

Responsibilities of CommonHealth members

- Contribute to furthering CommonHealth's goals.
- Attend meetings organized by CommonHealth to share ground realities and to make connections with the macro issues.
- Actively participate in CommonHealth activities such as developing documents, training, research etc.
- Share resources on maternal health and safe abortion with other members through the listserv.
- Represent CommonHealth at other forums/ meetings and convey the information to members.
- Implement CommonHealth's strategic plan by:
 - o Identifying areas (thematic/geographic) where CommonHealth can collaborate or work with other partners/organizations.
 - o Taking initiative on behalf of CommonHealth to actively collaborate with other groups/ organizations.

Key achievements of CommonHealth

An evaluation of CommonHealth's body of work over the last 12 years highlighted the following achievements:

- Dead Women Talking, a study of maternal deaths carried out in different parts of the country, emerged as the most impactful work as it increased visibility of maternal deaths - both nationally and globally. The study resulted in the incorporation of Maternal Death Reviews as one of the responsibilities of a number of district level health committees.

- CommonHealth pioneered the "Creating Common Ground" agenda for activists working to prevent sex-selection and those working to promote access to safe abortion, in order to expand the constituency supporting the demand for safe abortion services.
- Training on safe abortion helped members understand access to safe abortion as a rights issue.
- CommonHealth's Advocates' Guide for Rights-based Contraceptive Services will soon be converted into a tool to monitor the service provision of contraceptives in different settings.
- The coalition contributed to the civil society shadow report for the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Universal Periodic Review, Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals.
- Timely information is provided to members in the form of fact sheets and through the Common Health listserv.



CommonHealth

Coalition for Reproductive Health and Safe Abortion

Constituted in 2006, CommonHealth is a rights-based, multi-state coalition of organizations and individuals, which advocates for increased access to sexual and reproductive health care and services to improve health conditions of women and marginalized communities. Within sexual and reproductive health and rights, CommonHealth concentrates its efforts largely on maternal health and safe abortion. The coalition draws its membership from diverse disciplines, thematic areas and geographies within the country.



CommonHealth

To join us:

- Fill the membership application form on the next page and hand it to the CommonHealth Coordinator or send a scanned copy to contact@commonhealth.in
- Forms are also available for download on the CommonHealth website - <http://www.commonhealth.in/>
- For more information you may contact CommonHealth Coordinator at **9309969364** or email us at contact@commonhealth.in

Vision

CommonHealth envisions a society that ensures the right to the highest attainable standards of reproductive and sexual health for all, especially for women and marginalized communities in India.

Mission

CommonHealth aims to raise visibility of the unacceptably high mortality and morbidity among pregnant women while also highlighting the lack of access to safe abortion services in different parts of the country with a focus on marginalised communities.

The mission of the coalition is to mobilize advocates from different constituencies to:

- Ensure effective implementation of relevant policies and programmes.
- Contribute to the development of new policies and advocate for change in existing ones, when needed.
- Build a rights-based and gender-sensitive perspective among communities, health care providers, researchers, academicians, administrators, elected representatives and the media.

Thematic areas of CommonHealth

Maternal Health

- Highlight the unacceptable levels of maternal mortality and morbidity that persist among poor and vulnerable sections as an issue of quality of care as well as an issue of violation of women's rights.
- Advocate for accessible, appropriate, quality, respectful and women-centred maternal health care services across the country.
- Promote health system strengthening through accountability measures involving local communities.

Safe abortion

- Carry out sustained campaigns to promote access to safe and quality abortion services for all girls and women.
- Support campaigns against gender discrimination without compromising women's access to safe abortion services.
- Support and promote a gender-sensitive perspective in the interpretation and application of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

Reproductive health

- Promote the life cycle approach in addressing reproductive health concerns of women and girls.
- Promote the reproductive health of women and girls by identifying drivers and pathways of reproductive mortality and morbidity.
- Advocate for access to sexual and reproductive health-care including rights-based contraceptive services.
- Promote adolescent health through awareness generation about sexual and reproductive health from a rights and gender perspective.

What we do

- Provide thought leadership and influence the sexual and reproductive health discourse.
- Organize capacity building and discourse influencing workshops with diverse actors such as policymakers, state officials, grassroots organisations, researchers, lawyers and healthcare providers.
- Disseminate relevant information among CommonHealth members and at various local, regional, national and international fora.
- Support, facilitate and mentor advocacy projects at the grassroots level.
- Build evidence about the status of sexual and reproductive health and rights for advocacy at local, national and international levels.
- Provide a forum for members to share their experiences in meetings and through social media.
- Provide opportunities for peer-support and learning through collaborative initiatives among members.
- Mobilize advocates to adopt a rights-based and gender equity perspective.

Benefits of CommonHealth membership

- Get an opportunity to interact with and learn from experts in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Receive peer-support for initiatives related to CommonHealth's thematic areas.
- Be part of projects and activities with like-minded organizations and individuals.
- Get involved as a resource person or mentor for select projects.
- Represent CommonHealth on various platforms.
- Be eligible to become a steering committee member.
- Gain access to CommonHealth Google group list serv, for regular posting on research, news, announcements etc.
- Interact with other members on relevant issues through an interactive social media group.

