



# Communal Movement

Supporting Women's Choice over Her Body



SAMSARA



### Background

September 28th is the Global Action Day of Safe and Legal Abortion. Many individuals and organizations have been commemorating this day by conducting various activities, such as demonstrations, discussions, movie screenings, etc., in order to raise people's awareness of the impacts of unsafe and illegal abortion. The global September 28 campaign was initiated by Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) when they joined a campaign in Latin America and the Caribbean to stop the criminalization of abortion in 2011.

The aim of the global September 28 campaign is to mobilize movements at the international level to campaign for universal access to safe and legal abortion as a health and human rights issue. The important reasons for supporting this movement are: this campaign promotes freedom of womb; women's rights recognize that women have autonomy over their own body; and also this campaign affirms abortion is the fulfillment of human rights and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR).

### Why "Gerak 28 September"?

Since 2011, Samsara has been actively joining the September 28 campaign. In previous years, Samsara had campaigned on the road but not many people participated in celebrating this campaign. Also, the national settings do not support safe and legal abortion since the government has not implemented regulations that allow abortion for medical emergencies and rape victims as stated in the Government Regulation No. 61 Year 2014 concerning Reproductive Health.

In addition, the stigma that emerges from society towards women who have an abortion is added to the weight of religious sin, transgression, myths surrounding abortion and other negative narratives. Reflecting on these things, Samsara offered a different activity this year. In starting the campaign for "September 28 Movement", Samsara had two objectives. First, to give support to women who experience unplanned pregnancies and who conduct the abortion.

Second, to mobilize support from a wider community to decriminalize and destigmatize abortion. To achieve the second objective, Samsara was sorting out the support and resistance that exists in the network by directly meeting with various communities, organizations, and individuals in Yogyakarta. As the result, this campaign was divided into several opening activities and a solidarity night on September 28.

### CONSOLIDATION

The consolidation for this movement was made through direct meetings and discussions with organizations promoting women's rights in Yogyakarta. We connected with organizations working on various issues, such as counseling for sexual violence victims, disability, legal assistance, the arts community, campuses, and student organizations. The responses given were very diverse. Some organizations expressed their support and willingness to be involved in the campaign carried out by the September 28 Movement. Other organizations still need in-depth discussions to find things in the movement that are in line with the issues they are advocating. The consolidation opened the opportunity for the September 28 Movement to form a subsequent consolidation agenda to be able to support each other in the next campaign and advocacy works.

### A Discussion on Unplanned Pregnancy and Women's Criminalization

This discussion examined the situation of women who experience unplanned pregnancies which should have autonomy over their bodies. Ironically, women with unplanned pregnancy get social stigma and are threatened with the loss of fundamental rights, such as education. In Indonesia, women with unplanned pregnancy won't be allowed to go to school. The stigma that is always addressed to women with the unplanned pregnancy is irresponsible and selfish. The situation that women with unplanned pregnancy face is never that simple. The state has been neglected when providing education about SRHR that leads to women cannot access the SRHR information openly and adequately.

From a legal standpoint, an advocate from LBH Yogyakarta (a legal aid organization) stated that in fact the rights of women who experience unplanned pregnancy are not fully guaranteed by Indonesian law, especially if they choose abortion. Due to this legal situation, women who have an abortion are criminalized for experiencing the unplanned pregnancy. Although a legal instrument is available, namely the Government Regulation no. 61 The year 2014, stating that abortion can be done under two conditions -medical emergencies and rape victims- the government has not implemented this instrument yet. The participants of this discussion, which amounted to approximately 40 people, then agreed to continue the 28 September 28 Movement, so that those who experience unplanned pregnancy and will choose abortion to feel fully supported.

### A Discussion on Dismantling Taboos: Reproductive Health and Sexuality

The forum discussed the reproductive health and sexuality as well as abortion in Indonesia, which is still very taboo. The discussion had 3 speakers talking about the basic problem that has not been resolved to this day, namely the lack of knowledge and information on reproductive health. This matter was indicated by strong views that SRHR issues are taboo and will encourage adolescents to have irresponsible sexual behavior. In fact, it happened due to the lack of understanding of reproduction, sexual violence, and unplanned pregnancy. It will continue to occur as long as the taboo is still prevailing.

The participants were 25 people from various backgrounds, such as psychologists, ob-gyns, activists, students, and journalists. They gave many responses, including stories related to their personal experience. Many of them who are university students did not know about reproductive health. A participant who works as an ob-gyn shared that she is often surprised by the attitudes and views of health workers generally on how women should be given understanding and knowledge about contraception. The ob-gyn told that the coercion of contraception should not occur. The general issues discussed in the forum also related to how media work. Nowadays, the media are still discriminatory in portraying the situation of women which results in a stronger stigma of sex education, including abortion.

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## Diskusi Gender and Parenting Bersama SP Kinasih

The Gender and Parenting Discussion is a routine activity held by Solidaritas Perempuan Kinasih (SP Kinasih). SP Kinasih invited SAMIN Foundation and Samsara to be the speakers of the discussion which was attended by 22 middle-aged women from Cokrobedog a district in Yogyakarta.

"What To Respond If We Meet Rape Victims and Prostituted Children" is the theme for the discussion on September 27th 2018, at the SP Kinasih secretariat office. The SAMIN Foundation began the discussion by playing a film about the confession of prostituted children. Some were victims of cybercrime, and not a few were victims of family economic factors. Girls from different social and cultural backgrounds were employed as lady companions, and some tricked as sex workers.

Due to this situation, various impacts were experienced by girls, ranging from dropping out of school, early marriage, and not a few girls experiencing unplanned pregnancies. The Samin Foundation has accompanied a 15-year-old child who is pregnant and the family has agreed to marry the child with a partner who was at that age. However, his household life is not so good. There are also prostitution victims who have had to have abortions many times due to lack of education about contraception. The condition of women who experience an unplanned pregnancy is not an easy situation so women need support, both moral or social support and also information support. In this discussion, Samsara as part of September 28 Movement had the opportunity to provide information about choices when women experience unplanned pregnancies and how family members, neighbors or anyone around them should respond to the unplanned pregnancy situation.

## Workshop Kreasi Lagu Perempuan Punya Pilihan

Samsara and Nada Bicara held a workshop for writing songs with the theme

“  
*Women Have Choices*”

Nada Bicara is a band from Yogyakarta that presents social issues in their works. This workshop was created because there was a concernment where songs consumed by the public were songs full of women objectification, toxic masculinity, and gender inequality. Nada Bicara argued that a song can be an effective medium in educating the wider community because they can survive beyond space and time.

This workshop was held on Sunday, September 23rd, 2018, and was attended by 11 participants. The activity began with the introduction of participants consisting of storytellers and tailors. Storytellers were defined as people who have accompanied women who have experienced the unplanned pregnancy, while tailors as people who have the ability to play musical instruments and create the song. Nada Bicara as the facilitator at this workshop invited participants to share their experiences about supporting women who experience unplanned pregnancies. This session produced diverse stories about the situation experienced by women with unplanned pregnancies. The stories were processed into song lyrics. Nada Bicara also explained the basic key to compose a song. The participants were divided into several groups, each group consisting of one storyteller and one tailor. At the end of the event, all groups performed their songs in about an hour.

The workshop participants were expected to produce more songs with positive lyrics. The plan was that this activity will be continued by making a mini album that voices that women have choices. This mini album will be a collaboration between Samsara, the collective of September 28 Movement, Nada Bicara, as well as the storytellers and tailors.



## A Solidarity Night on 28 September:

### Support Women's Choices for Their Body!

The event was held on September 28th 2018 evening in Sangkring Art Space, Yogyakarta. This activity was enlivened with various musical performances, poetry readings, monologues, speeches, a short video screening, craft displays, and bazaars. The event began with remarks by the September 28 Movement coordinator, Elsa Auliya Rizky, who expressed her gratitude for all forms of support from many parties and her hope that the campaign and support for women, especially victims such as WA in Jambi Province can sustain. The event then continued with the performances of local artists and communities from Yogyakarta, such as Rebellion Rose, Arye de Siul, Kolektif Tanpa Nama, Jessica, Shopping list, Deugalih dan Talamariam.

The attendants could also enjoy the bazaar at the event. They were able to purchase clothes, books, accessories sold by our friends Mimosa Market and Volkerkunde. There was also a photo exhibition from Sliraku themed 'Self Love'. The collective also provided an on-the-spot t-shirt printing by Needle and Bitch who brought their own design and also the design from Autonica. The attendants could get a unique design printed on their t-shirt with a donation of fifteen thousand rupiah (about \$1). More than 150 people came to jazz up the solidarity night and support the September 28 Movement collective. The event lasted until 11:30 p.m. and was closed by Elsa and the signing of banners by all participants as a form of support for the September 28 campaign. The biggest hope of this campaign is the continued support for the independence of women and their bodies.

### Testimonials from the volunteers of September 28th Movement

“

I now understand more about the feminist movement in Yogyakarta. I'm also happy that many participants are open-minded with the issues raised. Moreover, the issue of abortion is still taboo in society. ”

(Aqilla, university student)

“

I was afraid before to bring the name of Kolektif Tanpa Nama [lit. a nameless collective] while at the same time bringing a monologue on a sensitive issue, LGBT, especially lesbians. Finally, I ventured to appear. It turned out that the response from the participants as well as the performers was very positive. After participating in the September 28 Movement event, people from the network started to know us ”

(Nath, Kolektif Tanpa Nama)

# What's Next?

The series of activities for the September 28 campaign invited high enthusiasm from the collective volunteers regarding the issue of unplanned pregnancy and abortion. We hope this campaign will not stop on September 28. Therefore, we have several activities that will be carried out throughout the end of the year to continue voicing the autonomy of women's body, such as a value clarification workshop on abortion for the volunteers, film screening and discussion with Pemetik Buah Khuldi, and the campaign of 16 Days Against Violence Against Women. If you or your organization/community want to join and hold an activity with the September 28 Movement collective, please contact us via Instagram @gerak28september

## Event Photos

### Pre-Event



KTD Discussion and Consolidation of Gerak 28 September



Volunteer's Antusias of Gerak 28 September



Samsara and SP Kinasih held the discussion of the impact of child prostitution



Women group of Kinasih Cokro bedog attended the discussion



**Discussion on Dismantling Taboos: Reproductive Health and Sexuality**



**Participant's interaction in Reproductive Health and Sexuality Discussion**

## Onsite



**Various Communities Product sold in Bazaar**



**Arya de Siul performance on Gerak 28 September in Sangkringan Art Space**



**Rebellion Rose performance on Solidarity Night of Gerak 28 September**



**Davida and Yessi as MC of Gerak 28 September 2018**

## Post-Event



**Official Committee De-brief of September 28th Movement**



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## Impressum

Photo by Rodearni  
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