method of analysis to engage with members of the APA network, our partners and relevant stakeholders as part of the process;
- Coordinate with APA to develop and finalize inception report and draft findings;
- Conduct a literature review, collect data and information and prepare case studies relevant for this regional publication;
- Identify or acknowledge gaps in data and provide alternative.

### **6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Location: flexible
- Travel: no travel expected

## 7. REQUIRED SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

The candidate(s) should bring to the position:

- A minimum of 5-10 years of experience in primary and secondary data analysis and monitoring of commitments/indicators (qualitative and quantitative). Experience in the sector of SRHR is preferable.
- In-depth knowledge on SRHR, preferably in the context of Asia Pacific, including the ICPD and relevant human rights mechanisms;
- Strong written and interpersonal communications skills in English;
- Experience in advocacy and/or with community-based organizations in Asia and the Pacific is a strong asset. Strong profile of networking in Asia and the Pacific is preferable.

If interested, please send the following to [join@asiapacificalliance.org](mailto:join@asiapacificalliance.org) with "SRHR consultancy" in the header:

- A Cover Letter and Curriculum Vitae outlining previous experience and including two recent references;
- Technical and financial proposal (including proposed methodology and justification of daily rate).

**Deadline for applications: 10 December 2019**