

Activity Title: **Making Data for Women: Mapping of Legal Referral Mechanisms on GBV**
Focus Group Discussion for Government Service Providers
(Municipality of Socorro, Oriental Mindoro, September 30, 2019)

Program of Activities:

8:30 AM	Venue Preparation/Setting-up
8:40 AM	Registration/Attendance
9:15 AM	Total of 10 Participants
9:20 AM	Prayer, National Anthem
9:25 AM	Orientation about Commission on Human Rights (CHR)
9:30 AM	Total of 12 Participants
10:00 AM	Discussion about Making Data work for women: Mapping of legal referral mechanism on GBV
10:35 AM	Start of Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
11:40 AM	Start of Reporting
12:10 PM	End of Reporting
12:15 PM	Question and Answer with Atty. Estrella C. Baltazar
1:00 PM	Evaluation led by Ma'am Daisy Guao
1:30 PM	Bekitaktakan Audio Visual Presentation (Bonus Presentation due to query relative to SOGIE)
1:40 PM	Awarding of Certificates

1:45 PM Group Picture with all the participants

2:00 PM End of seminar

A Narrative report on the activity: Making Data work for women: Mapping of legal referral mechanism on GBV with Group discussion with different service providers

I. INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality, and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations within all societies. Gender-based violence is violence directed against a person because of their gender. Both women and men experience gender-based violence but the majority of victims are women and girls.

Gender-based violence and violence against women are terms that are often used interchangeably as it has been widely acknowledged that most gender-based violence is inflicted on women and girls, by men. However, using the 'gender-based' aspect is important as it highlights the fact that many forms of violence against women are rooted in power inequalities between women and men.

Since Gender-based violence is one of the priority issues of the Commission of Human Rights, they think of ways to reach out to municipalities to make research/to map current legal referral mechanisms used by service providers, thus this seminar became their instrument.

II. NARRATION OF EVENTS:

The coordinators led by the OIC-CHR MIMAROPA/Speaker Atty. Estrella C. Baltazar arrived at the Municipal Hall of Socorro at around 8:20 in the morning of September 30, 2019. Upon arrival and after having communication with the inviting body, they started the venue preparation and setting up of computer and projector which will be used for the discussion. Registration and distribution of CHR materials started at 8:40 a.m. At around 9:15, there were a total of ten participants (10) and so the seminar started at 9:20 with a prayer followed by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem (Lupang Hinirang). Ms. Daisy Guao, Information Officer II of CHR MIMAROPA Regional Office in Quezon City introduced the speaker, Atty. Estrella C. Baltazar of CHR MIMAROPA Office.

Atty. Baltazar started with welcoming of guests and an early thank you greeting for attending such activity. She opened the discussion by asking if anyone knew if there is already an office of CHR in Mindoro and is there an instance of attending lectures/activities connected with them. P01 Lynee De Guzman of PNP Socorro answered that she had attended lectures with regards to human rights because of the nature of their job and because of the cases they handled.

Atty. Baltazar initially discussed the history/existence of the office of the Commission on Human Rights that according to her CHR is an independent constitutional office created under the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, with the primary function of investigating all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights in the Philippines. She asked her audience about their perceptions when they hear about the Commission and among those who answered were Ma'am Gina Penaflor (MSWDO), "Tumutulong sila sa mga tao para mabigyan ng

tamang pang-unawa tungkol sa karapatang pantao” and Ma’m Nemia De Chavez (MSWDO) who quoted, “Tumutulong sa taong kulang pa ang kaalaman sa CHR”. With these answers, Atty. Baltazar added that among their functions also include investigating, on its own or on complaint by any party, all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights, adopting its operational guidelines and rules of procedure, and cite for contempt for violations thereof in accordance with the Rules of Court, exercising visitorial powers over jails, prisons, or detention facilities, establishing a continuing program of research, education, and information to enhance respect for the primacy of human rights, monitor the Philippine Government's compliance with international treaty obligations on human rights, and requesting the assistance of any department, bureau, office, or agency in the performance of its functions. She added that in visiting on jails, they were accompanied by their investigators who played vital roles in the process. The Commission also give free legal assistance and assist in drafting of affidavit according to her.

While on working break, the discussion focused on the different government service providers who will be of great help depending on the case and on the area of jurisdiction. According to Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, most of their clients were indigent, persons with disabilities, children and pregnant women. Further, the speaker give emphasis on the basic concept about CHR wherein she narrated that human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever the nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination, she said. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

Commission on Human Rights as Gender Ombud was also discussed by the speaker. She noted that they pursue the promotion of gender equality

and is committed to the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with diverse SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION (SOGIE). CHR shall promote and protect the human rights of intersex persons and persons with diverse SOGIE and it shall likewise investigate all forms of human rights violations and acts of discrimination committed against them. She continued by the question and answer portion about gender identity. She explained that this is about a person's perception of having a particular gender, which may or may not correspond with their birth sex. These came along with the so called STIGMA (a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person) and discrimination. Child Protection Policy was also discussed. When it comes to CHR, they always promote positive discipline and explain why they must discipline. All rights have their own obligation. The moment manifestation is present, they will ensure if there are laws that have violated. CHR Observatory Project, according to the speaker, harness the capacities of the Commission's Regional Offices in monitoring functionality of referral mechanisms, providing recommendations and influencing enhance functionality and responsiveness of local inter-agency mechanisms to respond to VAW; it aims to strengthen Commission's mandate as Gender Ombud.

10:35 a.m. was the start of focus group discussion. Participants were divided into two groups and were given questionnaires (please see attached). Keywords are to be used to answer the questions. This activity aims to know the importance of GAD code in a community. GAD Code, as explained is a local legislation that consolidates local ordinances related to women and gender equality and which guides LGUs in identifying local policies, plans and programs to address gender issues. The GAD Code integrates or is aligned to gender- related national laws and international conventions. The participants were given one hour to discuss the

situations/events/questions given. It was 11:40 when they started the reporting. The first group was represented by Ma'am Sharon Ylagan, Municipal Social Welfare Development Officer of Socorro. She started with the current policy used in the municipality of Socorro with regards to gender equality and they have their VAW referral mechanism. Common forms of gender-based violence received by their office includes rape, acts of lasciviousness, sexual harassment, incestuous rape and on VAWC includes physical and economic abuse, urban poor women, teenage mothers and economic insufficiency vices. With the flow of case management, entry point is always at the barangay wherein they give counselling, legal assistance, financial assistance and referral. Referral in some cases happens when the situation caused trauma, according to the reporter. They made monthly report also (barangay level) regarding the cases filed. They make use of campaign materials for their information dissemination like flyers, tarpaulin, and posters. They were also actively participating in celebrations like women's month. Most problems they encounter according to the speaker are the lack of interest of the complainant to report and file the case. Their recommendation is to have a comprehensive and integrated GBV re-orientation with the barangays, SOGIE orientation and to have an organized registered LGBTQIA++ community.

On the other hand, the second group (mostly barangay personnel) was represented by Ma'am Michelle Fajarillo (Child Development Worker). With GAD budgeting, 5% was allotted to women. Teenage pregnancy and discrimination are the most common GBV problems they encountered. Their entry point is the barangay (VAWC Desk and MSWDO) also. Their recommendation is more on orientation, information dissemination and trainings on SOGIE.

Immediately after their report, they had their discussion while having their lunch at around 12:10. One of the topics recognized by Atty. Baltazar on their report that was given attention was the issue on sexual harassment, rape and acts of lasciviousness. According to the speaker, AIM WET can be used as their guide. AIM WET stands for authority, influence, moral ascendancy, work, education, and training. There was exchange of experiences shared by the participants during the last part of the discussion. To sum it all, the speaker give emphasis on extreme and comprehensive GBV orientation with the barangays and municipalities. There are many people who violated laws because they don't have better knowledge and understanding about their rights, she said. The best answer is to disseminate information (flyers, tarps, posters), conduct seminars and orientation in every city/municipality. Everyone must also learn how to apply the learning they gain in the trainings they had attended. Capacitate is the key to lessen the works of higher levels.

After the evaluation conducted by the information officer, Ma'am Daisy, awarding of certificates to guests/participants happened at about 1:40 in the afternoon. It was then followed by group picture taking. The seminar ended at around 2:00 p.m.

Attendance

The image shows a document on a clipboard, likely an attendance sheet. At the top, there is a header section with a date field. Below the header is a table with several columns and rows. The text in the table is very blurry and difficult to read, but it appears to be organized into a grid format. The document is held by a wooden clipboard.

This image is a second, slightly different view of the same attendance sheet. It shows the same header with a date and the same table structure with multiple columns and rows. The text remains illegible due to the low resolution and blur. The document is again on a wooden clipboard.

Discussion







Focus Group Discussion





Group Picture with all the participants

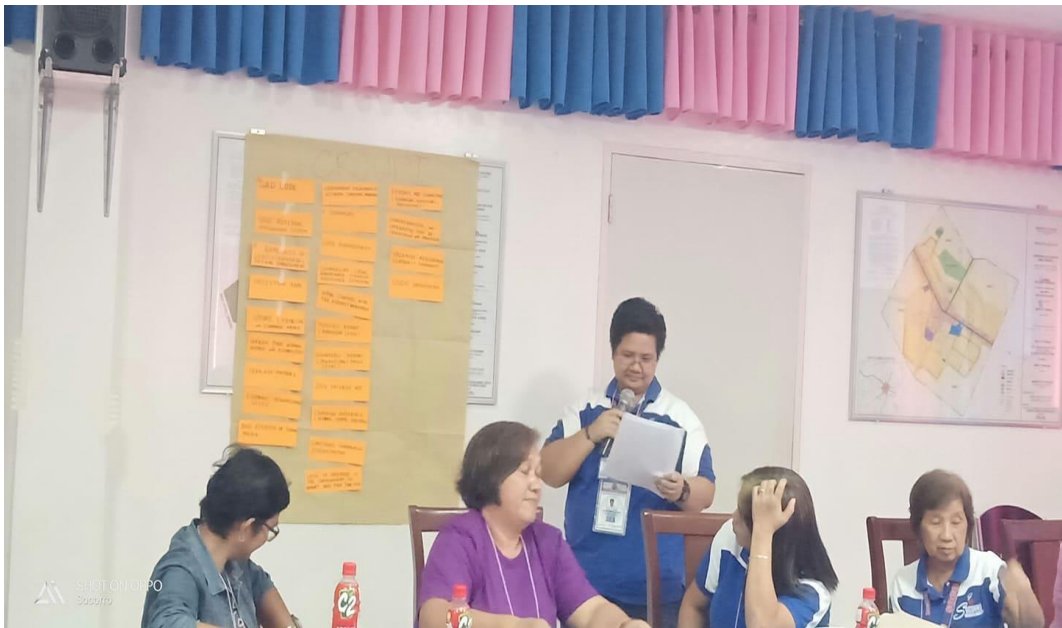




Registration



Reporting



Prayer, National Anthem



Questionnaire

