



**Philippines' Compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination Against Women**

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights

a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996
and

**Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services
(IDEALS), Incorporated**

a non-governmental organization based in the Philippines

**for the 86th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
Against Women**

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based nongovernmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. Established in 1983, The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact-finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publications. The Advocates is committed to ensuring human rights protection for women around the world. The Advocates has published more than 25 reports on violence against women as a human rights issue, provided consultation and commentary of draft laws on domestic violence, and trained lawyers, police, prosecutors, judges, and other law enforcement personnel to effectively implement new and existing laws on domestic violence.

The **Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS)** is a local non-profit, non-stock legal-focused advocacy and service institution. IDEALS addresses the legal and technical needs of the marginalized, disempowered, and vulnerable groups, particularly farmers, persons and communities affected by disasters, and victims of human rights violations. The Organization envisions an empowered citizenry sustained by participatory and accountable governance, equitable enjoyment of resources and opportunities, and accessible justice. It is dedicated to develop and facilitate partners' initiatives for empowerment and sustainability as well as assisting disadvantaged and marginalized sectors in gaining improved access to justice and equity.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Violence against women and children (VAWC) continues in the Philippines, often without efficient redress. It occurs within the home, in schools, and public buildings by State agents. Access to justice is then impeded by various factors such as procedural requirements, inadequate systems, the unwillingness of the State to investigate, and occasional intimidation.
2. House Bill 78 (H.B. 78), the proposed law on divorce, was filed in June 2022 and approved by the House panel in 2023. The bill, however, only allows divorce through judicial proceedings which are lengthy and possibly cost-prohibitive to many Filipino women.
3. The ongoing campaign against illegal drugs continues to cause direct and indirect violence to women. While the majority of the victims are male, police and other government officials occasionally kill women involved, however tangentially, to illegal drugs. Women whose male family members have been killed during the campaign against illegal drugs are usually left to handle the financial and psychological impact of the death on the family.
4. Armed conflict in the Philippines has worsened conditions for disadvantaged groups of women such as internally displaced and indigenous people. These women face heightened risk and impeded access to justice and basic needs like shelter and health facilities.
5. This submission employs qualitative research. IDEALS collected and analyzed primary data through its virtual platform for legal assistance (*Tisya Hustisya*), direct service to victims of gender-based violence, legal documentation of the relatives of human rights victims, survey, and desk research.

The Philippines fails to uphold its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

6. As a matter of State policy, the Government of the Philippines recognizes the role of women in nation-building and undertakes to ensure the equality of women and men before the law.¹ The Family Code reflects this policy by providing equal opportunity for men and women as regards marriage, property, and family life, including property relations and parental custody.² The Magna Carta of Women adopts the provisions of the CEDAW into domestic law. The Anti-VAWC, Anti-Sexual Harassment Law and Safe Spaces Act were also enacted to further eliminate discrimination and protect women's rights in all aspects of society.
7. Despite protections for women afforded under the Philippine legal system, the State and non-State actors continue to perpetrate discrimination and violence against them. The implementation, or lack thereof, of the laws fails to fulfill the declared State policies of ensuring equality among genders and protecting women's rights.

I. Access to Justice (Concluding Observations paragraphs 14 and 16, List of Issues paragraph 4)

8. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (the Committee) noted in its last review the lack of adequate support systems posed barriers to justice and to effective remedies for women, in particular those facing multiple forms of

¹ Article II (Declaration of Principles and State Policies), Section 14, 1987 Philippine Constitution.

² Executive Order No. 209, s. 1987, Family Code of the Philippines.

discrimination, such as women in poverty; women with disabilities; indigenous and Muslim women; and lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women.³

9. The Committee also noted “that judicial and legal procedures at courts, police stations and health-care facilities are not sufficiently accessible to persons with disabilities and are often gender-insensitive.”⁴ The Committee recommended to institutionalize “accessibility for women with all forms of disabilities.”⁵
10. In its 2022 List of Issues, the Committee requested information on measures to ensure that women victims of gender-based violence and discrimination have access to effective redress and that disadvantaged groups of women – such as those with disabilities – have access to courts and free legal aid. In particular, the Committee asked for information on what steps the Government had taken to design an accessible and inclusive strategy guaranteeing access to justice which address linguistic and other barriers such as “the lack of reasonable and procedural accommodations.”⁶
11. The Philippine Government stated in its Ninth Periodic Report (State Report) that the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) provided funds for sign language interpreters.⁷ The Filipino Sign Language Act, passed in 2018, mandates that all courts, quasi-judicial agencies, and other tribunals ensure the availability of a qualified sign language interpreter in all proceedings involving the deaf.⁸ These include proceedings in police stations and preliminary investigations. The Government has tasked an inter-agency team, which includes the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), with monitoring the strict implementation of the law and to submit annual reports.⁹
12. Despite the law, IDEALS lawyers have encountered two separate cases where courts did not have available qualified interpreters when deaf women filed complaints for rape. In one case, the complainant is a lesbian who was assaulted by multiple men while the incident was filmed and later uploaded on Facebook. Victims depended on coordination efforts by civil society groups to link them with court-accredited sign language interpreters. Without civil society intervention, there might have been undue delays in the proceedings violating the right of the offended parties to testify against their alleged attackers.

II. Gender-based violence against women (Concluding Observations paragraphs 25 and 26, List of Issues paragraphs 9 and 10)

13. In its last review, the Committee was concerned about the intensified gender-based violence against women (VAW) by security forces. It recommended that the Philippines prevent,

³ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Concluding Observations: Philippines*, (July 25, 2016), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/CO/7-8, ¶ 14.

⁴ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Concluding Observations: Philippines*, (July 25, 2016), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/CO/7-8, ¶ 14.

⁵ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Concluding Observations: Philippines*, (July 25, 2016), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/CO/7-8, ¶ 16.

⁶ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *List of issues and questions in relation to the ninth periodic report of the Philippines*, (July 11, 2022), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/Q/9, ¶ 4.

⁷ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Ninth periodic report submitted by the Philippines under article 18 of the Convention, due in 2020*, October 4, 2021, U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/9, ¶ 20.

⁸ Sec. 6 of the Filipino Sign Language Act.

⁹ Sec. 14 of the Filipino Sign Language.

investigate, and punish all forms of gender-based violence against women – in particular sexual violence – perpetrated by State and non-State actors.

14. At the List of Issues stage, the Committee requested information on factors impeding access of women to legal aid, including the stigmatization of women who pursue criminal cases especially in cases of gender-based VAW. It further requested information on measures taken to prevent gender-based violence against women in institutions such as detention centers.¹⁰
15. In response, the Philippine Government noted that Women and Children’s Protection Desks (WCPD) in police stations nationwide provide assistance to all women and children who are victims of violence.¹¹ Of the total number of WCPD, the State reported that 19% function at an ideal level and 53% at a mature level.¹²
16. VAW continues to be a recurring problem among Filipino women. Between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, 434 of the 6,292 (6.9%) online legal consultations conducted by IDEALS with female clients could be considered VAW cases, including complaints of rape, acts of lasciviousness,¹³ and violations of the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act, in general.
17. Several clients of IDEALS have inquired about the prescription period to file rape complaints when the incident occurred years ago. Most of the time, the women who experience rape and acts of lasciviousness know their perpetrators; often the perpetrators are their family members. For example, one client identified her live-in partner as the man who molested her daughter. Another client reported that her father had violated her.
18. One of the chief complaints by female clients has been physical violence by complainant’s partner. One client relayed that her husband hit her with a chair. Another client was hesitant to file a complaint for physical abuse against her partner because his sister works at the Women’s Desk.
19. When a perpetrator of VAW is a State agent, it also impedes women’s access to legal aid. In recent years, security forces have increasingly used the national government’s campaign against illegal drugs to abuse their authority and commit VAW.
20. In 2023, IDEALS documented a case of rape following a fabricated buy-bust operation conducted by a police team. A group of policemen in civilian clothing arbitrarily detained the victim in a house. They later brought her to a separate location and photographed her to make it seem that a drug bust operation had occurred, complete with insulating “witnesses.”¹⁴ After this, they brought her to the police station where an officer asked if she

¹⁰ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *List of issues and questions in relation to the ninth periodic report of the Philippines*, (July 11, 2022), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/Q/9, ¶ 10.

¹¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Ninth periodic report submitted by the Philippines under article 18 of the Convention, due in 2020*, October 4, 2021, U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/9, ¶ 28.

¹² Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Ninth periodic report submitted by the Philippines under article 18 of the Convention, due in 2020*, October 4, 2021, U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/9, ¶ 28.

¹³ Article 336 of the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines defines acts of lasciviousness as any act of lewdness committed against a person of either sex, by using force of intimidation; when the offended party is deprived of reason or otherwise unconscious; by means of fraudulent machination or grave abuse of authority; or when the offended party is under 12 years of age or is demented.

¹⁴ Section 21, Article II of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 (R.A. 9165) provides that the seized items in drug operations must be inventoried and photographed immediately after seizure or confiscation and done in the presence of the accused or his/her representative or counsel, an elected official, a representative

would prefer to be charged with the lesser offense of possession as opposed to sale of illegal drugs. The woman did not reply and was brought to a bathroom where the officer proceeded to rape her twice. She was then charged with the lower violation of possession of illegal drugs. The victim did not immediately file a complaint against the officer due to the psychological toll of the false drug charges filed against her and the fear of reprisal from the police officer.

21. From June 2022 to August 2023, the IDEALS documentation team recorded seven female victims of human rights violations that occurred between 2016 - 2018 under the auspices of the campaign against illegal drugs. These women are often spouses of the actual targets of the police or vigilantes. They usually had to plead for the innocence of their spouses or to protect the lives of their children. Police arrested two out of the seven women because the police failed to arrest their husbands. Authorities told them that they would be released if they surrendered their spouses or if they paid a large amount of money. This scheme is coined as “*palit-ulo*,” which literally translates to “exchange heads.” Police arrest the women without informing them of the charges for which they are being arrested and usually hold the women in detention for more than a week.
22. One of the victims is still in detention as of the date of submission. Another woman who had been detained for four days by police told IDEALS that police held her in inhumane conditions. Police held her in a makeshift cell hidden behind a bookshelf. The cell had no windows, no ventilation, and no light whatsoever. It was a bare concrete room holding more than 20 people. Police did not allow them to leave the room without permission. The woman further noted that the room smelled of urine and other foul odors since the detainees were not allowed to leave the room.
23. Either uniformed authorities or unidentified assailants killed five of the seven victims. State and non-State actors often kill these women together with their spouses and in their own homes, usually in the middle of the night. The parties responsible shot the women in their heads or other parts of their body. A common thread in these reports is the appearance of around six to fifteen men present during each extrajudicial killing. Sometimes these men are in uniform, but are more often in civilian clothing.
24. While men compose the majority of victims of extrajudicial killings, women experience the subsequent economic and psychological impact of the killings. The surviving female family members often experience an inability to pay for basic necessities, isolation from their communities, and psychosomatic aftereffects. Women must also contend with behavioral changes in their children following the aftermath of an extrajudicial killing.¹⁵

III. Education (Concluding Observations paragraphs 33 and 34, List of Issues paragraphs 10 and 13)

25. The Committee has expressed its concern for “the high incidence of sexual violence and sexual harassment against girls in schools.”¹⁶ The Committee thus recommended to

from the media and a representative from the DOJ. The elected official, media representative and DOJ representative are known as insulating or mandatory witnesses.

¹⁵ IDEALS, *Unsilencing the Voices of EJK Surviving Families: A Closer Look at their Healing, Recovery, and the Restoration of Justice* by Charlene Balana, KZ Briana, Aloe Pagtiilan, Christine De Leon, and Raevene Morillo (Quezon City, 2021), 17-24.

¹⁶ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Concluding Observations: Philippines*, (July 25, 2016), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/CO/7-8, ¶ 33.

effectively investigate and prosecute cases of sexual violence and harassment against girls in schools and adequately punish perpetrators.¹⁷

26. In the List of Issues, the Committee requested information on measures to prevent cases of gender-based violence against women in institutions, including centers for minors and to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of sexual violence against girls in schools.¹⁸
27. In its State Report, the Government of the Philippines noted that the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) released a memorandum which mandates the creation of a committee on decorum and investigation (CODI) in State universities and colleges with the function of investigating violence against women and sexual harassment cases.¹⁹ In 2018, the Safe Spaces Act was passed by Philippine Congress providing additional duties and corresponding liabilities for heads of schools and training institutions to ensure that sexual harassment complaints are addressed appropriately.²⁰ The law states that if a school knows or reasonably should know about acts of gender-based sexual harassment or sexual violence being committed that creates a hostile environment, the school must take immediate action to eliminate the same acts, prevent their recurrence, and address their effects even if the individual does not want to file a complaint.²¹
28. In 2022, IDEALS assisted a number of students from the Philippine High School for the Arts, a state-run high school and attached agency of the Department of Education, regarding complaints of sexual harassment on campus. One of the identified perpetrators was a male dormitory parent who harassed female high-school students. A written complaint was submitted by students to the school's CODI. The complaint accused the male dormitory parent of slipping his hand under the shorts of one female student and groping her buttocks. He also allegedly catcalled another female student by calling her "sexy". The CODI dismissed the complaint without investigating the charges, citing failure to comply with technical requirements, such as notarization of statements.
29. In addition to the aforementioned provisions of the Safe Spaces Act, the Rules on Administrative cases in the Civil Service (2017 RACCS) state that cases involving sexual harassment may be investigated by the disciplining authority *motu proprio* (on its own) or upon any complaint by any person.²² The Philippine Government then effectively did not fulfill its obligation under international and domestic laws to protect women and children's rights against sexual harassment when it dismissed the complaint without investigating the alleged incidents.

IV. Disadvantaged Groups of Women (Concluding Observations paragraphs 45 and 46, List of Issues paragraph 18)

30. In its Concluding Observations, the Committee raised its concern for internally displaced persons facing heightened risk of discrimination in access to justice and health care and for

¹⁷ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Concluding Observations: Philippines*, (July 25, 2016), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/CO/7-8, ¶ 34

¹⁸ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *List of issues and questions in relation to the ninth periodic report of the Philippines*, (July 11, 2022), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/Q/9, ¶¶ 10, 13.

¹⁹ CHED Memorandum Order No. 1, s. of 2015, Establishing the Policies and Guidelines on Gender and Development in the Commission on Higher Education and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

²⁰ Article V of Safe Spaces Act.

²¹ Sec. 21 of Safe Spaces Act.

²² Rule 3, sec. 10, 2017 RACCS.

Muslim women, indigenous women, and women living in rural areas experiencing forced eviction or relocation as a result of large development projects.²³

31. In its List of Issues, the Committee asked for information on measures taken to ensure the protection of human rights of Muslim women by ensuring the adherence of policies, projects, and practices to relevant international standards and provision of effective remedies for those forcibly evicted and relocated.²⁴
32. On May 23, 2017, armed conflict broke out in Marawi City between militants affiliated with the Islamic State who sought to take control of the city and government security forces. A five-month battle ensued leaving the city damaged. Former President Duterte then signed an order creating a task force to facilitate the construction of shelters for displaced persons; to revive business and livelihood activities; and to attend to the health, sanitation, and other basic needs of affected residents.²⁵ As of 2020, more than 120,000 people remain displaced and unable to return home.²⁶
33. In 2022, the Philippine Government passed the Marawi Siege Victims Compensation Act which provides compensation for the loss or destruction of properties and loss of lives as a result of the 2017 Marawi Siege. The law creates the Marawi Compensation Board which is tasked to process claims of victims. On July 4, 2023, the first day for filing claims, the board received over P800 million in claims which nearly depletes the P1 billion set aside in the national budget to compensate victims.²⁷
34. In August 2023, IDEALS conducted a survey with 246 respondents who reside or used to reside in Marawi City; 166 of the respondents were women. Of the women who participated in the survey, 148 identified as part of a vulnerable sector (unemployed, poor/indigent, senior citizen, single parent, lactating/breastfeeding, or with physical disability) and 100 of them stated that the government did not take into account their specific needs in executing its response to the siege. Of the women who identified as vulnerable, 111 stated that they were not provided with transitory shelter despite their need for one. Fifty-six women stated that they did not receive any medicine or medical attention or have access to sanitation and health facilities from the time the siege occurred in 2017 until 2023, including the time of COVID-19 outbreak in 2020. There were also 56 women who stated that they were not aware of the procedure to file claims for compensation under the law. Seventy-eight women noted that they did not receive any assistance from the government to revive business or livelihood activities.

V. Marriage and family relations (Concluding Observations paragraphs 49 and 50, List of Issues paragraph 20)

35. In its previous review, the Committee observed that the prohibition on divorce and the costly and lengthy procedures for legal separation and annulment could result in women

²³ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Concluding Observations: Philippines*, (July 25, 2016), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/CO/7-8, ¶ 45.

²⁴ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *List of issues and questions in relation to the ninth periodic report of the Philippines*, (4 October 2021), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/Q/9, ¶ 18.

²⁵ Administrative Order No. 3, s. of 2017, Creating an Inter-Agency Task Force for the Recovery, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of the City of Marawi and Other Affected Localities.

²⁶ Westerman, A., *Over 120,000 people remain displaced 3 years after Philippines' Marawi battle*. NPR. June 15, 2017, <https://www.npr.org/2020/10/23/925316298/over-120-000-people-remain-displaced-3-years-after-philippines-marawi-battle>.

²⁷ Andrade, Jeannette, *P1 billion set aside for Marawi compensation gone in a day*, 1 August 2023, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1810105/p1b-set-aside-for-marawi-compensation-gone-in-a-day>.

staying in violent relationships.²⁸ It recommended the Government to expedite the passage of the divorce bill and to take into account the economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution based on the Committee's General Recommendation No. 29 (2013).²⁹ In 2022, the Committee requested for information on the steps the Government had taken to pass the divorce bill in Congress.³⁰

36. A significant number of IDEALS' clients sought advice regarding issues of child support and custody. Over 17% of conversations with female clients were about child support. Further, 37.89% of automated inquiries received through Frequently Asked Questions feature of IDEALS virtual platform for legal assistance, *Tisya Hustisya*, related to issues surrounding child support and custody. These included topics such as rules regarding the amount of child support to be provided, the process of obtaining support, and rules governing custodial and visitation rights. Concerns such as annulment, legal separation, adultery, and concubinage constituted 5.44% of female clients' conversations recorded on *Tisya Hustisya*.
37. Clients often seek information on annulments because of their husbands' repeated infidelity and having children with other women. One client sought legal advice after she discovered her husband had had several affairs with men. Many clients bring up the psychological, physical, and economic abuse they and their children have endured as reasons for seeking an annulment. Others have been separated from their husbands for years with no communication and thus want to terminate their marriage. Under the Family Code of the Philippines, homosexuality, abandonment, and infidelity are not grounds for dissolution of marriage but merely grounds for legal separation.³¹ Legal separation entitles the spouses to live separately but does not sever the marital bond.
38. On June 30, 2022, House Bill (H.B.) 78³² was filed in Congress which would allow divorce in the Philippines. H.B. 78 was approved by the House Committee on Population and Family Relations in February 2023.³³ The bill lists violence, abuse, homosexuality, infidelity, abandonment, and irreconcilable differences as grounds for absolute divorce, among others.
39. While the progress of the bill in the legislature is a welcome development, there remain economic obstacles within the proposed procedure. According to the bill, a petition for absolute divorce shall follow the established procedures for securing legal separation, annulment of marriage, and nullity of marriage from the court. These require filing a petition in court. Philippine judicial proceedings are usually costly and lengthy, which may bar women with lower incomes from the process.

VI. Recommendations

²⁸ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Concluding Observations: Philippines*, (July 25, 2016), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/CO/7-8, ¶ 49.

²⁹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Concluding Observations: Philippines*, (July 25, 2016), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/CO/7-8, ¶ 50.

³⁰ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *List of issues and questions in relation to the ninth periodic report of the Philippines*, (4 October 2021), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/PHL/Q/9, ¶ 20.

³¹ Art. 55 of the Family Code of the Philippines.

³² An Act Reinstating Absolute Divorce as an Alternative Mode for the Dissolution of Marriage, 19th Congress.

³³ CNN Philippines Staff, *House panel approves divorce bill*, CNN Philippines, 22 March 2023, <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/3/22/house-panel-approves-divorce-bill.html>.

40. The co-authors of this report suggest the following recommendations for the Government of the Philippines:

- Implement policies on gender equality based on investigation into differential treatment for each gender and design programs to address the gaps in line with the UN Women’s Substantive Model of Equality or “equality in outcomes.”³⁴ Actual impact of the law must be considered in measuring gender equality results.
- Ensure that judicial and legal procedures in courts, police stations, health-care facilities, and other public institutions are sufficiently accessible to persons with disabilities and are gender-sensitive.
- Compel courts, quasi-judicial agencies, and other tribunals to ensure the availability of a qualified sign language interpreter in all proceedings involving deaf women.
- Publish reports on the availability of a qualified sign language interpreter in the courts and tribunals as part of the mandate of the Inter-Agency Council to monitor strict implementation of the Filipino Sign Language Act.
- Ensure that processes in public institutions for acquiring interpreters are laid out in detail and are financially accessible.
- Actively investigate complaints of gender-based violence against women committed by State agents and prosecute the perpetrators in both criminal courts and administrative tribunals. Administrative liability should extend to the Government officials and supervisors for neglect of duty when they had knowledge of the acts of their subordinates and failed to take preventive or corrective actions.
- Ensure that all personnel of WCPD are well-trained in documenting and processing complaints of gender-based violence against women and children in a gender-responsive manner.
- Strictly monitor the safety conditions of women in public institutions, including detention centers, with regards to sexual violence and harassment by State agents and non-State actors.
- Provide victim-survivors with comprehensive health services that include psychosocial, therapeutic, medical, and legal interventions and assistance towards healing, recovery, and empowerment in cases of violence against women and children.
- Promptly adopt H.B. 78 or the Act Reinstating Absolute Divorce as An Alternative Mode for the Dissolution of Marriage with an amendment to allow divorce decrees to be obtained administratively, not only judicially, for less costly proceedings.
- Effectively investigate, prosecute, and adequately punish perpetrators of sexual violence and harassment against women and children, especially within educational institutions.
- Monitor and ensure the strict implementation of the rules on sexual harassment such as the establishment of CODIs in government offices and state schools.

³⁴ Madhu Mehra & Amita Punj, “CEDAW: Restoring Rights to Women.” (2004) (UNIFEM and Partners for Law in Development).

- Pass legislation to protect the rights of internally displaced persons following the UN guiding principles of internal displacement.
- Augment the budget for the Marawi Siege Victims Compensation fund to provide compensation for all the claimants as well as to allocate for non-monetary reparations such as welfare programs.