



**AMPLIFYING
TRANS ADVOCACY
FELLOWSHIP**

MEET THE 2020 FELLOWS



ASIA PACIFIC
TRANSGENDER
NETWORK

Angel Queentus

she/her



Angel Queentus is Founder-Director at Jaffna Transgender Network, a trans-led LGBTQI+ community organisation working to build sustainable community livelihoods in the regions. A major part of this work is built around community advocacy and outreach delivered in liaison with state and non-state actors operating in rural Tamil-speaking areas (mainly in the North and East). Angel is currently working on creating a Community resource pack that empowers self-advocacy in harder-to-reach rural settings. She has previously worked with Equal Ground (Colombo) and Saviya Development Foundation (Galle).

Sri Lanka

Athallah Fachryzal Rafardhanu

he/him



Rafardhanu, the Main Coordinator of Women's March Yogyakarta, wants to help people to have a better understanding regarding trans men through his own experiences as one of the trans men in Indonesia with great support behind him. He says "Society typically tends to be afraid of something they don't have enough knowledge about. The fear, is then projected into negativity such as hate, discrimination, stigma, bully or in the worst cases, murder in behalf of heteronormativity. It ain't a secret that in Indonesia, the awareness and recognition of transgender people, especially trans men, are lacking and I wanna change that."

Indonesia

Aun Shahid

he/him



Aun Shahid is from Pakistan and is currently working with the group called “Praxis of Queer Social Ideas in Society” (PRAQSI) of which he is a co-founder, trainer, and organiser. PRAQSI is a newly emerging group currently working towards political mobilisation of transgender men – the most unorganised, depoliticised and marginalised groups within the queer community.

Pakistan

Chanya

she/her



Chanya Rattanathada (Panan) is a young transgender activist from Thailand. She is Co-Founder of “Young Pride Club” that provides a safe space for young people interested in gender equality and the LGBTQ+ community. The community provides ground and online activism activities with 20,000 followers, and has developed 50+ young LGBTQ+ leaders, and organised Chiang Mai Pride with 1,000 participants. She is also a team member of marriage equality movement, 1448 For All. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree of Political Science from CMU, her highest dream is to be the first transgender Prime Minister of Thailand.

Thailand

Chu Thanh Ha

he/him



Ha is a transgender activist and researcher who is passionate and has years of professional experience in advocating for the voices and visibility of the transgender community in Vietnam through research, capacity building, and raising awareness. He is the Founder and Executive Director of IT'S T TIME, an independent support organisation for Vietnamese transgender persons within Vietnam and abroad. IT'S T TIME aims to assist all trans identities to claim their safe spaces so that they can amplify their voices, promotes active and effective participation from the community, and alleviates some of the everyday hardships trans people often face in their daily lives.

Vietnam

Dee Rain

she/her



Dee is the Community Support Officer and Educator for Young Sex Workers at the Survival Advocacy Network Fiji (SAN Fiji), a community-led space/shelter for sex workers. As a young feminist activist, she has extensive experience working with young people of all cultures and diversities in Fiji and across the Pacific. She has a passion for Human Rights education including supporting young people through online community engagement and with young indigenous key populations, and about using visual and expressive arts as a tool to advancing Human Rights education for young sex workers.

Fiji

Diti

they/them



Diti is a queer trans boy researcher and activist, who has been involved with queer, feminist and student movements for the past 10 years across India. Diti's work is located at the intersection of academics and activism, which intrinsically inform each other. They are currently working as the Coordinator in Sangat, a feminist network, and are doing their PhD on the topic "Queer Citizenship and Nationalism". Diti has engaged in creating dialogue on queer and trans issues within feminist networks, and on strengthening queer feminist activism in the state of Assam. They have also written about the campaigns against legislation which adversely impacts transgender persons.

India

durdana farid

they/them



durdana farid is a community writer at Queer Archive of Bengal Delta, a queer-led, democratically-run organisation that aims to archive queer organising and social life in the Bengal delta. Durdana's work involves writing, creating content and facilitating workshops on queer and trans issues/politics of Bangladesh, mental health and family issues, feminism and contemporary discourse through a critical, radical, intersectional and anti-capitalist South Asian lens, in order to present social intervention. They are also an organiser and co-counsellor at a queer-only RC (Re-evaluation Co-counselling) a process whereby folx exchange effective help to free themselves from the effects of past hurts and distress. They want to continue to work and, in the process, contribute in liberating the most marginalised people in society.

Bangladesh

Elyn Bhandari

he/him



Elyn Bhandari is a transgender man who has been working with Blue Diamond Society, Nepal since 2015. He has worked as a hotline counsellor for 2 years, helping community members. He is currently working as the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) officer, with a focus on the protection and promotion of rights of LGBTI children in Nepal.

Nepal

Erik Nadir

he/him



Erik Nadir is a transmasculine nonbinary person based in Indonesia. He is the Marketing and Outreach Manager of New Naratif, a movement for democracy, freedom of expression, and freedom of information in South East Asia. Erik was a former lecturer and lead course developer in a university in Bandung, Indonesia; he presented his research on creativity as a special guest on Y20 2018 Argentina, Young Leaders International Diplomatic Forum in the high level G20 head state of summit. He is passionate about education, culture, and storytelling. His dream is to bring a new understanding of gender minorities in Indonesia.

Indonesia

Grace Banu Ganesan

she/her



Grace Banu is a Dalit transgender rights activist from Chennai who has previously worked as a computer programmer. She was the first transgender person to be admitted to an engineering college in the state of Tamil Nadu. After struggling to receive an education because of her own gender identity, she is now working to bring about dedicated places in education for transgender persons through Dalit Adivasi Muslim Transgender Gender Non-Confirming Community (DAMTGNC), an organisation which was founded with the mission to ensure education for all transgender people, and especially those from the Dalit Muslim community, who are doubly vulnerable due to their caste and religion.

India

Jaya Jacobo

she/her



Jaya Jacobo is a Filipina trans woman. A member of the Society of Transsexual Women of the Philippines (STRAP), she has collaborated with transsexual women and travestis in Brazil since her fieldwork on trans art and activism in Rio de Janeiro. She was co-project leader of the STRAP-ASP (AIDS Society of the Philippines) fundraiser for trans women who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. She is an assistant professor of literature and gender studies at the Ateneo de Manila University and research fellow of the GlobalGRACE Gender and Cultures of Equality programme at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Philippines

Jesse V. Castelo

she/her



Jesse Castelo serves as the Program Officer for Trans Health at Love Yourself Inc. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology in 2019 and is presently a licensed Psychometrician. A HIV/AIDS advocate and a change agent, Jesse is also currently a volunteer HIV counsellor. Additionally, she's an LGBTQIA+ civil rights activist with continued advocacy work on recognising, protecting, and promoting equal rights. Jesse is also the current Country Coordinator of the Philippines for IYAFP. She works to empower the youth globally to advocate for their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Philippines

Jun Ho Kim

she/her



Jun Ho Gregory Kim, commonly known as Jun, is the Youth Representative for Samoa Fa'afafine Association. She represents Fa'afafine and Fa'atama youths of Samoa in terms of decision making, strategic advice, projects proposals and any other developments/obligations within the SFA jurisdiction. Her passions include youth development at the grassroots level, gender equality, empowerment of minority groups, writing, and reading anything that catches her attention. She is also the co-founder of the non-profit online project called Her Voice, empowering young women and adolescent girls in the form of arts, such as photography, fashion, make-up, blogging and videography.

Samoa

Kirah

she/her



Kirah is a trans woman and activist who hails from Kadavu, Fiji. She currently works as the Health & Well-being Programme Assistant for Rainbow Pride Foundation, a registered LGBTIQ organisation in Fiji, after volunteering for over 10 years for the organisation. A singer and recording artist, Kirah believes that music speaks where words fail, and in raising awareness about transgender people on the stage through powerful lyrics. She has also participated in national, regional, and global consultations, working with faith-based organisations and on disaster risk reduction, lobbying for transgender issues.

Fiji

Manu Samuelu II Solomona

they/them



Manu Samuelu II Solomona, more commonly known to the community as Mama Nushka, Mama Coco, or just Manu, works as a full-time meteorologist for the Samoa Meteorological Services. Currently residing with their parents and siblings, they are 28 years younger, and have been working for the community regarding peer education advocacy as a peer educator of the Samoa Family Health Association - IPPF, ensuring the needs for STIs testing and treatment, and counseling if needed. They also work voluntarily for the My Girls Club as a secretary, and for the Samoa Fa'afafine Association as one of its financial members.

Samoa

Rukshana Kapali

she/her



Rukshana Kapali is a 20 year old transgender female from the Newa ethnic-nation of Nepal. She is affiliated to Queer Youth Group, a not-for-profit that advocates for rights of People of Marginalized Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Sex Characteristics (PoMSOGIESEC).

Nepal

Santa Khurai

she/her



Santa Khurai is a Nupi Maanbi, an indigenous Meetei trans woman, from Manipur. An artist and activist, she works as a Secretary with All Manipur Nupi Maanbi Association (AMANA). Since 2016, she has been working in four different states of North East India: Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. The thematic areas of her works are community capacity building, and advocacy with the respective states for the implementation of the Indian Supreme Court verdict. As an immediate response to COVID-19, she has helped to provide relief support to transgender community members and helped set up a separate quarantine center for them.

India

Suhani

she/her



Suhani is a science graduate from India, and a transgender activist with Samabhabona, working with intersectionality and trans feminism. In her role as Network Building Officer, she builds a network through dialogues and advocacy, especially by connecting with youth trans people. She also advocates for trans mental health issues, providing online support when trans people face violence and abuse, including trans sex workers. The outbreak of COVID-19 has shifted advocacy online, with professionals brought in to handle more difficult cases.

India

Sultan Maruf Ahmad

they/them



Sultan Maruf is a Bangladeshi youth LGBT activist, and Co-founder and Project Coordinator of the Social Association for Development Alternative (SADA). Having worked across Bangladesh, their passions include LGBTQ advocacy, Interfaith, SRHR, HIV/AIDS, Campaigning, and Youth Engagement. A Commonwealth Youth Gender Champion and a member of different civil society organisations, they have volunteered and worked for a variety of CBOs and NGOs since 2014 and have represented young people in different national and international platforms. They have always been passionate to work for queer people especially for the grassroots MSM, MSW, and transgender people to redress homophobia and transphobia.

Bangladesh

Tetsu D. Komatsuzaki

he/him/they/them



Tetsu currently lives in the Philippines and is the (Youth) Advocacy Officer for Pioneer Filipino Transgender men Movement (PioneerFTM / PFTM). He started his advocacy in 2016 when he was a senior at a high school in Japan. He has been back to the Philippines for 2 years now and advocates for LGBTIQ+ rights, especially for transgender men. Through his advocacy work he has conducted many educational sessions like SOGIESC 101 & Trans 101 for various audiences such as trans men, locals, students, educational boards etc. As a young trans boy, he struggled a lot not seeing enough representation, so he aims to continue being visible for those who cannot be.

Philippines

Vihaan

he/him



Vihaan is an Ambedkarite Queer Feminist Trans man. He is currently working in Nazariya: A Queer Feminist Resource Group as Program Manager. He conducts training with organisations and education institutions on issues of gender and sexuality. He is a peer counsellor and does crisis intervention work related to domestic violence and other cases for Queer and transgender persons. He is part of the anti-caste and Queer feminist movement in India. He is also actively involved in campaigns against legislations which impacts on transgender persons in India.

India

Vincy
they/them



Three of the Fellows wish to remain anonymous.

Vincy Chan is a non-binary trans singer-songwriter, illustrator, and SOGIESC advocate from Hong Kong. They are the founder of The Gamut Project, a small collective for gender diverse individuals in Hong Kong. As the former coordinator of Amnesty International Hong Kong's LGBTI volunteer group, they have also spoken extensively about their experiences as a trans person locally and internationally.

Hong Kong