

March 7, 2019

**DUBRAVKA ŠIMONOVIC**

Special Rapporteur  
Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences  
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dear Ms. Šimonovic ,

Greetings from the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)!

As the primary policy-making and coordinating body on gender equality and women empowerment concerns in the Philippines, the PCW holds in high regard, the role of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women as a monitoring mechanism on State compliance with relevant international legal frameworks, and as a leading entity in promoting coordination amongst governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-government organizations.

In particular, the observations made by the Special Rapporteur serves as supplemental information on VAW to governments, as they may include details beyond the cognizance of government institutions. This is especially noted in its progress tracking of the implementation of agreed upon actions and resolutions on various treaties and conventions. While State Parties to the CEDAW such as the Philippines, strive to be inclusive by conducting consultations with agencies and civil society organizations, much of the data subjected to an analysis of the gains and gaps in addressing VAW are still nevertheless derived from administrative-based data of government agencies. On the other hand, the Special Rapporteur, as an independent entity has greater latitude to conduct in-depth fact-finding activities with various stakeholders within the State and in the international stage that makes for a more holistic view of VAW.

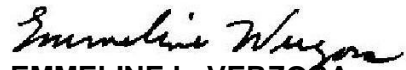
With the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, it is reckoned that evolving forms of violence against women and new challenges on the side of duty-bearers must be taken into consideration in assessing ways to further strengthen such mandate. Examples of emerging issues include cross-border and borderless crimes, the perpetration of which is made even more possible by developments in communication technology and wider access to the internet. Increased vulnerabilities to VAW which are closely linked with regular and irregular migration, post-conflict internal displacement, and post-natural disaster situations, are more difficult to monitor.

These new concerns call for greater accessibility to the individual complaint mechanism of the Special Rapporteur and for other measures which will allow the entity to look into transnational gender-based violence and recommend action points for governments and international bodies. Crucial to this is the strengthening of linkages with regional bodies which closely oversee women's concerns such as the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), the primary coordinating and monitoring body of ASEAN on key regional priorities and cooperation on women's issues and concerns. Other partners in the Asian region may also include the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), an intergovernmental and consultative body which is tasked with the development of policies, programs, and innovative strategies to promote and protect the rights of women and children to complement the building of the ASEAN Community.

We hope you find that these responses are useful in developing your report to the Human Rights Council in 2019. Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact our Policy Development Monitoring and Evaluation Division at [pdpmed@pcw.gov.ph](mailto:pdpmed@pcw.gov.ph) or telephone number 735-1654 (local 109).

Thank you very much.

For and on behalf of the Chairperson  
**DR. RHODORA T. MASILANG-BUCOY:**



**EMMELINE L. VERZOSA**  
Executive Director