

Maternal and Reproductive Health

Joint Stakeholder Report to UNHRC for India's UPR – III

*Submitted on Behalf of the Coalition of Organizations on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, India
(SRHRIndia)*



**National Alliance on
Maternal Health and
Human Rights
(NAMHHR)**



**Coalition for
Maternal-Neonatal Health
and Safe Abortion**

**Jan Swasthya Abhiyan
(People's Health Movement
– India)**

Contributors:

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About the Contributors

National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR)

National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR) is a network of activists and academics from across the country working together on maternal health and human rights issues. Since its inception in 2010, NAMHHR is dedicated to attaining the highest quality of maternal health for the marginalized in India. Several civil society organizations from seven states of India got together on 20th January 2010 and agreed on the need to strengthen maternal health as an issue of women's human rights, given the sheer scale of the problem at seventy to eighty thousand women dying each year in India of preventable causes related to maternity. The Alliance has members from different states of India, as well as expert advisors working with research, Right to Food, public health, right to medicines and budget accountability. The Common Minimum Principles of NAMHHR are that the group stands for gender equality, sexual and other diversity, social justice, transparency, accountability and do not accept – sexual harassment, any form of discrimination, or communal or any other form of violence

The alliance recognizes that there is an urgent need for women's organizations, health organizations and groups working on law and human rights, and mass-based organizations to come together on this issue. Strong rights-based strategies are needed to build greater accountability for these thousands of preventable deaths among women in India.

NAMMHR's Rights Based Strategies for Improving Maternal Health include Community Empowerment through organizing, monitoring and Jan Sunwais, legal strategies, media advocacy, Information dissemination: studies and evidence building, legislative advocacy, State PIP recommendations, capacity building and budget tracking.

For more details see: <http://namhhr.blogspot.in/>

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CommonHealth, (Coalition for Maternal-Neonatal Health and Safe Abortion) is a national group of individuals and institutional members with the following vision and mission:

Vision

A society that ensures maternal–neonatal health and safe abortion for all, and especially those from the poor and marginalized communities, in India.

Mission

To raise visibility of the unacceptably high mortality, morbidity among mothers and newborns, and the lack of access to safe abortion services, especially among the disadvantaged. To mobilise advocates from different constituencies to:

- a. ensure effective implementation of relevant policies and programmes.
- b. contribute to the development of new policies and changing of existing ones when needed.
- c. build a rights based and gender sensitive perspective within communities, health care providers, researchers, administrators, elected representatives and the media, among others.

CommonHealth Thematic Areas

Maternal Health

- Make every instance of maternal morbidity and maternal death count.
- Advocate for safety, quality and respect for women's rights in delivery care.
- Promote health system strengthening and accountability through community mobilization.

Neonatal Health

- Generate and disseminate information on neonatal health. Encourage labour monitoring for improving perinatal and neonatal outcomes.
- Advocate for right to health for newborns, through a. Counting of stillbirths and newborn deaths. b. Attention to newborn outcomes by promoting safety and quality in delivery. c. Legal, policy and economic measures to support newborn care. d. Greater participation of men, families and the community in essential newborn care.

Safe Abortion

- Carry out sustained campaigns to promote access to safe and quality abortion services for all women irrespective of marital status, especially those from disadvantaged sections.
- Support the prevention of sex-determination through stringent implementation of the PC-PNDT Act and campaigns against gender discrimination, without compromising on women's access to safe abortion services

The Coalition currently has 27 institutional members and 181 individual members (as of August 2016) and its work is overseen by a nine-member Steering Committee¹ (SC) elected from within the membership.

For more details see: <http://www.commonhealth.in/>

¹ Currently the Steering Committee of the Coalition has nine members – Suchitra Dalvie, Subha Sri (Chairperson), Renu Khanna, Nilangi Sardeshpande (Financial Advisor), Alka Barua, Sangeeta Macwan, Anand Pawar, Sanjeeta Gawri, Bhuvanaeswari Sunil.

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Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA)

Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA) is a network of concerned civil society groups and individuals espousing the goal of Health and Health Care for all in India. It is the Indian circle of the People's Health Movement, a worldwide movement to establish health and equitable development as top priorities through comprehensive primary health care and action on the social determinants of health. The Jan Swasthya Abhiyan coalition consists of over 21 national networks and organisations as well as a large number of state level JSA platforms (which are present in almost all states in the country).

JSA was formed in 2001, with the coming together of 18 national networks that had organised activities across the country in 2000, in the lead up to the First Global Peoples Health Assembly, in Dhaka, in December 2000. It is a major national platform that co-ordinates activities and actions on health and health care across the country. Network partners of the JSA include a range of organisations, including NGOs working in the area of health, feminist organisations, people's science organisations, service delivery networks and trade unions.

JSA aims to draw public attention to the adverse impact of the policies of iniquitous globalization on the health of Indian people, especially on the health of the poor and locates the campaign to achieve 'Health For All' in the campaign to establish the Right to Health and Health Care as basic human rights. JSA expresses the need to confront commercialization of health care, while establishing minimum standards and rational treatment guidelines for health care and promote decentralization of health care and build up integrated, comprehensive and participatory approaches to health care that places "Peoples Health in Peoples Hands". It aims to promote a wide variety of people's initiatives that would help the poor and the marginalized to organize and access better health care, while contributing to building long-term and sustainable solutions to health problems.

The thematic areas of JSA's activities include strengthening the Public Sector; women's health rights and gender equity; access to medicines and rational use of medicines; privatization and public private partnerships; regulation of the health sector and social determinants of health.

For more details see :<http://phmindia.org/about-us/>

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