



*Republika ng Pilipinas*  
**Komisyon ng Karapatang Pantao ng Pilipinas**  
*(Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines)*

**GENDER OMBUD ADVISORY**

**Calling support for the establishment of an Independent  
Expert on protection against violence and  
discrimination based Sexual Orientation and Gender  
Identity (SOGI) at the UN Human Rights Council**

**CHR-A2016-007**

As Gender Ombud under the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710) and as a National Human Rights Institution, the Commission on Human Rights is committed to the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE). We recognize the various forms of discrimination and violence that persons face on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and how these are linked with other forms of discrimination. We work with the Lesbian, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) communities in mainstreaming gender equality and in the protection and promotion of the human rights of LGBTI.

This end of June, the Human Rights Council will be deliberating on the resolution presented by Latin American group (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay) on the establishment of a UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. This resolution follows the 2011 UN resolution on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity presented by South Africa and the 2014 resolution presented by the Latin American core group. As allies and as advocates of LGBTI rights, and as member of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, the Commission **fully supports the call** for the creation of a UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation on Gender Identity (SOGI).

While the Philippines abstained on the 2011 Resolution, it supported the 2014 SOGI resolution and has expressed openness in General Assembly discussions. We believe that the deliberation of this Resolution is yet another chance for the country to show its support and commitment to the human rights of LGBTI. As a current voting member of the Human Rights Council, **we strongly urge the Philippines to stand on the side of equality and for the human rights of LGBTI.** Together with other members of

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the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) and the International Coordinating Committee for National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (ICC), we call for the Philippine's **favorable vote for the establishment of a UN Independent Expert on SOGIE.**

The country's support to this resolution means the recognition of the urgent need to address the various forms of discrimination and violence faced by persons with diverse SOGI and a recognition that there is a need to systematically address these problems. The establishment of a UN Expert on SOGI makes this possible by allowing more detailed exploration of the situation of specific populations, the specific patterns of violations and the intersectionalities between human rights violation based on SOGI and on other ground, including looking at the root causes of why such violence and discrimination take place. Independent Experts would also engage in constructive dialogues, share good practices, build awareness and provide support to governments open to addressing these issues. They are also expected to encourage positive and effective responses to government and stakeholders and to bring clarity to the application of international human rights norms and standards in relation to SOGI.

Again, we call on the country's full support for the establishment of an Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. As a voting member of the Human Rights Council, we look forward to the country's favourable vote towards the establishment of this special mandate, and we also request for vigilance during the deliberation of the resolution --- that the same be discussed based on the merits thereof, and that any effort to block the same on the basis of procedure be duly opposed.

Issued this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016, Quezon City, Philippines.



**JOSE LUIS MARTIN C. GASCON**  
Chairperson



**KAREN S. GOMEZ DUMPIT**  
Commissioner



**GWENDOLYN L.L. PIMENTEL-GANA**  
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**LEAH C. TANODRA-ARMAMENTO**  
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**ROBERTO EUGENIO T. CADIZ**  
Commissioner