

Philippine  
Commission  
on Women



# The Orange Exhibit

## JOURNEY TOWARD A VAW-FREE PHILIPPINES

The Orange Exhibit takes you on a trip down memory lane beginning in 2002 when the Philippines joined the global campaign to end Violence Against Women and its decades of advancing the discussion on this pervasive social issue. This exhibit highlights the campaign's pivotal role in raising VAW awareness, leading to the passage of landmark legislations and the popularization of anti-VAW laws, including those covering VAW in intimate partner relationships, rape, gender-based sexual harassment, and trafficking in persons.

Looking back but also looking forward, the exhibit presents the turning points and victories in protecting women's rights toward the full liberation of Juanas from all forms of Violence Against Women.



# 2002

The journey began in 2002 as the Philippine Government started participating in the 16-day global campaign against gender-based violence, an annual international campaign initiated by activists at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991.

Commencing on November 25, 2002, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and ending on December 10, 2002, the International Human Rights Day, the 2002 campaign set the path of triumphs in the advocacy.

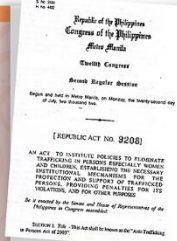
The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW, then called the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women) initiated the formation of the Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee (VAWCC) composed of 15 government agencies: NCRFW, CHR, CSC, DSWD, DOH, DOJ, DND, DILG, DepEd, NAPOLCOM, BJMP, PNP, NBI, PIA and NSCB.

VAWCC and various women non-government organizations (NGOs) led the 16-day Campaign against Gender-based Violence with the theme "Ligtas sa Karahasan: Karapatan ng Kababaihan"

VAWCC and NGOs joined the "Call to Action: Stop Abuse of Women" forum where they interacted with New York Supreme Court Retired Justice Marjory Fields who shared experiences and insights in handling family violence cases. The event was organized by PCW and the US Embassy Cultural Affairs.

The 2002 campaign brought the issue on VAW into the spotlight and led to the sponsorship into second reading of the **Anti-Trafficking Bill** by then Senator Luisa "Loi" Ejercito-Estrada who chairs the Senate Committee on Women.

**Other VAW-related developments:** With its policy-making mandate, PCW wrote position papers and provided comments and inputs on various bills relative to addressing VAW, including the domestic violence (DV)/abuse of women in intimate relationships (AWIR) Bills, Wife Cruelty Act, Creation of Women's Crisis Protection Unit, among others.



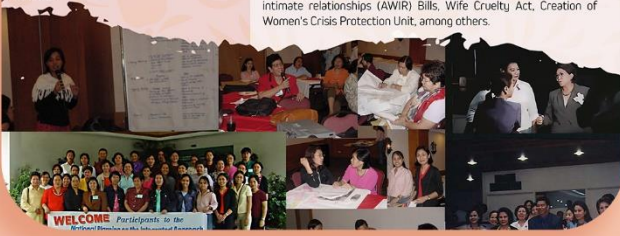
# 2003

ushered in a remarkable victory in anti-VAW advocacy: the passage of the **Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (Republic Act 9208)**. This law is a fruit of advocacy strategies and intensive campaigns executed by the PCW, VAWCC, and women NGOs at the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The law criminalized the recruitment, transportation, transfer, or harboring or receipt of persons with or without the victim's consent or knowledge for the purpose of exploitation, such as prostitution, forced labor or services, servitude, and the removal or sale of organs. It also provided various services for survivors, including counseling, temporary shelter, health care, and legal assistance.

The success of the advocacy for the passage of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act brought greater hope for women's rights advocates in the country to drum beat the campaign for yet another pending legislation — one that addresses and protects women from violence within the family and intimate relations.

With the theme "**Dahas Laban sa Kababaihan, Wabasan Na! Batas Laban sa Karahasan, Ipasa Na!**", the 2003 campaign to end VAW aimed to show legislators the need to pass a law protecting women from violence within the family and intimate relations. Aside from popularizing RA 9208, which at that time was recognized as a model law on anti-trafficking, the campaign also included an exhibit at the Senate which pushed for the passage of the Anti-Violence Against Women bill and resulted in 21 out of 22 Senators signifying their intent to support the proposal.

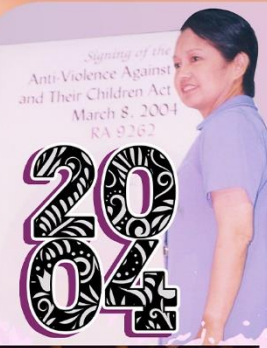


At this turning point, the campaign promoted the immense role of men in advocacy and encouraged them to respect and protect women's rights. Male champions, led by Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. and other personalities, joined the "Men Speak Out Against VAW" movement and the Gender Justice Awards launch. The activity, organized with the University of the Philippines Center for Women's Studies (UPCWS), UPCWS Foundation Inc., Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and United Nations Development Fund for Women, gained the support of men in standing up against VAW.

The PCW, the University of the Philippines-Center for Women's Studies Foundation Inc. (UPCWFSI), and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) instituted the "Gender Justice Awards" which highlighted the important role that the judiciary plays in addressing VAW.

**Other VAW-related developments:** In finalizing the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, PCW, as co-chair of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking (IACAT), organized meetings and regional public consultations in the cities of Davao, Cebu, and Manila.

The VAWCC, with PCW as the lead agency, signed a resolution on eliminating VAW and institutionalizing government efforts to combat this problem and handed this to then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on March 8, in line with the Women's Day Celebration.



2004 sealed another triumph for victim-survivors of VAW and women's rights advocates when then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed the **Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004 (Republic Act 9262)** during the National Women's Day Celebration.

**Senator Loi Ejercito** was the principal author of **Senate Bill 2723** or the **Anti-VAWC bill** in the Senate while **Rep. Bellalfor Angara-Castillo** was the principal author of **House Bill 5516** at the House of Representatives. Rallying behind them were victim survivors of VAWC and women's rights advocates both in the government, private, non-government and civil society organizations.

RA 9262 is a landmark legislation because it recognized violence against women as a public crime, thereby solidifying its gravity as an act. It charges tougher penalties for abusive partners and marks the declaration of the State's valuation to "the dignity of women and children and guarantees full respect for human rights" (Sec. 2). This law penalizes the commission of different forms of VAW in the context of domestic violence or violence in intimate relationships, including physical, psychological, sexual, and economic.

The 2004 theme, "**I VOW TO STOP VAW**", zeroed in on the stronger implementation of the anti-VAW laws that have been passed, specially the two new laws, RA 9208 or "The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003" and RA 9262 or "The Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004".



VAWCC worked on mechanisms to strengthen the implementation of the National Action Plan to Eliminate Violence Against Women (NAP-EVAW), including standardizing core messages on VAW and exploring a plan to set up a uniform documentation and reporting system on VAW cases.

Production of the anti-VAW song "**Babae, Bumangon Ka**" which encouraged women to rise above VAW and stand up for their rights with the law at their disposal.



In year 2005, stakeholders focused on ensuring the full implementation of the then relatively new laws: Anti-VAWC, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, and other previously passed legislative measures against rape and sexual harassment. The anti-VAW campaign carried the theme **"Karapatan ng Kababaihan, Pagtibayin! Paggalang ng Kalalakhian, Pag-ibayuhin! Batas laban sa Karahasan, Pairalin!"**

# 2005

By this time, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking in Persons (IACAT) and the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IACVAWC) were already established by virtue of RA 9208 and RA 9262 respectively.

### Highlights:

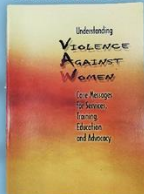
- Development of protocols in handling VAWC cases, formulating DDLE and CSC guidelines for the 10-day paid leave and promoting the institutionalization of VAWCC in government.
- Completion of the development of core messages on VAW, which seeks to provide a standard and uniform definition of VAW elements for accurate documentation of cases by frontline agencies.



2005 - PCW with the PHP and other member of IACVAWC - RUN to end VAW



- The partnership of PCW with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the project "Strengthening Government Mechanisms to Mainstream Gender in the Reproductive Health, Population, and Anti-Violence Against Women Program." Its major components are introducing performance standards for delivering VAW services, harmonizing the documentation system, localizing inter-agency councils, and integrating gender in the government's reproductive health, population, and development programs.



EASTERN SAMAR



The assessment forum on the Anti-Rape Law and the Anti-VAWC Act was conducted on December 7-8, 2006, focusing on the gaps and challenges in implementing these two laws. These include the need for more psychosocial services for victims/survivors and perpetrators, an inadequate program to involve men in addressing VAW, and the absence of a monitoring body overseeing the implementation of the Anti-Rape Law. Possible solutions were also identified, including maximizing the use of existing mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the law.

The 2006 campaign concluded with a conference on trafficking and VAWC and the Philippine launch of the State of the World's Children 2007 Report on December 12, 2006, in Cebu City. It featured experiences in combating trafficking in persons and led to the launch of the Philippine Strategic Plan on VAWC, which enjoins all stakeholders to synergize their efforts to maximize the implementation of the Anti-VAWC Act.



December 7-8, 2006 - Assessment Forum on Anti-Rape Law and the Anti-VAWC Act



The 2006 campaign emphasized the vital role of men in pursuing a community free from violence, fuelled by positive masculinity. The PCW launched the **Men Opposed to Violence Against Women Everywhere (MOVE)** on the first day of the 2006 18-Day Campaign to End VAW.

# 2006

This year also marked the first year of the campaign's 18-day run, in line with **Presidential Proclamation No. 1172**. The Proclamation extended the campaign from 16 days to 18 days, culminating on December 12, as an ode to the signing of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Anchored on the theme **"Ikaw at Ako, Laban sa Karahasan sa Kababaihan,"** the now 18-Day Campaign to End VAW emphasized the broader and more effective implementation of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004, Anti-Rape Law of 1997, and its complementary law, Rape Victims Assistance Act, as well as Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995.

The campaign kicked off on November 24, 2006, at the Quezon City Sports Club with a presentation of the VAW situation in the country, anti-VAW songs, and TV and radio plugs on the various forms of VAW. Then-Vice President Noli de Castro led the soft launch of the Men Opposed to VAW Everywhere or MOVE, a movement of male advocates speaking out against VAW. The vision is to form a movement of gender-sensitive men who will influence and challenge other men and women to join the advocacy to stop VAW.

Using music once again to further the advocacy, PCW tapped singer-composer Noel Cabangon for the production of the song "Kumilos mga Kalalakhian." The jingle calls on male champions to join the crusade against VAW.



Kumilos mga Kalalakhian



Be Fit to Fight VAW

In 2007, the campaign remained laser focused on the popularization of the anti-VAW laws. With the theme **"Be Fit to Fight VAW,"** the PCW partnered with the local government of Quezon City for the Bike Against VAW activity held at the Circumferential Road and the Quezon Memorial Circle. A Forum was likewise organized with Marikina City LGU, which focused on the role of the local governments and other stakeholders such as civil society organization in ensuring the delivery of appropriate and effective programs and services to VAW victims and survivors and their families.

# 2007

With the eradication of VAW in sight, the PCW convened the workshop, "Converging Efforts of the Government, Civil Society Organizations, and the Private Sector for a Holistic Approach to VAW." Emphasizing the value of unity, different stakeholders identified points of convergence in efforts to prevent and address VAW, leading to an action plan enumerating activities to be taken by major players in the advocacy.

Through a project funded by the UNFPA, 25 Local Government Operations Officers were capacitated in implementing RA 9262 through training on gender-sensitive handling of VAW cases.

MOVE convenors participated in a gender sensitivity training (GST) program to sustain anti-VAW activities involving men. This includes a GST for the children of MOVE members and an orientation on VAW and Reproductive Health. MOVE also reached various agencies, like the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Philippine National Police, and some local government units like Quezon, Aklan, Maguindanao, and Sultan Kudarat.



With the theme **"CEDAW ng Bayan: ReMOVE VAW,"** the 2008 campaign emphasized the essential duty of local government units in responding sensitively to VAW and recognized the efforts of the judiciary members in protecting women's rights against gender-based violence. This, while sustaining the active involvement of male advocates to end VAW.

# 2008



The Search for Outstanding VAW-Responsive LGUs and the Gender Justice Awards II, was launched during the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women, commencing the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women. The "Search for the Outstanding VAW-Responsive LGUs" aimed to recognize the innovative programs, policies, services, and interventions in addressing the of barangays, municipalities, and cities.

From the exemplary LGUs to judiciary luminaries, the campaign also opened the Gender Justice Awards II, with the search for gender-sensitive judges from NCR, Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao. Most Outstanding Gender-sensitive Judge, Gender-sensitive Judge from the Sharia Courts, as well as lower court judges who handled and rendered a gender-sensitive decision on a case involving VAW from January 2004 to December 2008.



Now gaining traction, the network of male advocates against VAW participated in the First National Congress of Men Opposed to VAW Everywhere (MOVE) held on December 5, 2008. With the theme "Kilos Mga Kalakihani! Supagin Ang Karahasan Laban Sa Kababaihan!", the MOVE Congress was held in four (4) sites, including Quezon City, Quezon Province, Aklan, and Davao City, through video conferencing.



First National Congress of MOVE

#### Other VAW-related developments:

Development of the Guidelines on Handling of Trafficked Women and the Guidelines on Establishment and Management of LGU VAW Referral System.

Inclusion of a VAW module in the 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) and National Statistics Office's definition of domestic violence expanding from domestic violence to violence against women and renaming to Women's Safety Module.



Banking on the support of male advocates, MOVE Philippines Inc. held a gender-deepening orientation entitled "Men and Masculinity" as part of the 18-day campaign to end VAW. As male advocates against VAW, it is imperative to understand masculinity as a social construct that usually affects the gender roles of men and women. This orientation presented the interrelated factors, such as ethnicity, economic status, educational level, sexual orientation, and social context, in the kind of masculinity that men construct. PCW also facilitated the conduct of Trainers Training on Gender and VAW for the pool of trainers under MOVE.

In line with promoting women's access to justice, the 2009 campaign also featured the second set of Gender Justice Awards. The awardees included Judge Victoria Isabel A. Paresas as the Outstanding Gender-Sensitive Judge of the Philippines, Outstanding Gender-Sensitive Judges for the Visayas and Mindanao, Judge Marilyn J. Yap and Judge Albert S. Axalan, respectively, and the Outstanding Gender-Sensitive Justices of the Sandiganbayan, including Associate Justice Efrén N. Dela Cruz, Associate Justice Norberto Y. Geraldez, and Ret. Associate Justice Godofredo Legaspi.

The Philippine Government, through the PCW and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), led the conduct of a regional conference-workshop on **Legislating and Programming towards an Integrative Approach to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and HIV/AIDS**. It focused on putting a gender lens in formulating and implementing programs addressing both GBV and HIV/AIDS. Networks of women living with HIV/AIDS and GBV victim-survivors also shared inputs, keeping the discussions grounded.



December 10, 2009 also marked the 61st anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). In the Philippines, being among the first signatories of the UDHR and as one of the first elected members of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the government recognized this day as an inspiring symbol to promote and protect women's human rights.

#### Other VAW-related developments:

Creation of guidelines for the local IACATVAWCs and VAW performance standards for local officials, social workers, health workers, police officers, and prosecutors.

Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children. Focus on Urban Youth, organized by the Ministry of Women's Affairs of the Royal Government of Cambodia on November 25-26, 2009, in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Here, best practices and lessons learned in implementing VAW programmes in the Asia Pacific were shared.

# 2009

2009 is a year of significant herstory for gender and development (GAD) advocates with the passage of the **Magna Carta of Women (MCW)**, which served as the blueprint for eradicating discrimination against women. It seeks to recognize, protect, fulfill and promote women's rights, especially those in the marginalized sector. The MCW features a Section on Protection from Violence which include provisions mandating the incremental increase in the recruitment and training of personnel providing services to victim-survivors of VAW, and the establishment of a VAW Desk in every barangay.

With this legislative development, the 2009 theme **"COMMIT \* ACT \* DEMAND: We CAN End Violence Against Women!"** aptly captured the hope of addressing VAW, with MCW providing protection from violence.

The year-long search for the VAW-Responsive Local Government Units (LGUs) and Gender Justice Awards 2 culminated with the Awarding Ceremony in the 2009 kick-off activity. The two searches lauded innovative programs and services of LGUs in addressing VAW and gender-sensitive judges who have rendered gender-sensitive decisions on VAW cases.

To serve as inspiration to the localities, VAW-responsive LGUs were given recognition, namely: **Naga City** as the Most Outstanding VAW-Responsive City; **Olongapo City, Davao City, Quezon City, and San Juan City** as VAW-responsive Cities; **Amlan, Negros Oriental, Calumpit, Bulacan, Calauag, Quezon, and Tupi, South Cotabato** as VAW-Responsive Municipalities; **Brgy. Luz, Cebu City** as VAW-Responsive Barangay; **Jones, Isabela and New Lucena, Iloilo City** as Promising VAW-Responsive Municipalities.



# 2010

The passage of the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) in 2009 and the development of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) in 2010 served both as a challenge and motivation, with the government agencies and local government units striving to carry out the opportunities outlined in the law. Coupled with the current anti-VAW laws, the MCW is expected to reinforce the eradication of gender-based violence for a VAW-free society.

The campaign kicked off with the **"Be Fit to Fight VAW: Self Defense for Women"** held at the Mendiola grounds with participating students from different schools and universities in Manila. It emphasized that VAW must not be tolerated even at a young age, provided tips on how to detect and leave abusive relationships, and demonstrated self-defense techniques.

The 2010 18-Day Campaign bears the theme **"Magna Carta ni PiNay: Gawing Tunay, Karahasan sa Kababaihan, Wakasan!"** It centered on MCW's provisions on Protection from Violence (Section 12), including protection and security for women during conflict and emergency situations and the creation of a VAW Desk in every barangay. In compliance with Section 12. D of the MCW IRR, the Commission convened a working group composed of representatives from **DILG, DSWD, DOH, and DepEd** to formulate the standards and guidelines in the establishment of VAW Desk in every barangay. Ultimately, a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) outlining the Guidelines in the Establishment of the VAW Desk in Every Barangay was issued on December 9, 2010.



## FORUM ON LOCALIZING THE MAGNA CARTA OF WOMEN

9 December 2010; Hotel Rembrandt, Quezon City



Still in line with the Magna Carta of Women, particularly on the non-discriminatory and non-derogatory portrayal of women in all forms of media, a forum on the role of media was held on December 8, 2010, in partnership with the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) and the Media Gender Equality Committee (MGECE). This forum served as an avenue to elevate the awareness of media practitioners on gender issues and share efforts to put women in a positive, instead of stereotypical light in media, film, and advertisement. Known journalists and media personalities gave their opinions including Mr. Boy Abunda, Ms. Laurice Guillen, Ms. Karen Davila, and Bb. Joyce Bernal in this forum moderated by Ms. Kara David and then MTRCB Chairperson Ms. Grace Llamanzares.

PCW participated in the Global Consultation "Delivering as One on Violence Against Women" in New York City on November 3-4, 2010, presenting lessons captured from initiating and implementing the UN Joint Programme on VAW.



In its unceasing efforts to involve male advocates, MOVE Philippines Inc., in partnership with the Philippine Women's University and with assistance from the United Nations Population Programme, oriented students on the role of men and boys in eliminating VAW.



# 2011

In 2011, it became apparent that advocacy can only be fully achieved through collective action. With the theme **UNITE: Stop VAW, Now!**, the Philippines joined the worldwide campaign of the UN Secretary-General dubbed **"UNITE to End Violence Against Women."** This campaign urged the whole UN system, including the government, civil society, women's organizations, male advocates against VAW, young people, media, and the private sector, to collaborate in disseminating information, increasing political will and resources, and forging partnerships in stopping VAW.



Hence, the 2011 campaign paved the way for constructive dialogue among key government agencies and service providers on VAW, like crisis centers, social workers, healthcare providers, police and alternative law groups, to discuss various aspects of VAW, including gender-based violence issues raised to the UN CEDAW through the communications procedure of the CEDAW Optional Protocol.

The campaign encouraged women to claim and defend their rights through information dissemination about the anti-VAW laws, and the various services of government agencies and non-government organizations to address the needs of VAW survivors. It also highlighted aspects of VAW that need particular emphasis such as the issue of VAW among deaf women and electronic VAW.



One of the highlights of the 2011 campaign was the launching of the **"Blow the Whistle on VAW,"** where the whistle was used as a symbolic tool to show that we are united: in preventing VAW, in speaking out against VAW, and in supporting VAW survivors.

PCW, together with the Philippine State College of Aeronautics, conducted the forum **"e-VAW, Ano Raw? Forum"** on December 9, 2011 in Pasay City, and tackled emerging forms of VAW in new media.

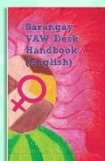


# 2012

2012 marks the first decade of the Philippines' participation in the campaign. Focusing on particular circumstances relative to VAW, the campaign centered on the theme **"VAW-Free Society in Times of Peace, Conflict, and Calamity."**

The campaign started with a bang with the symbolic lighting and releasing of sky lanterns at the Kick-Off Activity at the Quirino Grandstand. The Las Piñas Performers also led a flash mob dance to the tune of Noel Cabangon's "Kumilos, Mga Kalalalahanian!" The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Band played "Babae, Bumangon Ka!" and the Korean hit "Gangnam Style."

With women being more vulnerable to violence in disaster and conflict situations, the 2012 crusade highlighted the importance of weaving gender concerns in the blanket of initiatives spanning armed conflict to disaster situation assistance. It called on movers and doers to increase support mechanisms for VAW victim-survivors during disasters and crises.



Publication of the **Barangay VAW Desk Handbook**, which enables barangay workers and officials in responding to cases of violence committed against women. It discusses the ways and processes for the Punong Barangay to set up and maintain a VAW Desk and explains the Barangay VAW Desk Officers' responsibilities. It also includes information to guide barangay officials and volunteers on how to give efficient and effective services and aid to victim-survivors.

Mid-term assessment of the implementation of Republic Act 9262 which served as a spring board in the formulation of IACVAWC's next strategic plan of action.

#### Other VAW-related developments:

PCW, with funding support from UN Women, organized and hosted the Consultation of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) with UN Experts on Violence Against Women and a Special Representative to the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children on January 16-17, 2012 in the City of Manila. ACWC Representatives deepened their understanding of human rights norms and standards in addressing VAWC and learned from other countries' best practices in responding to the needs of VAW survivors.



The campaign gained more traction in 2013 when President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III signed **Republic Act 10398**, declaring November 25 of every year as the **"National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children."** This law mandated agencies to undertake activities to spread the word on the advocacy, thereby elevating the observance of the campaign.



# 2013

The 2013 campaign held the theme: **"End VAW Now! It's Our Duty!"** It zeroed in on the need for competent duty-bearers with a sense of responsibility and accountability from a deep understanding of the fundamental principles of gender-based violence and the provisions of VAW laws.

To jumpstart the campaign, the PCW organized the **Walk to End VAW** on November 24, 2013, which started in front of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and ended at T.F. Valencia Circle, Rizal Park, Manila attended more than 5,000 participants.



The Commission also tapped the creativity of Metro Manila High School students through a poster-making contest on VAW. The winning entries were given cash prizes and the works were exhibited at SM Centerpoint, Manila, on December 10-12, culminating the campaign.

PCW joined the **One Billion Rising** global campaign on February 14, 2013, by supporting the parade in Quezon City. 1 Billion Rising is a global strike to demand an end to the violence experienced by more than 1 billion women.

PCW called for gender-sensitive and women-friendly disaster response after concerns over the incidents of rape, prostitution, and other forms of sexual exploitation and abuse in evacuation centers and temporary shelters, following the Typhoon Yolanda, the earthquakes in Central Visayas, and the Zamboanga conflict.





2014 set out a clarion call to Juanas and Juans to know and stand up for their rights, echoing the past year's theme, "End VAW Now! It's our Duty!" If 2013 focused on duty-bearers, the 2014 campaign underlined the essential role of rights-holders and the need for them to have a deep concern for women and girls by reporting cases of gender-based violence, participating in the anti-VAW advocacy, and joining discussions on the same.

Going bigger and bolder, the Walk to End VAW saw more than 7,600 participants (Quezon Memorial Circle in Elliptical Road, Quezon City) and was simultaneously held in Kalibo, Aklan; Butuan City for CARAGA, Cebu City, Davao City, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and various parts of the country.

The Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IACVAWC) launched its Strategic Plan on November 25 at Bulwagang Serbisyo Sibil, 2nd floor, Civil Service Commission Central Office in Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

The Media and Gender Equality Committee (MGECC) launched the 2015 GADtimpala for Media, a recognition to the mainstream media organizations observing and practicing Gender-Fairness. This recognition followed the launching of the GADtimpala Awards in 2013 or the search for the most outstanding gender-responsive agencies. Recognizing media practitioners who exemplify gender sensitivity promotes the MCW tenet of the non-discriminatory and non-derogatory portrayal of women in all types of media.



Aside from these pioneering activities, PCW hosted the forum "Promoting Safe Communities: Forum with Male Advocates Against Violence Everywhere" on December 1 at the AFP Theater in Quezon City. This event put forth the crucial role of men and boys in preventing VAWC, including street and public places sexual harassment.

Further leveraging art form as an advocacy tool, PCW also showcased films with issues relative to VAW through the "CineJuana Film Festival." It was conducted from December 8 to 10 at the Leandro Locsin Auditorium of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in Intramuros, Manila. This initiative recognized film as a powerful tool in helping shape the public perception and stand on the issue of VAW. Open to the public for free, the activity was in partnership with GSIS, NCCA, and the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

But the advocacy will only be productive if mechanisms are in place to respond to VAW survivors. Thus, as part of the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW, the IACVAWC, through the PCW and the DILG, mobilized barangay officials for the "NCR Barangay VAW Desk Congress" on December 2, 2015, at the Bayview Park Hotel Manila. The mobilization secured officials' commitment to strengthen the services of barangay VAW desks, the first line when responding to VAW cases.

The Commission on Higher Education also intensified its campaign to eradicate all forms of violence in state colleges and universities in the Training of Guidance Counselors in Handling Gender-Based Violence from November 25-27, 2015, conducted in partnership with the Miriam College's Women and Gender Institute, guidance counselors were trained in handling cases of sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination, and other cases of gender-based violence against female and male students. On December 10-12, CHED also mounted the Leaders' Gender Sensitization on GAD in Private Higher Education Institutions in partnership with the Office of Women and Gender Concerns of St. Scholastica's College. The target participants of this training were the religious administrators (priests and sisters) of all colleges and universities under the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines. These activities are in accordance with CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 01, 2015, to mainstream gender in all higher education institutions, private and public, nationwide.

Further promoting children's protection from abuse, the Child Protection Network organized *Ako Para sa Bata: The International Conference* in Cebu on December 1-2, 2015, at Marco Polo Plaza, Cebu. This conference was in line with the goal of the DOJ Office of Cybercrime to bolster the government's campaign against Online Child Abuse by holding and organizing advocacy and awareness programs to face this global challenge by convening all key stakeholders to discuss public-private partnerships, information sharing, and demonstrating the latest issues facing disruption and enforcement efforts involving online child abuse worldwide.



Arts and color - these dominated the 2015 campaign in its pursuit to bring advocacy to the public in creative and engaging ways.

# 2015

PCW launched the Orange Your Icon Advocacy Initiative, which would eventually be a staple of the campaign. By coloring major landmarks, icons, offices, and establishments in orange, advocates can attract the general public's curiosity and attention. With this gesture, the advocacy reaches the consciousness of a wider audience and puts VAW forward as a pressing matter in need of public attention. Chosen by the UN Secretary general, orange symbolizes hope for a brighter future for survivors of violence, abuse, and discrimination.



One significant happening in the assembly was using different art forms to carry core messages on VAW. It included a shadow play to the song "Babae Bumangan Ka" performed by the group El Gamma Penumbra, the first-ever grand winner of Asia's Got Talent. The shadow play depicted the real-life situations that women and girls experience, including domestic violence, sexual harassment in the work and education setting, and various forms of harassment in the street and public places, like stalking, leering and whistling. The performance also showed the services offered by the frontline government agencies. Aside from El Gamma Penumbra, ERDA-Sanayan ng mga Batang Nanambakan (SABANA) Children's Theatrical Group also gave an interpretative dance.



Still in a move to gather support for the advocacy, PCW mobilized advocates from the stakeholders in the kick-off ceremony dubbed as the "Assembly of Anti-VAW Advocacy Supporters" held at the Aliv Theatre in Pasay City on November 25, 2015. This event provided an avenue to showcase mid-decade (2010-2015) initiatives in ending VAW, as well as the duty bearers' pledge to sustain the gains and pursue further actions to move towards the shared vision of a VAW-free society.



2016 started a new era of anti-VAW advocacy by initiating the first six-year theme: "VAW-free Community Starts with Me." This recurring theme steered the campaign to positive messaging by underscoring each individual's contribution to ending VAW toward the shared vision of a VAW-free community. PCW advanced core messages for every stakeholder: woman/girl, man/boy, government agency, barangay, private sector and non-government organization, and academe/training institutions, enabling them to visualize their role in stopping and addressing VAW helps them solidify their commitment to a society free of violence.



Another event highlight was the performance played by the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA), infused with poetry, song numbers, skits, and sharing experiences in the fight against VAW. Among those who shared their experience in addressing VAW are resource persons from non-government organizations Luna Legal Resource Center and Talikala, Inc., both based in Davao City, Barangay del Rosario of Naga City, and singer-songwriter Noel Cabangon who shared his own thoughts as a male anti-VAW advocate and performed the jingle he composed for the Men Opposed to VAW Everywhere or MOVE, "Kumilos mga Kalalakhani".

The campaign kick-off was graced by more than 3,000 individuals at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Reception Hall in Pasay City on November 25. Vice President Ma. Leonor G. Robredo, a known women's rights advocate, served as the event's keynote speaker.



The Orange Your Icon Advocacy Initiative evolved to a bolder campaign and reached a bigger audience when a partnership with the Department of Tourism was sealed. With the vision of rallying behind gender responsiveness in Philippine tourism, the 2016 initiative envisioned tourist destinations free from sexual harassment, prostitution, sexual exploitation of women and children, and human trafficking. Eighteen tourist destinations joined the advocacy, namely: Rizal Monument and selected areas around Rizal Park, Plaza Roma, Intramuros, Fort Santiago, The Mansion Baguio City, Hundred Island National Park, Buntun Bridge, Salakot Arch, Rizal Shrine, Cagsawa Ruins, Miag-ao Church, Cebu Provincial Capitol, San Juanico Bridge MacArthur Landing Memorial, Paseo del Mar, Maria Cristina Falls, People's Park, Lake Sebu Seven Falls, and Giant Shoe.



# 2017

Perspective is the key to the 2017 campaign. It reached deeper into the sensitivities of stakeholders by showing them the experiences and points of view of victim-survivors in the hopes that with increased understanding comes compassion from stakeholders and adequate action from service providers.

In a profoundly immersive, raw, impactful, and eye-opening activity, PCW, in partnership with PETA, put up the **VAW Experiential Museum** from November 24 to 26, 2017, at the PETA Theater in Quezon City. Together with PETA and several theater organizations, the exhibit/museum was set into four parts, which walk viewers through situations women endure daily. Grounded on women's lived experiences, the scenarios depicted sexual harassment in the workplace, domestic abuse, pimping daughters to alleviate their financial problems, abuse in the academe, and objectification of women. By "walking through" these experiences, the participants pondered, realized, and were astounded. It sent a strong message about the gravity of the VAW problem and the urgent need to address it. It hoped to instill in the participants the awareness and commitment to never condone, never commit, and never be silent about VAW.

Equally gripping is the **VAW: The Unspoken Words**, launched in the same year. Through free-verse poetry juxtaposed with poignant images, five videos exposed the harrowing realities faced by victim-survivors in the home, workplace, school, public spaces, and online space.



The Unspoken Words VAW in Public Spaces



VAWfreePH makes reporting very easy using the one-button dialing to 911 emergency helpline. The "VAWfreePH" mobile app, an android-based personal safety mobile app that gives women and girls a practical tool to fight VAW, was also launched this year.



2018 built on the success of the 2017 campaign and set forth other discoveries in the advocacy.

# 2018

The PCW staged another run of the **VAW Experiential Museum** from December 4-7, 2018, at the Mowelfund Plaza, No. 66, Rosario Drive, Quezon City. This time, it engaged a younger audience, particularly high school and college students and youth organizations, to inculcate gender sensitivity in them toward the goal of VAW prevention.



VAW: The Unspoken Words II: Data Page

To harness the film's power, PCW also organized the **Cine Juana Film Screening** in Bacolod City and Surigao Del Norte on November 26 and December 12, respectively. The film screening featured "Bagahé," a Cinemalya independent film entry that centers on an OFW named Mercy Agbunag (Angeli Bayani), who was investigated after she allegedly left a baby in an airplane's trash bin. The screening incorporated a forum where VAW issues and anti-VAW mechanisms available in their city/region were also taken up.



**VAW: The Unspoken Words** also had its second run but with the addition of the launching of the facilitator's guideline for screening. The new set of videos tackled VAW in digital media, date rape, revenge porn, and human trafficking.

Unceasing in gaining more male campaigners, the PCW, in partnership with MOVE and IACVAWC conducted the "**Male Advocates Assembly on Eliminating Gender-Based Violence**". It was attended by 157 members and officers of MOVE chapters from different parts of the country.



Taking the advocacy a step further, the Commission partnered with DDB Group Philippines for the "**Macho Choir**," a set of radio plugs featuring three nursery songs with lyrics advocating against catcalling. While the melody is catchy, the lyrics are heavy with the message that catcalling is a form of sexual harassment that must neither be tolerated nor dismissed as a laughing matter, a compliment or something trivial. Said radio plugs were aired across 563 AM and FM radio stations nationwide, after being endorsed by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP).



The youth takes center stage in the 2019 campaign, with activities focusing on engaging the young generation.

# 2019

During the forum, the PCW also conferred awards to young filmmakers who made it to the top of the **Cine Juana Digital Shorts Competition**. The competition recognized the power of film in raising awareness on violence and inspiring actions to prevent it. The PCW received fifty-four (54) entries from different parts of the country in three categories: **#JuanParaKayJuana**, which highlights the role of men and boys in reducing VAW; **#LabanJuana**, which features empowering stories that encourage women to seek help and break free from the cycle of violence; and **#LigtasJuana**, which focuses on the essential provisions of the Safe Spaces Act (Republic Act 11313). Dominating the **#JuanParaKayJuana** category, KMBT Productions' "Hatdog Ni Boyet" earned the First Place, with its simple yet effective dialogues capturing the essence of positive masculinity. For the second category, **#LabanJuana**, Cinema Agustino's "Alas Tres," captured the judges' interest because of its original and fresh plot. The top pick for the category, **#LigtasJuana**, is a film where entertainment meets advocacy. SML's "How To Pick Up Chicks" quickly catches one's attention with the right amount of irony and humor, showing the audience how not to pick up chicks, including catcalling, cyberstalking, incessant inquiry for personal information, and sexual harassment in public spaces.

It commenced with a Youth Forum at the Philippine International Convention Center, gathering over 500 millennials and Generation Z, including junior and senior high school students, Sangguniang Kabataan officials, boy and girl scouts, and other regional participants. Boys were inspired to practice positive masculinity, and girls were apprised of their rights and laws protecting them.





Making discussion about VAW interactive and youth-friendly, the PCW mounted the Anti-VAW Expo 2019, held from November 27 to 29, 2019, at the College of Fine Arts, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. With five interactive booths, the Expo raised awareness on VAW and anti-VAW laws and encouraged participants to commit to promoting a VAW-free Philippines. The first booth, the Pathways to a Safe Community, is patterned after the famous game Snakes and Ladders and featured the Safe Spaces Act. The second booth featured a VAW-awareness puppet show that highlights where and how VAW survivors can seek help. The third booth with puzzles highlighted the need of knowing one's rights are protected under various laws. In the fourth booth, participants stood and took a picture as part of the inclusive VAW-free community. Lastly, the participants joined the digital National #VAWfree Movement.



2019 ended on a high note with a Solidarity Walk led by PCW and the Department of National Defense (DND), in collaboration with the IACVAWC, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and MOVE, held on December 12, 2019, at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo. Around a thousand participants from different national government agencies participated in the event and walked the 3-KM route in the vicinity of the Lapu-Lapu Grandstand, wearing their orange shirts and donning their End VAW streamers and signs.



**Other VAW-related highlight:**

Passage of the Safe Spaces Act (Republic Act 11313) and Signing of its Implementing Rules and Regulations. The law provides protection from gender-based sexual harassment in public spaces, online, work space, and educational and training institutions.



The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the challenge of strengthening the functionality of Barangay VAW Desks as the first line of response for survivors. Hence, the PCW launched the Online Talakayan toward VAW-free Barangays, a series of webinars targeting service providers in the barangays.

This five-part webinar informed stakeholders on basic concepts about VAW and gender-based violence, Republic Act 9262 (Anti-VAWC Act), the Establishment of VAW Desks in every Barangay as well as the referral networks available, Republic Acts 7877 and 11313 (Anti-Sexual Harassment Law and Safe Spaces Act), as well as Republic Act 9208 (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act).

# 2020

Challenging as it was, the COVID-19 pandemic did not curtail the campaign. Still, it served as an impetus for more robust advocacy with the emergence of VAW-related issues during the health crisis.

With the COVID-19 backdrop, gender issues were aggravated, affecting the marginalized and vulnerable sectors. Advocates feared that VAW cases would increase with many women locked down in their homes with the perpetrators, exacerbated by tension rising from uncertainties in health, security, and the economy, thus creating a perfect storm. The implementation of varying community quarantine measures also hindered victims from seeking help, reporting the abuse, and/or escaping their perpetrators due to the suspension of public transportation, strict orders to stay home, and limited issuance of quarantine passes. Sexual harassment, victim-blaming, and several online forms of VAW were also observed.



Another significant activity in 2020 was the VAW Puppet Web Series, which boosted the digital campaign of this year. Released on all PCW video platforms, the web series was an offshoot of the VAW awareness puppet show from the 2019 Anti-VAW Expo. Conversational in form, the episodes discussed core messages on VAW through stories and characters expounding on VAW, sexual harassment, and trafficking in persons.

# 2021

marked the second year of the **Safe Spaces Act (SSA)**. Hence, this year's 18-day campaign focused on spreading awareness of this law to the general public and the agencies and institutions with a direct mandate to implement the law.

Under the sub-theme, "*Filipino Marespeto; Safe Spaces, Kasali Tayo*," PCW enjoined everyone to ensure safe spaces for all toward a community free of gender-based sexual harassment.



In an online forum series, PCW, in coordination with IACVAWC, discussed the pertinent provisions of the public's knowledge of the law, focusing on how victims could utilize the processes and mechanisms stipulated therein. In the kick-off on November 25, 2021, the Commission on Human Rights discussed the additional protection SSA provides compared to the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law and explained its core provisions.



On December 3, the Philippine National Police and National Bureau of Investigation concentrated on protection measures and mechanisms in place for victims of gender-based sexual harassment in the streets, in public spaces, and in online space. Culminating the 2021 campaign, on December 10, the Department of Labor and Employment and the Civil Service Commission elaborated on the procedures and institutionalized mechanisms present in preventing and responding to gender-based sexual harassment (GBSH) cases in the workplace in the private and public sectors. For educational/training institutions, the Department of Education and the Technical Education And Skills Development Authority expounded on the responsibilities of the employers and the schools stated under the Safe Spaces Act.



From the virtual realm, the PCW also gained traction in the ground, mounting tangible visual messages in the streets, public spaces, private establishments, public utility vehicles, sidewalks, alleys, restrooms, and other spaces. It produced designs for posters, stickers, brochures, and primers and made these available for download for agencies, private entities, and other stakeholders. The Commission also distributed IEC materials nationwide to select provinces and cities in the Philippines to ensure that the national awareness campaign reaches different stakeholders in the country. PCW also collaborated with the Department of Transportation and its attached agencies to post IEC materials in transport terminals and public utility vehicles, with the goal of a GBSH-safe transportation sector.



With the #SanaAllSpacesSafe Online Campaign, the public was encouraged to share their experiences relative to VAW and/or sexual harassment and their imagery of and hopes for a VAW-free community, also opening discussions on experiences relative to VAW and/or sexual harassment.



Officials of agencies, implementers, service providers, establishment owners, educators, employers, influencers, and ordinary people shared and posted their #SafeSpacesPledge vowing to do their part in making all spaces safe through actions as public servants, private institutions, or individuals.

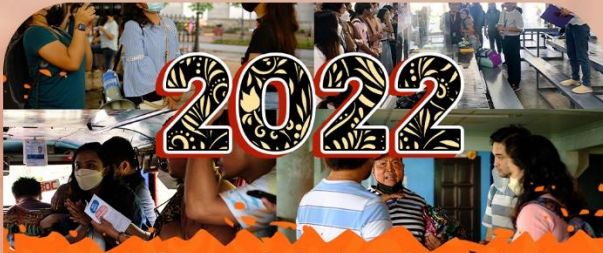
With the "Do the Macho Choir" video challenge, participants sang and danced to the Macho Choir, giving their creative spin to these songs advocating against catcalling.

**Other VAW-related development:** VAWC was included in the cases being responded to by the National Emergency Hotline 911.

Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11596, also known as An Act Prohibiting the Practice of Child Marriage and Imposing Penalties, was signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on Dec. 10, 2021.







A milestone in itself, the 2022 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women endeavors to delve into the understanding of the general public on VAW, its forms, and the laws seeking to address it.

Going to the communities and checking their perception of VAW, the PCW conducted a VAW Social Experiment for this year's campaign. It aims to study the general public's awareness of VAW after two (2) decades of the advocacy campaign and also gather insights that can be useful in assessing the implementation of the anti-VAW laws. In partnership with the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA) Plus, the social experiment involved staging a scenario on VAW by actors and documenting the reactions and actions of onlookers, followed by interviews with the targets.

PCW conducted six legs of the social experiment in the City of Manila, Nueva Ecija, Bohol, and Cagayan de Oro City. At the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology and the University of Science and Technology of the Philippines, the scene involved two talents acting as partners, with the male actor subjecting the woman to psychological and physical violence. Aside from the students' reactions, the same scenario was staged inside a jeepney plying the Tagbilaran-Baclayon route in Bohol to check the responses of targets from different age groups, stature, and coming from varying experiences and perspectives. Also inside the jeepney in Bohol, the performers staged a situation where two men were harassing a woman, asking for her personal details, taking a picture of her, and touching her. Gender-based sexual harassment was also shown in the scenario depicted at Plaza Roma, City of Manila. In Cagayan de Oro City, the PCW planted a scene of trafficking in persons, with a male seemingly recruiting two women to be waiters at a restaurant only to make them victims of prostitution.

Still in line with showing the plight of women VAW victims, the **VAW Survivor Stories** gives them the voice to open up about their experiences related to gender-based sexual harassment, trafficking in persons, rape, and VAW.



The PCW also promoted the **#RaiseYourVoice** campaign, which encouraged victim-survivors to talk about the realities of VAW and open conversations about it. With **#VowToEndVAW**, citizens were invited to post their photos, posing with the Stop VAW sign and indicating what they can do to contribute to a VAW-free community.



PCW, in collaboration with the IACVAWC, launched this year's campaign on November 25, 2022 at PICC. The ceremony presented the VAW social experiment's results and VAW Survivor Stories and gathered insights from duty bearers and stakeholders. Through the "Orange Exhibit: Journey toward a VAW-free Philippines", it also featured the milestones of the efforts to resolve the problem of VAW.

**Other VAW-related Highlights:**

- Passage of Republic Act 11648 which raised the age of sexual consent from 12 to 16 years to shield minors from rape and other acts of sexual abuse.
- President Rodrigo R. Duterte inked Republic Act 11862 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022, a law giving authorities additional tools for pursuing human traffickers who use the internet and digital platforms.
- Signing into law of Republic Act 11930, also known as the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act. This law ensures that every child is protected from all forms of abuse and exploitation, particularly those committed with the use of information and communications technology (ICT).



# 2023

One year ahead of the anniversary of the Anti-VAWC Law's enactment, the 2023 campaign laid the groundwork in assessing the impact of the legislation. With the VAWck to Basics Series, the campaign delved into the core provisions of the laws combatting VAW and provided the public with updated information on them, particularly the amendments related to the laws on rape, gender-based sexual harassment, and trafficking in persons.

The 2023 advocacy also featured "Alam mo VAW?" which consists of interviewing people on the streets to gauge their knowledge on the laws protecting women and girls from VAW. This endeavor offered valuable insights into the general public's understanding of VAW. The interviews were presented at the on-site event "Bawat Pilipino para sa VAW-free Pilipinas" held at the GSIS Theater in Pasay City on November 28, 2023. At the same event, the highlights of the VAW Social Experiment conducted in 2022 were shown and a website dedicated to spotlighting the efforts of the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children (IACVAWC) was officially launched.



To further engage the public, another initiative called the "Ano VAW? Anti-VAWlitakapan Online Program", provided an opportunity to the community to share their reactions and insights regarding the VAW Social Experiment and the Alam Mo VAW Street Interviews.



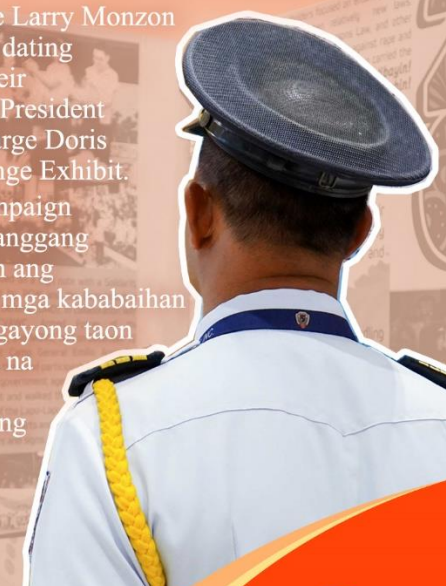
The PCW, in partnership with the IACVAWC, conducted the Capacity Building Project on Handling VAW/GBV Cases for Barangays in 17 municipalities including Laguna, Benguet, Leyte, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Davao Del Sur, South Cotabato and Nueva Ecija. Spearheaded by the Council Secretariat, training was provided to Barangay VAW Desk Officers, Chairpersons, and select LCAT-VAWC representatives. The aim was to elevate their knowledge and competence in delivering survivor-centered and gender-sensitive services as well as contribute to the strengthening of local mechanisms in the target areas.

Inilunsad ng City of Imus Gender and Development (GAD) Unit ang The Orange Exhibit: Journey toward a Violence Against Women (VAW)-Free Philippines nitong Lunes, Nobyembre 25, 2024, sa CityMall Anabu, kasabay ng pagsisimula ng 18-day Campaign to End VAW.

Tampok sa naturang exhibit ang mga hakbanging isinagawa ng pamahalaan sa loob ng 20 taon para sa pagsusulong na mawakasan ang ano mang uri ng pang-aabuso sa mga kababaihan. Layon din nitong mapukaw pa ang kaalaman ng publiko ukol sa iba't ibang pang-aabuso at karahasang kinakaharap ng mga kababaihan sa araw-araw.

Pinasinayaan nina Officer-in-Charge Larry Monzon ng Office of the City Administrator, dating konsehal Tito Monzon, VAW and their Children Desk Officers Association President Susan Mabbatung, at Officer-in-Charge Doris Sagenes ng GAD Unit ang The Orange Exhibit.

Taunang ginugunita ang 18-day Campaign to End VAW mula Nobyembre 25 hanggang Disyembre 12 na layong mawakasan ang mga pang-aabusong nararanasan ng mga kababaihan sa araw-araw. Tema ng kampanya ngayong taon ang "VAW Bigyang Wakas, Ngayon na ang Oras!" kasabay ng ika-20 anibersaryo mula nang maisabatas ang Republic Act No. 9262, o ang "Anti-VAWC Act of 2004."



The 18-Day Campaign to end VAW continues to be a powerful advocacy that underscores the need to shed light on the critical issue of gender-based violence, offering a poignant reminder of the urgency to address this pervasive problem. It remains to be a catalyst for social change, propelling crucial conversations and actions to create a world where women can live free from violence and fear.

UNITED for a VAW-free Philippines, let us persist in this journey toward eliminating VAW and promoting gender equality, making the campaign a beacon of hope in the ongoing endeavor for a safer and equitable society.

Join the movement now! Scan the QR code and/or visit the link to show your commitment to a #VAWfreePH: [bit.ly/orangeexhibit](https://bit.ly/orangeexhibit)



## ***KUWENTUHAN NA SA PLAZA . . . MGA BATA, TARA NA! KASAMA SI KONSI YEN***

Nakihalubilo si Konsehal Yen Saquilayan sa kaniyang pagsasalaysay ng kuwentong “Superwoman si Inay” ni Segundo D. Matias Jr. sa 86 na bata noong Marso 6, 2024 sa “Kuwentuhan na sa Plaza . . . Mga Bata, Tara na!”

Nakatanggap din ang mga ito ng munting regalo mula kay Konsi Yen at mga papremyo mula sa palarong inihanda ng Imus City Public Library.



## ***IMUSEÑAS DAY: LIBRENG GUPIT, MANICURE, AT PEDICURE***

Naghandog ang Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Imus ng libreng gupit, manicure, at pedicure sa mga Imuseñang bumisita sa New Imus City Government Center noong Marso 8, 2024 bilang pakikiisa sa paggunita ng National Women’s Day.

Personal ding binati nina Konsehal Yen Saquilayan, Konsehal Atty. Wency Lara, Konsehal Mark Villanueva, at Konsehal Darwin Remulla ang mga Imuseña.



## ***GENDER SENSITIVITY TRAINING: GENDER ISSUES IN THE MODERN WORKPLACE***

Pinangunahan ng Local Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office ang pagsasagawa ng “Gender Sensitivity Training: Gender Issues in the Modern Workplace” noong Marso 14, 2024 sa Wellness Center ng New Imus City Government Center.

Kasama ang mga malalaking kumpanya sa Imus, ibinahagi nina Service Level Manager II Winnie Blay ng Department of Labor and Employment at Senior Labor and Employment Officer Arthur Candare ng ING Bank ang nilalaman ng Safe Spaces Act. Ito ay upang maprotektahan ng mga employer ang kanilang mga empleyado mula sa karahasan at pang-aabusong maaari nilang



### **BASIC MUSHROOM PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING TRAINING PARA SA MGA KABABAIHANG EMPLEYADO NG IMUS LGU**



Bilang pakikiisa ng Office of the City Agriculturist sa Pambansang Buwan ng Kababaihan, idinaos ang isang Basic Mushroom Production and Processing Training kalahok ang mga kababaihang empleyado ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Imus nitong Marso 26, 2024 sa City Ecological Village, Brgy. Malagasang I-G.

Layunin nitong maituro sa mga empleyado ang wastong pagpapatubo at pag-aalaga ng mga mushroom para magkaroon sila ng iba pang mapagkukunan ng kita. Ang pagtuturo ng mushroom production at processing ay pinangunahan nina Dan Kevin Mojica at Janette Paula Ortiz.

Isa ang Basic Mushroom Production and Processing Training sa mga programa ng Office of the City Agriculturist na naghihikayat sa mga Imuseñong magtanim sa kani-kanilang mga tahanan sa pamamagitan ng pagsasagawa ng mga training at workshop.

### **KAHANGA-HANGANG IMUSEÑAS, PINARANGALAN**

Kinilala ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Imus, sa pangunguna ng Gender and Development (GAD) Unit, nitong Marso 26, 2024 sa City of Imus Youth Center ang mga Imuseñang kahanga-hanga ang mga naiambag para sa pag-angat ng mga komunidad sa Imus.

Mula sa limang finalist, hinirang na Most Inspiring Leabras— isang negosyante, kasalukuyang Communications Technology Council, Imus at ng kalakhang Cavite.

Binati rin nina City Vice Mayor Homer Saquilayan sa pamamagitan ng Administrator Tito Monzon, Jhett Vilbar – Lungcay, at Dr. Jun Paredes ang mga kababaihang dumalo

Sa parehong araw, isinagawa ng GAD kung saan

Kahanga-hangang Imuseña si Ms. Teresita presidente ng Cavite Information and at tagapagtaguyod ng economic growth ng



“Saki” T. Saquilayan, Konsehal Yen isang video message, City GAD Unit Officer-in-charge (OIC) City Tourism and Heritage Office OIC kahanga-hangang Imuseña at sa nasabing programa.

Unit ang isang Women’s Forum, pinag-usapan ang women empowerment, resiliency, at social responsibility.

### **WOMEN WITH DISABILITY DAY: PAMPER DAY NG MGA KABABAIHANG MAY KAPANSANAN**



Libreng haircut, hair treatment, manicure, at masahe ang inihatid ng Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) at City College of Imus sa 150 kababaihang Imuseñong may kapansanan nitong Abril 4, 2024 na bahagi ng pakikiisa ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Imus sa Buwan ng Kababaihan.

Bukod sa mga nabanggit na libreng serbisyo, nakatanggap din ang mga dumalo ng special kit, habang naghandog ng special song performance ang special education students at ang magkapatid na sina Kianna Dhennise at Yvannah Louise Ursua.

## BAGONG BGFPS OFFICERS NAHALAL

Idineklara na ang mga bagong halal na Barangay Gender and Development Focal Point System (BGFPS) Officers sa naganap na pagpupulong noong Marso 16, 2024 sa Wellness Center ng New Imus City Government Center.

Hinirang na president si Cecile Novio ng Anabu II-A, vice president si Madeline Sucgang ng Pinagbuklod, secretary si Gina Palesco ng Pag-asa III, assistant secretary si Maria Socorro Sasis ng Bayan Luma V, treasurer si Eleanor Topacio ng Poblacion II-B, assistant treasurer si Neneth Protacio ng Anabu I-F, auditor si Karenn Pangangaan ng Bucandala III, at public relations officer sina Mary Ruby Bautista at Roma Cyryll Jaro ng Tanzang Luma III.

Kasabay nito ay ginanap din ang Orientation on Harmonized GAD Guidelines for BGFPS Members, kung saan ibinahagi ni GAD Specialist Kim Harold Peji ang mga mahahalagang kaalaman kaugnay ng pagpapabuti sa gender-responsiveness ng mga barangay sa pakikisalamuha sa publiko, kabilang na ang tools at forms para sa assessment, monitoring, at evaluation.

Ang BGFPS ay katuwang ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Imus sa pagprotekta sa mga kababaihan laban sa karahasan at pang-aabuso.

## PANTAY-PANTAY NA OPORTUNIDAD PARA SA MGA KABABAIHAN SA JOB MATCHING ACTIVITY NG IMUS PESO

Nakiisa ang Imus Public Employment Service Office (PESO) sa pagdiriwang ng Buwan ng Kababaihan sa pagsasagawa ng Job Matching Activity nitong Marso 20, 2024, sa Lotus Central Mall.

Sa 102 registered applicants, 24 ang natanggap agad sa trabaho. Katuwang dito ang 16 na kumpanya kasama ang SSS, PhilHealth, at Pag-IBIG Fund.

Ang Job Matching Activity ay isa sa mga programa ng Imus PESO na layong matulungan ang mga Imuseñong makahanap ng trabahong swak sa kanilang kakayahan.



## MGA HAMON AT OPORTUNIDAD NA KINAKAHARAP NG MGA KABABAIHANG NEGOSYANTE, TINALAKAY SA WOMEN'S FORUM NG CICLEDO

Iminungkahi ng City of Imus Cooperative, Livelihood & Entrepreneurial, and Enterprise Development Office (CICLEDO) ang talakayan ukol sa mga hamon at oportunidad na nararanasan ng mga kababaihang negosyante sa forum na pinamagatang "Women Entrepreneurs in the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Challenges and Opportunities" nitong Marso 25, 2024 sa Function Hall ng New Imus City Government Center.

Ibinahagi naman nina Operations Manager Michelle Ann Santos ng Lusia and Son at Owner and Manager Anabelle Kamantigue ng Sugarcube Café ang kanilang karanasan sa pagpapatakbo ng kani-kanilang mga negosyo mula sa pagiging medicine degree holders.

Nakasama rin dito si City Vice Mayor Homer "Saki" T. Saquilayan, habang nagbigay ng mensahe sa pamamagitan ng isang video message si Officer-in-charge Atty. Khay Ann Magundayao – Borlado ng Philippine Commission on Women.



## What you should know about

**AANGAT**  
ANG IMUS



### Magna Carta of Women (MCW) Special Leave or the Gynecological Leave for Women

MCW Special Leave benefit refers to a female employee's **leave entitlement** of two (2) months with full pay based on her gross monthly compensation following surgery caused by **gynecological disorders**.

*Sec. 7.T. (Definition of Terms), RA 9710 IRR*

"Gross monthly compensation"  
monthly basic pay plus mandatory allowances fixed by the law/regional wage board

#### *Who can avail of the MCW Special Leave benefit?*

Women employees, regardless of age and civil status, who are in service for at least one (1) year and have rendered continuous aggregate employment service of at least six (6) months.

*"In the public sector, however, women employees should have rendered at least six (6) months aggregate service in any various government agencies for the last twelve (12) months prior to undergoing surgery for gynecological disorders."*

#### *When should MCW Special Leave benefit be filed?*

MCW Special Leave benefit may be filed in advance, at least five (5) days for government sector, or within a reasonable period of time for private sector, prior to the scheduled date of gynecological surgery. In case of emergency surgical procedure, the said leave shall be filed immediately upon return from such leave.

#### *When can the MCW Special Leave benefit be availed?*

MCW Special Leave benefit may be availed following surgery caused by a gynecological disorder. However, for employees in the private sector, the employer, in its discretion, may allow said employee to receive her pay for the period covered by the approved leave before or during the surgery.

#### "Employment Service"

includes absences with pay such as use of other mandated leaves, company granted leaves and maternity leave, and authorized sick leave without pay.



#### Required documents

1. Properly accomplished and approved **Leave Form** being used in the agency/ company/establishment
2. **Medical Certificate** certified by a competent medical authority preferably specializing in gynecological disorders who is in the position to determine the recuperation period of the woman employee

The Medical Certificate shall be accompanied by a clinical summary reflecting the gynecological disorder, histopathological report, operative technique used, duration of surgery, period of confinement, as well as period of recuperation.



*How often can the MCW Special Leave benefit be availed?*

Special Leave benefit may be availed for every instance of surgery due to gynecological disorder for a maximum total period of two (2) months or sixty (60) calendar days per year.

*What if the employee incurred leave of absence prior to the surgery?*

For government employees, the leave of absence incurred for preparatory procedures and/or confinement prior to the surgery may be charged to Sick Leave credits or Vacation Leave credits after their Sick Leave credits have been exhausted. However, the employees in the private sector may still charge their leave of absence to the company leave and other mandated leave benefits.

*What if the doctor prescribed more than 60 days recuperation period?*

After the two (2) months gynecological leave and the patient needs more time to recover, she may charge it to her earned Sick Leave credits or to her Vacation Leave credits, after her Sick Leave credits have been exhausted. However, the employees in the private sector may still charge their leave of absence to the company leave and other mandated leave benefits.



**"Gynecological Disorders"**

disorders that would require Surgical procedures such as Dilation and Curettage and those involving female reproductive organs such as the vagina, cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, breast, adnexa and pelvic floor

**Gynecological surgeries shall also include Myomectomy, Hysterectomy, Ovariectomy and Mastectomy.**

*Is Special leave benefit same as SSS sickness benefit?*

No. The MCW Special Leave benefit is different from SSS sickness benefit. The MCW Special Leave benefit is granted by the employer to a woman employee who has undergone surgery due to gynecological disorder while the SSS sickness benefit is administered and given by SSS in accordance with SSS Law or RA 1161 as amended by RA 8282.

*Can the MCW Special Leave benefit be earned and/or converted to cash?*

No. MCW Special Leave benefit is non-cumulative and non-convertible to cash unless otherwise provided by a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) in the private sector.



*What will happen if the woman employee has undergone surgery due to gynecological disorder during her maternity leave, can she be entitled to MCW Special Leave benefit in addition to her maternity benefits?*

The woman employee who has undergone surgery due to gynecological disorder during her maternity leave, is entitled only to the difference between the maternity leave benefits and the MCW Special Leave benefit.

*What will happen to the existing or similar benefits under a company policy, practice or collective bargaining agreement (CBA)?*

The existing similar benefits under a company policy, practice or CBA shall be considered as compliance, unless the company policy, practice or CBA provides otherwise. In case the company policy, practice or CBA provides lesser benefits, the company shall grant the difference.

*What are the responsibilities of the Agency Head?*

The agency head shall ensure that the MCW Special Leave benefit for women or the Gynecological Leave under RA 9710 (Magna Carta of Women) is enforced in their agency.

They shall likewise pro-actively promote reproductive health care awareness and wellness programs for their employees.



**Human Resource Managers**



# NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH 2024: KAKAYAHAN NG KABABAIHAN, PATULOY NA INAANGAT SA IMUS



*Ang National Women's Month ay ipinagdiriwang tuwing Marso ayon sa Proklamasyon Blg. 227, taong 1988. Kinikilala ang unang linggo ng buwan bilang Women's Week sa bisa ng Proklamasyon Blg. 224, taong 1988, habang National Women's Day ang Marso 8 kada taon, alinsunod na rin sa Batas Republika Blg. 6949, taong 1990, o "An Act to Declare March Eight of Every Year as a Working Special Holiday to be Known as National Women's Day."*

## WOMEN'S FORUM



### CITY GOVERNMENT OF IMUS

New City of Imus Government Center, Jose Topacio Nueno Avenue,  
Malagasang I-G, City of Imus, Cavite Philippines 4103

MAIN OPERATOR AND ASSITANCE: (046) 888-9910 • (046) 888-9912  
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