



# Beijing Platform for Action + 20 PHILIPPINES

Published in March 2015

## Human Rights of Women

### Numbers Speak

- ☺ The Philippines is State Party to 8 international human rights treaties, including CEDAW
- ☺ There are 26 legislations that relate to women's human rights alone

### Key Policies and Programs adopted

- The Magna Carta of Women provides the national legal definition of "discrimination against women" in accordance with CEDAW which is considered as the International Bill of Rights of Women.
- The Magna Carta of Women provides the legal mandate to the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippine (CHRP) as the Gender Ombud responsible for investigating violations of the law
- The Supreme Court, in partnership with the Philippine Judicial Academy and the Philippine Judges Association, develops and conducts regular training programs to improve women's access to family courts
- More public attorney positions nationwide were also created to ensure adequate free legal assistance and representation, especially for indigents
- The Philippines continues its efforts to repeal or amend discriminatory provisions in existing laws (e.g. in the Family Code, the giving of preference to the husband's decision in case of disagreement with the wife; and in the Revised Penal Code, on adultery and concubinage)
- The Philippines continues to actively engage with different regional mechanisms on women's human rights like the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children

#### OTHER RECENT LAWS:

- RA9745 Anti-Torture Act (2009) adheres to international instrument such as the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and CEDAW
- RA 9851 Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and other Crimes Against Humanity (2009)

### BPfA strategic objectives

- I.1. Promote and protect the human rights of women, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- I.2. Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice
- I.3. Achieve legal literacy