2020 Youth Coalition Watchdog On Safe Abortion: Call For Submissions

28th September marks the International Safe Abortion Day. This date is marked by activists all over the world to mark the victories and struggles of granting safe and legal abortion to every person worldwide.

The Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights is marking the fight for safe abortion by launching a safe abortion campaign all through the month of September. As a part of this campaign, we are launching the YC Watchdog – a publication featuring art, writing and media by young people around the world on the topic of safe abortion!

The global pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in access to healthcare and education, and safe abortion access has been severely affected. While people are struggling to access abortion care safely and privately, lawmakers in many parts of the world have used the pandemic as an opportunity to pass laws tightening restrictions to abortion care.

If you are a young person under the age of 30 raising your voice for the right to choose with original artwork or writing about the right to safe abortion in your region, send in your submissions by 16 September 2020.

Submit Your Art and Writing

The YCSRR is calling on all young people under 30 years old to submit original content – artwork (posters, infographics, pictures, postcards, videos, etc.) and original writing (articles, stories, poetry) on the theme of “Safe Abortion For All” for the 28 September 2020 Abortion Rights Watchdog publication!

Selected artistic submissions will also be featured on the YCSRR website and used during the YCSRR social media campaign around 28 September.

Suggested submission subtopics include (but are not limited to):

- Abortion access during Covid-19 – with specific local, regional or national focus.
● Abortion laws and policies and impact of Covid – with specific national, regional or global focus.
● The Global Gag rule and what it means for abortion rights globally
● The abortion rights of youth and adolescents (as compared to adults, e.g. legal ramifications, parental consent laws)
● The intersection of abortion rights and sex worker rights
● The intersection of abortion rights and disability rights
● The intersection of abortion rights and LGBTIQ rights
● Overcoming self-stigma, family stigma, and societal stigma
● Lived Experiences of abortion care providers, doulas or those involved in abortion access services
● Access to abortion in humanitarian and crisis settings
● Lived experiences of accessing abortion services during the pandemic
● Abortion rights advocacy in your country, at regional or global level

Each participant can submit up to three original submissions.

● The format of image files must be JPG.
● Videos must be pre-uploaded to a platform (i.e., links should be shared with us), and should not exceed a length of five minutes. Videos selected will be shared on September 28 and a still from the video will be included, with a description, in the Watchdog publication.
● Writing is welcome in English and French, and should be submitted as a Word document (.docx format). Submissions should be between 500-700 words.

Submission Requirements

● All content must be original with all necessary copyright permissions. Content with copyright violations (including but not limited to background music used without permission or copyrighted images appearing in photograph/video) will not be considered.
● Entries submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
● All entries must align with the YCSRR Principles and Values. Entries with homophobic, transphobic, ableist or otherwise discriminatory content will not be considered, without exception.
● Submissions from both professionals and non-professionals are welcome.
● All content submitted must be created entirely by a person or group of people under 30 years old, without exception.
● Please include your name (chosen name, pseudonyms and anonymous submissions are all acceptable), country of citizenship/residence and date of birth with your submission.

Submission Deadline & Email ID

Please send your submissions to watchdog@youthcoalition.org by 16 September 2020.

We look forward to receiving your submissions! Please email the ID given above for any further questions.