



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS, GENEVA**

**NV-EPG-305-2017**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, with reference to the letter dated 14 November 2017 from Mr. Karim Ghezraoui, Officer-in-Charge of the Special Procedures Branch of the OHCHR, transmitting the letter from the Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice on the criminalization of adultery in the Philippines (reference no. OL PHL 14/2017), has the honor to inform the OHCHR that the letter has been transmitted to the capital for consideration.

The Philippine Mission would like to cite that the Government of the Philippines has already addressed the concern of the Working Group in the National Report of the Philippines submitted to the OHCHR for the country's 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle UPR process in May 2017, wherein paragraph 69 stated as follows:

"The Philippine Commission on Women regularly formulates a Women's Priority Legislative Agenda (WPLA), a set of proposed bills that seek to amend or repeal the discriminatory provisions of existing laws and moves for new legislations that promote women's empowerment and gender equality. Included in the WPLA are bills amending the Anti-Rape Law, increasing maternity leave to 100 days, enacting the Anti-Prostitution Bill, and amending certain provisions of the Family Code and the Revised Penal Code."

Women's rights are a consistent key advocacy of the Philippines domestically, in bilateral and multilateral fora. The Philippine Government assures the Working Group on its unwavering commitment to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of women.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 24 November 2017

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**  
Palais Wilson  
52 Rue des Paquis  
CH-1201 Geneva



*Chavez,  
pls reply as  
desired.  
R*

**EXTREMELY URGENT**

**To : Geneva PM**  
**Cc : NYPM**  
**Fr : UNIO**  
**Re : OL PHL 14/2017. Letter from Ms. Aida Facio, Chair-Rapporteur on the WG on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, on the criminalisation of adultery in PH**  
**Dt : 20 November 2017**  
**Cn :**

Reur ZGE-1792-2017 dated 16 November 2017 on the above subject, UNIO concurs with Mission's recommendation to send a Note to the OHCHR citing the PH UPR National Report para 69 of which indicates the formulation of a Women's Priority Legislative Agenda (WPLA) that seeks to amend or repeal discriminatory provisions of existing laws and advocates for the passage of new laws that promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

Additional inputs/comments to be submitted by DOJ and PHRC will be forwarded to Mission, as soon as received.



**BAYANI S. MERCADO**  
Assistant Secretary