

# Youth Voices Count

# 2017

at a glance



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With the launching of its new Strategic Plan, YVC redefined itself to be a “Regional network of young LGBTQ+ people in Asia and the Pacific” and opened its membership to young people from diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

## Membership

YVC is now present in 22 countries with over 300 members in Asia and the Pacific region

## **JANUARY**

**YVC launched a survey to collect ideas, suggestions and recommendations from its members for the development of YVC strategic plan 2017 – 2020**

## **FEBRUARY**

**YVC organized a three-day consultation with its Core Working Group members to develop the YVC strategic plan for 2017 – 2020. The consultation was facilitated by Sarah Zaidi who also drafted and finalized the strategic plan for YVC. The strategic plan development was supported by UNIADS RST Asia and Pacific.**

**YVC took part in the Rainbow Fund Raising Academy organized by the Swedish RFSL in Sri Lanka with the participation of over 20 LGBT organizations in the region.**

## **MARCH**

**YVC took part in the annual planning meeting of the Global Platform to fast track HIV and Human Rights response for gay, bisexual men and other men who have sex with men. YVC has been a member of the platform since its establishment in 2016.**

**YVC took part in the inception meeting of the Greater Mekong Internet Sex Survey. The project is being implemented by APCOM. YVC chair Bella Vongvisitsin represented YVC at the meeting.**

**YVC took part in the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) organized by ARROW. YVC chair spoke at a panel on SDGs and young LGBT people highlighting the importance of engaging young LGBTQ+ people in the SDGs.**

## APRIL

YVC launched its strategic plan 2017 - 2020

YVC took part in the “Conference on Yogyakarta Principles: What have we learnt and where to now?”, organized by the UNDP and the Asia Pacific Forum. YVC has been able to emphasize the importance of engaging young LGBTQ+ people more meaningfully in promoting Yogyakarta Principles.

## MAY

YVC launched a social media campaign for IDAHOT 2017 titled “Family I want”. Over 100 individuals participated in the campaign by sending their pictures and messages for memes which were shared in YVC Facebook page.

YVC launched the “Let's Agree” video developed by YVC member Brian Kevin Par in Philippines. The video urges to agree to stop stigma and discrimination against young LGBTQ+ people.

YVC joined the launch of #Uproot Agenda during the 70<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly held in Geneva.

## JUNE

YVC launched the “A friendly space – An empowering effect” video in Sri Lanka. The video features young gay men and young transgender women in Sri Lanka urging their peers to uptake HIV testing.

YVC took part in the Connecting Asia consultation organized by APCOM on the use of ICT for the HIV response. YVC has been able to raise the importance of engaging young LGBTQ+ people meaningfully in the ICT interventions.

YVC released a statement against the video competition organized by the Ministry of Health Malaysia which invited videos on gay “prevention”. The video competition announcement on the website of the Ministry of Health was later changed.

## JULY

YVC launched a survey to collect data on recreational drug use in sexualized settings among young gay men and young transgender people in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. 3 Focus group discussions were also conducted alongside the survey. A discussion paper on the findings titled “Young and High – A rising reality” will be launched in January 2018.

YVC took part in the High Level Political Forum on the SDGs and spoke at a panel titled “Community actors speak out: the role of community actors in delivering SDGs” at the UN headquarters NYC.

YVC released the “A friendly space – An empowering effect” video regionally

## AUGUST

YVC launched a survey to collect data on the preparedness and willingness of adolescent gay, bi sexual and other adolescent men who have sex with men and adolescent transgender women's preparedness to use PrEP as an additional prevention method to protect from HIV in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. 4 focus group discussions were also conducted in the countries. A discussion paper on the findings titled “We want PrEP” will be launched in January 2018.

## OCTOBER

YVC took part in the 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Adolescent Health held in Delhi, India and joined a panel titled “We are 2030; Accelerating HIV prevention for adolescent key populations in Asia and the Pacific.

In partnership with Youth PACT, YVC launched a global survey to crowdsource young people's recommendations on youth friendly health services in 5 languages. The report of the survey is to be launched in July 2018.

## **NOVEMBER**

**YVC took part in the Right, Resources and Resilience Asia and Pacific summit (RRRAP) organized by APCOM. YVC organized a panel discussion titled “Politicizing adolescents and young key populations engagement to end AIDS by 2030” and also participated in 2 other panels on Leadership and the UN High-level meeting on HIV in 2016**

**YVC took part in the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health Rights (APCRSHR) held in Ho Long Bay, Vietnam. Doan Thanh Tung, YVC Core working Group member Vietnam, represented YVC in a panel discussion titled “We are 2030; Youth Leadership and Accountability to Ending AIDS Epidemic by 2030”**

**YVC launched a social media campaign on Comprehensive Sexuality Education with two videos developed in Sri Lanka and the Philippines. The project was supported by HIV Young Leaders Fund.**

## **DECEMBER**

**YVC launched a U-Report poll in partnership with UNICEF, Youth PACT, UNFPA, ALL IN and #Uproot to crowdsource young people's recommendations on youth friendly health services.**

**YVC launched a collection of testimonies titled “Stories of struggles” featuring young LGBTQ+ people and their growing up without Comprehensive Sexuality education.**

## Special thanks to

UNAIDS RST Asia Pacific  
Youth PACT  
ViiV Health Care

UNICEF EAPRO,  
HIV Yong Leaders Fund  
#Uproot



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