

**FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH WOMEN/
WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS**

1 GENDER EQUALITY SITUATIONER IN THE CITY

1.1 Are you aware of any local gender equality or GBV policies in your city?

- Bicol University has an anti-discrimination policy which supports people with diverse SOGIE since 2017 (GaYon, Inc.)
- Legazpi City has a GAD Code, but in the GAD Budget hearings, not all sectors are represented (Legazpi Verde Sangre)

1.2 Have you or your organization participated in the development/passage of these policies?

Have you ever accessed GAD funds of the barangay/LGU?

- Yes, we have accessed 5% of the GAD funds for our seminars on PWD and Child protection in the barangays (Oas PWD Organization)
- We participate in the committee hearings on the proposed Anti-Discrimination Ordinance (GaYon Inc.)



2 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE CITY

2.1 Are the VAW Desks in your barangay functional ?

- We have a VAW Desk in our barangay, but it is not functional
- The establishment of VAW Desks is mere compliance, and the DILG has no resources to validate their functionality (Legazpi Verde Sangre)
- We do not have a VAW Desk in our barangay (Albay Association of the Deaf)
- Barangay officials attend trainings for compliance only (GaYon Inc.)

2.2 What are the common forms of GBV in your City/Municipality?

- Violation of Republic Act 9262, particularly physical abuse (Albay Association of the Deaf)
- Rape and Violation of Republic Act 9262 (GaYon Inc.)
- Violation of Republic Act 9262 (Legazpi Verde Sangre)

2.3 What are the specific challenges/barriers women experienced in seeking legal remedies in cases of GBV? What are the challenges specific for women in the marginalized sectors (deaf, rural women, IP, etc.)

A. Reporting and investigation of cases of GBV (PNP/VAW Desk)

- o Hate crimes against LGBTIQ+ are not properly investigated by the authorities. LGBTQA+ who are victims of GBV sometimes fail to report the incidents of abuse because of the discriminatory treatment and disrespect they receive from the authorities (Legazpi Verde Sangre)
- o Barriers in communication (Albay Association of the Deaf)
- o Cases of incest are not properly investigated by the authorities (Camalig Women's Organization)

2.4 What have been the observed trends in gender based violence cases received in the past five years?

- o Violation of R.A. 9262 (GaYon Inc.) is the most common form of GBV

3 DOCUMENTATION

- 3.1 Does your organization conduct documentation/research on GBV in your area? Can you provide a brief description of the documentation/research?**
- Only inquiries into hate crimes/discrimination against transwomen in the LGU (Legazpi Verde Sangre)
- 3.2 Do you document cases of GBV that your organization or you assist or respond to? How is the system of documentation?**
- There is no system of documentation (Albay Association of the Deaf)
- 3.3 From experience, is there a government good practice in responding to GBV? Is there also a case that shows difficulty in accessing justice/legal remedies in cases of GBV in your area?**
- The absence of sign language interpreters in VAW Desks makes it hard for a PWD who is a victim of GBV to access justice (Albay Association of the Deaf)

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Are there information on GBV and women's human rights which could be of use to you and you would like to be available to your organization?

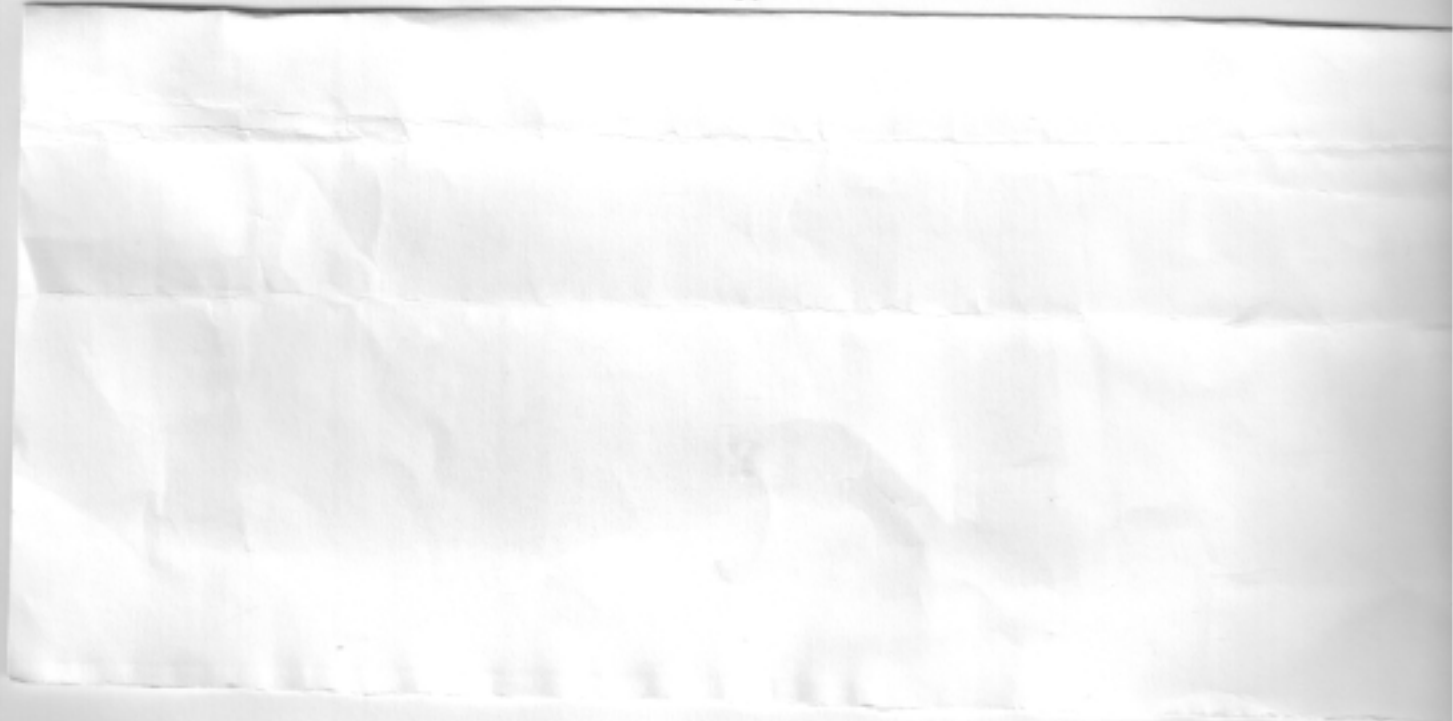
- Trainings and seminars on sign language interpretation for service providers
- Accountability mechanism for government service providers
- Mapping of GBV

4.2 Are there information on GBV and women's human rights which you feel women vulnerable to GBV need to have more access to?

- Laws on women should be reduced to easily comprehensible language

4.3 Are there information on gender-based violence and women's human rights which you feel the local population in general need to have more access to?

- Women-empowerment
- Procedure in filing a complaint/accessing justice



4.4 Other recommendations for the CHR as the Gender Ombud as mandated by the Magna Carta of Women?

- Conduct of seminars on women's rights/human rights in the barangays
- Trainings for barangay officials
- Hire sign language interpreters
- Inclusion of women with diverse SOGIE in its work
- Integrate the teaching of Magna Carta of Women in academic institutions
- Involve men in the campaign to eliminate GBV