



Regional Gender Justice & Sexual Rights (REGENERATE), the Platform, launched to champion and advance gender justice and sexual rights in Asia-Pacific!

We are immensely proud to announce the launch of the **Regional Gender Justice & Sexual Rights (REGENERATE) Platform** for the Asia-Pacific region.

REGENERATE, the Platform, is a solidarity building, cross-learning, and advocacy space for Asia-Pacific community and civil society organisations and networks committed to working together to promote, advance, defend, and protect gender justice and sexual rights, particularly of key affected women and girls (KAWGs) and people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) to HIV, TB, and malaria and broader health issues.



The Platform had its inaugural convening recently in Bangkok. It was a momentous moment as it brought together country and regional partners working on and are dedicated to advancing gender justice and sexual rights (GJSR) to agree and build solidarity on the Platform's vision and mission, identify regional priority advocacy issues and interventions for the Platform and to co-create the Platform's ways of working. The convening was attended by regional partners including International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPFSEAOR), Youth Voices Count (YVC), International Community of Women Living with HIV Asia & Pacific (ICWAP),

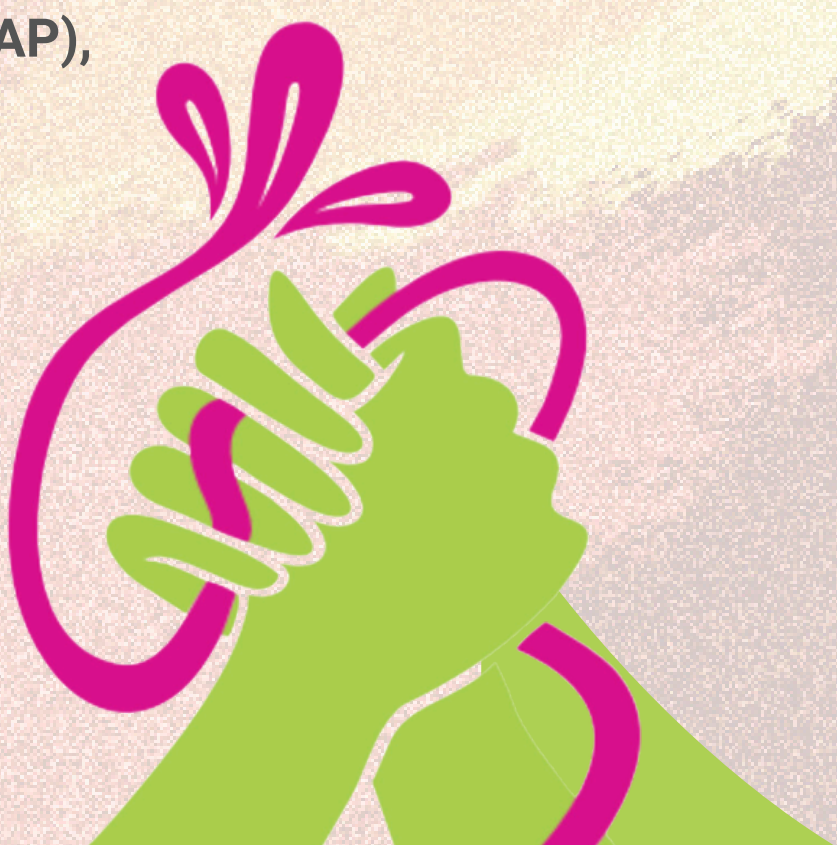
Asia Pacific Alliance (APA), Pacific Sexual & Gender Diversity Network (PSGDN), ASTRAEA Lesbian Foundation for Justice and country partners from Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Viet Nam, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.



The need for a Platform stemmed from the realization that gender and SOGIESC issues are often neglected in health systems, yet health systems are not gender-or SOGIESC-neutral. Gender inequality, gender-and SOGIESC-based discrimination and violence pervade and continue to cause a disproportionate impact to the health of women and people of diverse sexuality in the region. In Asia-Pacific, women and girls and people of diverse sexuality remain disproportionately affected by HIV, TB, and malaria and yet continue to not get the deserved political support or investments. Even within community systems strengthening (CSS) and community, rights, and gender (CRG) interventions, investments to support the mobilisation and empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity in the context of the three diseases, or to promote gender transformation in societies, or to address SOGIESC issues, are severely lacking.

“ One individual cannot possibly make a difference, alone. It is individual efforts, collectively, that makes a noticeable difference-all the difference in the world! ”

- Jane Goodall -





The **REGENERATE Platform** is committed to building a movement in the region that will work together towards the below key identified focus areas:

1. **Equitable access of KAWGs and people of diverse sexuality to HIV, TB, malaria and broader health (including mental health) and related services, information, and education.**
2. **Enabling environment and safe spaces for KAWGs and people of diverse sexuality to leadership and meaningful engagement in all levels of planning, framework-development, decision-making, budgeting, review and monitoring spaces and processes in health response.**
3. **Critical and affective understanding, internalisation, and support for GJSR among duty-bearers, technical and development partners, opinion leaders and influencers, religious hierarchy, and country and regional civil society and community organisations of or serving KAWGs and people of diverse sexuality.**
4. **Countering the growing anti-rights, anti-choice and anti-gender movements that are influencing health and related laws, policies, frameworks, funding, and programme implementation.**

As a movement, **we envision a safe, just, equal, and inclusive world for KAWGs and people of diverse sexuality.** This world celebrates diversity; respects and fulfils sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including the right of individuals to sexual pleasure, bodily autonomy, agency, integrity and self determination, and freedom to choose who to love; and supports the self-care and well-being of gender justice and sexual rights advocate and activist individuals, communities, organisations, and networks – all in harmony with the health and wellbeing of the planet and all life forms in it, in line with the One Health approach.¹

The platform is a component of the **REGENERATE Initiative**,² a civil society capacity-development, movement-building, and advocacy project that aims to address the long standing gaps around gender and sexuality in health policies and services related to HIV, TB, and malaria in the Asia-Pacific region. The initiative is funded by L'Initiative and Expertise France with APCASO as the regional partner and KHANA, Cambodia; SWING, Thailand and SCDI, Vietnam as country partners.

¹ One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, and the wider environment are closely linked and interdependent. World Health Organization (WHO).

² <https://apcaso.org/regenerate-project-brief/>

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