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Payal Shah is a human rights lawyer with over 15 years of experience conceptualizing, designing, and implementing international, regional, and national legal advocacy strategies to strengthen human rights norms and remove legal barriers relating to gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights. She has significant expertise in developing and managing strategic litigation and advocacy campaigns including implementation of decisions and legislative reform; conducting U.N. advocacy including through treaty bodies and special procedures; developing coalition- and movement-building initiatives; and facilitating capacity building of advocates, judges, national human rights institutions, and other government stakeholders. Her advocacy and scholarship focuses on U.N., regional, and national legal approaches to sexual and reproductive rights in Asia and globally.

Payal Shah most recently served as the acting Regional Director for Asia at the Center for Reproductive Rights. She was named a practitioner-in-residence at Columbia Law School's Human Rights Institute in 2018. Her work has included engaging with partners in Asia to successfully petition the CEDAW Committee to conduct a special inquiry under the Optional Protocol into a *de facto* ban on modern contraceptives in the City of Manila, supporting partners in several countries in South Asia to develop litigation strategies that have secured stronger recognition of women's and girls' reproductive rights as constitutional and human rights, and playing a leading role in the inception and growth of the first network of lawyers and legal experts working to secure reproductive rights in South Asia. Recently, she oversaw an initiative to hold the first regional judicial colloquium on reproductive rights in South Asia and national judicial sensitization programs in two countries in the region, which reached hundreds of judges and judicial officers. Payal has authored and co-authored numerous articles, fact-finding reports, and policy briefs on women's and girls' rights, including on child marriage, maternal mortality and morbidity, abortion, contraception, and women's rights in disaster settings. Payal has also worked as a litigation associate with the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and has also worked with the Human Rights Law Network in New Delhi and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Dongfang Public Interest and Legal Aid Law Firm in Beijing.

Payal is a graduate of Columbia Law School, where she was named a Jack Kent and Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, and earned a certificate in comparative and international law. Payal is also a graduate of Swarthmore College, where she graduated with high honors.

Selected reports:

- *Securing Reproductive Justice in India: A Casebook*, Center for Reproductive Rights, 2019 (co-authored with Mrinal Satish and Aparna Chandra)
- *Ensuring Reproductive Rights: Reform to Address Women's and Girls' Need for Abortion After 20 Weeks in India*, Center for Reproductive Rights, 2018 (lead author)
- *Reproductive Rights in Indian Courts*, Center for Reproductive Rights, 2016 (lead author).
- *Accountability for Discrimination against Women in the Philippines: Key Findings and Recommendations from the CEDAW Committee's Special Inquiry on Reproductive Rights*, Center for Reproductive Rights, 2015 (co-author).
- *Child Marriage and Personal Laws in South Asia: Accountability for Child Marriage*, Center for Reproductive Rights, 2014 (author).
- *Child Marriage in South Asia: International and Constitutional Legal Standards for Promoting Accountability and Change*, Center for Reproductive Rights, 2013 (co-author).
- *2011 Update: Maternal Mortality in India*, Center for Reproductive Rights, 2011 (co-author).
- *Forsaken Lives: The Harmful Impact of the Philippine Criminal Abortion Ban*, Center for Reproductive Rights, 2010 (co-author).
- *Maternal Mortality in India: Using International and Constitutional Law to Promote Accountability and Reform*, Center for Reproductive Rights, 2009 (co-author).

Selected articles:

- *Abortion in the Context of COVID-19: A Human Rights Imperative*, 28 Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters 1 (2020) (with Jaime Todd-Gher).
- *Reimagining Reproductive Rights Jurisprudence in India: Reflections on the Recent Decisions on Privacy and Gender Equality from the Supreme Court of India*, 39.2 Colum. J. Gender & L. 1(2020) (with Dipika Jain).
- *Recognising the Rights of Adolescents to Sexual and Reproductive Health Information and Services*, 25 Arrow for Change 1 (2019) (with Paola Salwan Daher).
- *Uterine Prolapse and Maternal Morbidity in Nepal: A Human Rights Imperative*, 2 Drexel L. Review 491(2010).
- *Assisting and Empowering Women in Natural Disasters: Drawing from the Example of Security Council Resolution 1325*, 15 COLUM.J.GENDER &L. 711 (2005).