Right Here Right Now (RHRN) is a global strategic partnership active in 10 countries and the Caribbean region, that was launched in 2016. RHRN’s Theory of Change is built around two core strategies: capacity strengthening of young people and civil society organisations (CSOs), and advocacy for progressive and inclusive norms, policies and legislation on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). So far, experience shows this was a valid choice, as we lead a paradigm shift of youth leadership in SRHR advocacy.

HIGHLIGHTS

Building national advocacy platforms
The newly established platforms developed joint advocacy priorities and strategies. Working together allowed them to have a stronger voice, be less exposed when working on sensitive issues and broker access to decision makers.

Value clarification
Platforms invested in understanding the concepts of meaningful and inclusive participation of youth, comprehensive sexuality education, safe abortion, sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

Youth advocates
Involving youth in addressing young people’s SRHR is one of RHRN’s key objectives. The partnership strengthens the capacity of young advocates, and invests in meaningful youth participation in all national platforms.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY

- Platform engagement in Bolivia resulted in decision makers recognising the right to form a family for same-sex couples.
- In Honduras, the Platform contributed to a draft law against discrimination based on sex, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and other reasons.
- RHRN studies on contraception and discussions with the Indonesian Ministry of Health, contributed to the Ministry’s support for contraception for all.
- Dialogues with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare in Nepal sensitised them on the importance of the Marriage Equality Bill.
- Engagement with the Minister of Primary Health Care of Uganda led to her taking a more positive stance on safe abortion.
- In Zimbabwe, RHRN influenced the Young People’s Network on SRHR, HIV and AIDS to include key populations, such as LGBT people, in their advocacy agenda.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

- In Asia, RHRN organised the first ever Preparatory Youth Forum and developed a Youth Call-to-Action in preparation for the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.
- The East African Community draft bill on SRHR included reference to safe abortion, teenage pregnancy and CSE.
- RHRN encouraged political dialogue among CSOs on the Cairo Agenda and Montevideo Consensus was in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- In Europe, the partnership worked with the Dutch Government to ensure our best practices of inclusive Voluntary National Reviews were shared.
- RHRN contributed to the development – and signing by 19 countries – of a cross-regional statement on SRHR, youth and gender equality, at the High Level Political Forum.