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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement by the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines*

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to transmit to the Human Rights Council the written statement submitted by the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines,** which is being circulated in accordance with rule 7 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Council (see resolution 5/1, annex) and with the arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2005/74.

* National human rights institution with A status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

** Circulated as received, in the language of submission only.



Annex

Written statement of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines

Written statement of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines on Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, its Causes and Consequences during the 56th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines supports the call for gender-responsive, rights-based, survivor-centered and trauma-informed care and interventions for women and girls in prostitution and survivors of trafficking. We further recognize the role of technology in facilitating the alarming increase in cases of prostitution in women and girls.

There are clear links between poverty, gender-inequality, trafficking and the exploitation of women and girls in prostitution.¹ The stories of women and girls who are trafficked and forced into prostitution are often stories of poverty, vulnerability, and desperation. Women and girls who are facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence are particularly vulnerable, including those in extreme poverty, those in the context of armed conflict and disaster, and those with histories of sexual abuse and violence.

In addressing the trafficking and the exploitation of women and girls in prostitution, the Commission forwards three effective strategies: first, survivor centred responses, ensuring respect and the dignity of survivors and ensuring their voices are heard and considered in the crafting of policies and strategies; second, an intersectional approach that recognizes and addresses specific vulnerabilities; and third, community-based approaches working with organizations and communities on the ground.²

We also call on the Governments, as duty bearers, to address the root causes of trafficking and the exploitation of women and girls in prostitution, to ensure multi-disciplinary responses and access to justice, especially when violations are facilitated through technology, and effective rehabilitation and reintegration.

The Commission is resolute in fulfilling its role as an NHRI and as the Philippines' Gender Ombud and shall continually monitor progress in the Government's commitment with its obligation to protect and promote the rights of women and girls.

¹ Campaign on Preventing Trafficking of Women: Situationer Reports from Talikala, Children's Legal and Human Rights Bureau, and Coalition Against Trafficking in Asia and the Pacific- Philippines, (2022), accessed in <https://chr-observatories.uwazi.io/en/entity/09b4ponfj2rp?searchTerm=trafficking>.

² CSW 68th Side Event: Innovative Partnerships to End Trafficking in Women and Girls. Delivered by Commissioner Faydah M. Dumarpa last 14 March 2024.