

36th Human Rights Council
UPR Outcome – Philippines
Statement by: International Lesbian and Gay Association
September 22, 2017

Delivered by: *Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera*

Thank you Mr. President,

This statement is delivered in consultation with ASEAN SOGIE Caucus and more than 10 Filipino lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) groups.

We thank the governments of Australia, Mexico and Slovenia for issuing SOGIESC-specific recommendations and advanced questions. We note with appreciation that the Philippine's accepted on of these recommendations.

We welcome the openness of the Philippine government to engage on LGBTIQ human rights issues during the Third Cycle of the UPR. For the first time, the government dedicated a section in its national report on developments related to LGBTIQ issues since the Second Cycle. We take note of the government's vow to "integrate the human rights agenda in its development initiatives to protect all ... including members of the LGBT community."

Since then, some positive steps have been made. In June 2017, the Department of Education issued a Gender-responsive Basic Education Policy which aims to integrate gender, sexuality, and human rights into the basic education curriculum, with the potential of helping eradicate stereotypes against LGBTIQ persons. In August 2017, the Quezon City Police engaged LGBTIQ defenders and high-ranking police officials in a dialogue towards developing an LGBTIQ-affirmative policy guidelines. In September 20, 2017, the House of Representatives approved the SOGIE Equality Bill.

We remain concerned about the absence of a national legislation to protect LGBTIQ persons from discrimination and violence, and efforts by some legislators to obstruct the passage of anti-discrimination bills in the Senate. And while there are more than 20 local government units that have anti-discrimination ordinances, only one has corresponding Implementing Rules and Regulations to make it enforceable.

We remain concerned that education institutions, including some state universities, continue to enforce restrictive policies on uniforms that effectively ban transgender students' access to education. We note that social protection programs such as socialized housing and health services still discriminate same-sex partners and their identified dependents. We note also many incidents of LGBTIQ persons barred or refused services by public facilities and establishments.

We reiterate our key recommendations:

- Speed up the legislation of a national anti-discrimination law to protect LGBTIQ persons from discrimination;
- Strengthen social protection and social service programs, such as health, housing, and social security, to make them inclusive of, and accessible to LGBTIQ persons from marginalized sectors and communities;
- Strengthen redress mechanisms and ensure that police officers and local law enforcement officials are sensitive in handling cases of discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ persons;
- Ensure that labor policies are inclusive, explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender-identity, and promote LGBTIQ-affirmative workplaces.

I thank you Mr. President.