

# galang

Building Community Strength.  
Fueling Community Growth.

## 2015

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*Looking Back  
Pushing Forward*

# 2015: Relentlessly Pushing Forward

After receiving various recognition from international and local bodies in 2014, we are aware that it raised the bar in pursuing our advocacy work. We are humbled that our accomplishments in 2015 reflected our perseverance to achieve our targets this year. The highlights of these 12 months were on the **legislative progress for the Anti-Discrimination Bill (ADB) and Quezon City Anti-Discrimination Ordinance (QC-ADO), the opportunities to echo local issues on sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression (SOGIE) in various international spaces, and our continuing efforts to strengthen partnerships with government and non-government organizations.** We are inspired by how various stakeholders and development actors are collaborating to create an equal and inclusive society by raising people's awareness on policies and programs specific to the needs of the LGBT sector.

Given the legislative progress at the national and local level on anti-discrimination policies, we believe that **enacting a local ADO is an affirmative step in promoting equal rights and inclusive development.** We are very pleased that Quezon City has already done so. After its passage, it was an honor to actively participate in drafting the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the QC-ADO with other LGBT organizations. By December 10, it was finally signed by Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista.

We were also met with great news when the ADB was passed during the 8th mother committee session of the Women and Gender Equality Committee of the House of Representatives and awaiting for the plenary hearing schedule. We know that more work and challenges will come our way, but the support of our allies keeps motivating us to continue lobbying for the passage of an ADB.

We also **participated in three international conferences to share our evidence-based approach in advocacy work, and insights on the realities of Filipino LBTs in urban poor communities that we are working with.** On March, we participated in a 2-day international symposium hosted by the Institute of Development Studies in Brighton, United Kingdom. On June, we participated in the 5th Australian Council for International Development-University Network Conference in Monash University, Melbourne Australia. Come October, we joined hundreds of LGBT activists

and allies in the 6th International Lesbian, Gay, Trans and Intersex Association-Asia Conference held in Taipei City, Taiwan.

This was also a year of **strengthening existing partnerships, and forging new ones to persistently advocate for equal rights, and sensitize individuals, local communities and government officers about the concepts of SOGIE.** In February, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the QC-PESO and as part of our MOU with them, we oriented representatives of labor organizations and private companies based in QC on SOGIE concepts, and SOGIE-related protective laws like the QC-ADO, to guide them in promoting equality in the workplace.

We also **sustained strategic partnerships and fostered new ones with key government agencies and other NGOs.** In September and December, we worked with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on its Gender Ombud Guidelines, by helping them train about 90-100 CHR-Gender and Development focal persons, and investigators from the central, and Luzon cluster offices. Our partnership with the CHR also aims to increase their awareness on SOGIE-related issues and human rights violations.

On December, **we partnered with the UN Women Safe Cities Global Initiative to help end street harassment.** Our partner LPOs participated in one of UN Women's "Addressing Street Harassment" workshop where they learned and shared their experiences on sexual harassment--where it occurs, who the perpetrators are, and how to stop this in their communities.

As you read this newsletter, we hope that you will feel the same sense of pride we felt when we were working on this. We keep saying for the past years that all of our accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedicated work of our staff, partner LBT organizations, allies, networks, friends, families, and fellow CSOs. We will keep thanking you because we **are truly honored and grateful for all the support you have given us.**

In solidarity,

**Anne Lim**  
Executive Director

## *List of Acronyms*

- ADB** Anti-Discrimination Bill
- ADO** Anti-Discrimination Ordinance
- CHR** Commission on Human Rights
- CWGE** Committee on Women and Gender Equality
- FIP** Field Instruction Program
- GST** Gender and Sexuality Training
- ILGA** International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association
- IP** Indigenous People
- IRR** Implementing Rules and Regulations
- IWD** International Women's Day
- LAB** Lesbian Alliance Bagbag
- LAM** Lesbian Alliance Movement: *Lakas ng Kababaihan Para sa Karapatan*  
(Women's Power for their Rights)
- LFR** Lesbians for Rights
- LGBT** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
- LPO** Lesbian, bisexual women, and transmen People's Organizations
- MOU** Memorandum of Understanding
- OP** Older Persons
- PESO** Public Employment Service Office
- PWD** Persons with Disabilities
- QC** Quezon City
- QC-ADO** Quezon City Anti-Discrimination Ordinance
- QCPC** Quezon City Pride Council
- SHOT** *Sekswalidad Harapin, Oryentasyon Tuklasin* (Recognize Sexuality, and Discover Sexual Orientation)
- SOGIE** Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression
- TIPC** Tripartite Industrial Peace Council
- TWG** Technical Working Group
- UN** United Nations
- UNLAD** *Ugnayan ng Nagkakaisang Lesbyana Laban sa Diskriminasyon*  
(Association of United Lesbians Against Discrimination)
- UP** University of the Philippines
- WD** Women and Development



Photos courtesy of QCPC

## ***GALANG Joins Technical Working Group on Quezon City Gender-Fair Ordinance IRR Drafting***

### **QC-ADO IRR Writeshop**

April 11, 12, 18, 23, 25, 2015 · Bulwagang Amoranto, Quezon City Hall, Quezon City

### **QC-ADO IRR Consultation**

July 18, 2015 · Amoranto Sports Complex, Quezon City

### **Presentation of the Draft QC-ADO IRR**

August 1, 2015 · Century Hall, Quezon City Memorial Circle, Quezon City

### **QC-ADO IRR Presentation and Queen of QC Press Conference**

August 27, 2015 · Anabel's Restaurant, Quezon City

### **Presentation of signed QC-ADO IRR**

December 5, 2015 · Quezon City Pride March, Quezon City

Being the first city to pass a SOGIE-based Anti-Discrimination Ordinance (ADO) in 2014, Quezon City (QC) has taken the next step and drafted the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the QC-ADO known as the Quezon City Gender-Fair Ordinance. Together with representatives from the Office of the Vice Mayor, Office of Councilor Lena Marie Juico, and several lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) organizations, GALANG Philippines became part of the Technical Working Group (TWG) that drafted the IRR. The TWG came up with three major IRR themes which promote the legal, developmental, and socio-cultural areas of the life of people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression (SOGIE). The TWG also crafted the IRR of punishable and affirmative acts of the QC-ADO in a manner that reflects the realities and lived experiences of Filipino LGBT individuals.

After several writeshops of the TWG, the draft IRR was then presented to several stakeholders to consult, and solicit comments and suggestions. During the stakeholder consultation on the QC-ADO IRR, it was clarified that the QC-ADO does not discuss issues on same-sex marriage and same-sex adoption. The TWG held a press conference on August 27, 2015 to present the draft QC-ADO IRR to concerned stakeholders. During the 2nd Quezon City Pride March held last December 5, 2015, the Quezon City Pride Council (QCPC) announced that the IRR draft is already nearing its completion. By December 10, the IRR was finally signed by Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista.



Photo courtesy of Ging Cristobal



Photo courtesy of Rep. Kaka Bag-ao's Office



Image courtesy of LAGABLAB

## ***SOGIE-Specific Anti-Discrimination Bill Passed on 8th Committee Hearing***

### **Multi-sectoral Leader's Meeting on the Comprehensive ADB**

January 30, 2015 · Commission on Human Rights, Quezon City

### **Committee on Women and Gender Equality 8th Mother Committee**

#### **Meeting-Executive Session on the SOGIE-specific ADB**

February 10, 2015 · Mitra Building House of Representatives, Quezon City

GALANG actively supports the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Bill (ADB) through meetings and consultations with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Committee on Women and Gender Equality (CWGE), and the House of Representatives. GALANG also utilizes social media platforms to widen its legislative advocacies.

The multi-sectoral meeting organized by the CHR welcomed representatives from four sectors: persons with disability (PWDs), indigenous people (IP), older persons (OPs), and LGBT individuals. GALANG Executive Director Anne Lim, together with sectoral representatives discussed their respective situation, highlighting the pressing issues related to discrimination. The newly formed network called Stop the Discrimination Campaign supports the comprehensive ADB, which also provided updates on the status of the ADB in both senate and the lower house. Similarly, House Representatives Kaka Bag-ao and Teddy Baguilat both gave comments and updates on the status of the ADB.

Supporters and sponsors of the SOGIE-specific ADB tirelessly fought for its passage during the CWGE 8th mother committee meeting-executive session. The executive session proved to be successful with the SOGIE-specific ADB passed and scheduled for a plenary hearing. However, according to allies in the congress, the said hearing has been delayed because of legislators and a notable number of church-based organizations who are opposing the said bill.



## ***GALANG LPOs Learn, Un-learn, and Re-learn Concepts on Gender and Sexuality***

### **Gender and Sexuality Training: *Sekswalidad Harapin, Oryentasyon Tuklasin***

April 18-19, 2015 · 9 Waves Resort Ciudad Christia, San Mateo, Rizal

GALANG's partner LBTs heartily shared stories of empowerment and discrimination during their Gender and Sexuality Training (GST). "*My self-esteem improved because I could identify myself more, like who and what I really am*", shared by one of the participants.

GALANG conducts annual GST dubbed as *Sekswalidad Harapin, Oryentasyon Tuklasin* (SHOT) (Recognize Sexuality, and Discover Sexual Orientation) as part of its capacity building activities. A total of 65 participants from partner LBT people's organizations (LPOs)--Lesbian Alliance Movement (LAM): *Lakas ng Kababaihan Para sa Karapatan* (Women's Power for their Rights), Lesbian Alliance Bagbag (LAB), *Ugnayan ng Nagkakaisang Lesbyana Laban sa Diskriminasyon* (UNLAD)/ Association of United Lesbians Against Discrimination, and Lesbians for Rights (LFR) were trained on basic SOGIE concepts, and gender empowerment. Tools and workshops helped participants learn more about their own identities, and the issues they face as a sector.

The GST also enabled the participants to articulate and share their experiences of discrimination, assertion, and empowerment in the family, school, workplace, and community. When asked how they experienced empowerment, one of the participants shared that she felt more independent when she started working already. Thus, she felt more comfortable deciding how to live her life, and whom to love.



## *Barangay Batasan Hills Celebrates Women's Empowerment in IWD March*

### **Community Pride March**

March 28, 2015 · Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City

March 8 marks the International Women's Day (IWD) celebration around the world to commemorate the efforts of 15,000 women who marched for equal rights in the United States in 1908. On March 2015, the Philippines once again celebrated the IWD with the theme "*Juana, Desisyon Mo ay Mahalaga sa Kinabukasan ng Bawat Isa, Ikaw na*". The celebration paid tribute to the roles and accomplishments of millions of Filipino women.

To recognize and highlight the importance of women and their efforts in building communities, Barangay Batasan Hills and LFR, together with GALANG organized its own community pride march on March 28, 2015. The barangay-level pride march likewise aimed to raise the consciousness of residents, and barangay officials in promoting and protecting equal rights of women.

More than 60 LBTs from GALANG and partner LPOs marched alongside their friends, families, allies, loved ones, and Barangay Batasan Hills women's groups and officials. After the march, a program was held where Barangay Chairperson John M. Abad welcomed the marchers while the representatives from different women groups/sectors gave their respective solidarity messages in support of women's plight for equality.



Photo courtesy of Gwaphotography Inc.



## ***GALANG Marches for Diversity with Friends, Families, and Allies***

### **Metro Manila Pride March**

June 26, 2015 · Luneta Park, Roxas Boulevard, Manila

### **UP Pride March**

September 11, 2015 · UP Diliman Oval, Quezon City

### **Quezon City Pride March**

December 5, 2015 · Tomas Morato, Quezon City

On June 2015, GALANG Philippines and partner LPOs from the urban poor sector joined thousands of LGBT individuals and allies in celebrating diversity to resonate the 21st Metro Manila Pride March theme “Fight for Love: *Iba-Iba. Sama-Sama*”. More than 100 LBT individuals from GALANG and partner LPOs joined the march with their friends, families, and loved ones at the historic home of the heroes—Luneta Park.

Come September, the GALANG staff, together with hundreds of allies, likewise marched at the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman Oval to support the university’s call for inclusivity and celebration of diversity. By December 2015, GALANG and partner LPOs participated once again in the local government unit-initiated QC Pride March with the theme “*Magkakaiba at Nagkakaisa*”. More than tirelessly celebrating diversity, marchers also expressed disappointment on the recent “homicide” conviction for Joseph Scott Pemberton, a United States Serviceman who killed a Filipino transgender woman, Jennifer Laude. After the QC Pride March, GALANG proudly accepted the “Ad-BOKA-siya Award” for being the most cheerful delegate with empowering chants.



## ***GALANG Partners with QC-PESO to Advocate for Workplace Equality***

### **QC PESO-GALANG Memorandum of Understanding Signing**

February 3, 2015 · Public Employment Service Office, Quezon City Hall, Quezon City

### **Basic SOGIE Orientation and QC-ADO Orientation during the Labor Management Education Seminar**

September 29, 2015 · Bulwagang Amoranto, Quezon City Hall, Quezon City

### **Basic SOGIE Orientation with QC-TIPC**

November 13, 2015 · Legislative Wing, Quezon City Hall, Quezon City

GALANG and the QC Public Employment Service Office (PESO) solidified engagement through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen and sustain efforts in promoting and protecting equality in the workplace.

Under this agreement, QC-PESO's roles comprise of implementing inclusive and gender-sensitive employment programs for QC residents including LGBT persons, promoting awareness on the QC-ADO, employment counseling and career guidance, and inviting GALANG to participate in QC-PESO's programs for local and overseas employment. Meanwhile, GALANG's roles include encouraging and mobilizing partner communities to participate in QC-PESO's programs for local and overseas employment, providing QC-PESO with technical assistance on gender issues and LGBT rights, and documentation of cases on workplace discrimination within QC. GALANG and QC-PESO will jointly conduct trainings on gender sensitivity and LGBT rights to QC-PESO staff, partner employees, and tripartite bodies.

On September and November 2015, as part of QC-PESO and QC-Tripartite Industrial Peace Council's (TIPC) initiative to promote peace and equality in QC-based labor organizations, GALANG Advocacy Officer Gyknell Tangente and Research Officer Ronalyn Hufancia provided an orientation on SOGIE concepts and QC-ADO to approximately 30 labor organization and private company representatives. For the basic SOGIE orientation, Tangente discussed concepts on SOGIE. For the QC-ADO orientation, Hufancia introduced the ordinance's outline with emphasis on the provisions under the Affirmative Acts for Employment.



## *Developing LPO Officers Thru Leadership Training*

### **Leadership Training**

June 11-12, 2015 · Klir Waterpark Resort, Guiguinto, Bulacan

In line with GALANG's commitment to strengthen the capacities of four partner LPOs, leaders from LAM, LAB, UNLAD, and LFR were once again trained on basic leadership skills such as communication, facilitation, and organizational management. Ms. Neneng Lava, GALANG's consultant, trained the leaders who were newly elected officers of each LPO. This activity is part of the annual leadership training conducted for the partner communities, specifically to foster ingenuity and improve problem-solving skills of the leaders.

One of the key results of the training was the realization of the participants about their respective leadership styles. Some discovered that they are charismatic leaders while others said they are people-oriented, but most of them admitted to being a more democratic leader. Participants also re-learned the value of communication, and conflict resolution in sustaining an organization.



Photo courtesy of Humanist Alliance Philippines International



Photo courtesy of Wanet Lacsamana



## *Sharing the Realities of LBTs in Urban Poor Communities to Local Audiences*

**Philippine Population Association 2015 Annual Scientific Conference**

January 30, 2015 · Seda Abreeza Hotel, Davao City

**Sexuality Issues in Development Policy-Making:**

**Situating LGBTs/SOGIE in Social Protection Programs and Policies**

February 18, 2015 · Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

Central Office Batasan Complex, Quezon City

**National Facilitators Training Workshop on Conducting LGBT Psych 101**

April 10, 2015 · SEAMO Innotech, Quezon City

**LGBT Community Tour: Media Training and Power of Storytelling**

May 16-17, 2015 · J Center Convention Hall, Cebu City

To raise awareness on the struggles and ground-level realities of LBTs in the urban poor sector, GALANG and partner LPOs persistently engage with various key activities that promote equal rights.

During the forum organized by the Philippine Population Association, and Department of Social Welfare and Development, GALANG highlighted the results of its 2013 research on how Philippine heteronormative social protection policies impact the lives of LGBT persons, especially those in marginalized communities.

Meanwhile, the LGBT Special Interest Group of the Psychological Association of the Philippines held a 2-day 'training of trainers' workshop for Filipino educators, psychologists, facilitators and counselors, which was named as the 'LGBT Psych 101 workshop'. GALANG Executive Director Anne Lim was invited as a guest speaker for the 2nd day of the workshop where she shared the findings of GALANG's 2013 research on social protection policies and the intersectionality of poverty and sexuality. This event was attended by both old and new participants from Davao, Zamboanga, Cavite, Batangas, Albay, and Metro Manila who also learned about basic SOGIE concepts, LGBT wellbeing, advocacy, stigma, and discrimination.

Also, to push for the passage of the ADB, GALANG discussed the significance of having an anti-discrimination law in the Philippines during the LGBT Community Tour in Cebu City. Guest speakers likewise discussed SOGIE concepts while the participants of diverse SOGIE recounted their lived experiences of discrimination.



## *Sharing GALANG's Evidence-Based Advocacy Work in the International Arena*

### ***Negotiating the Sharp End of Equality, Sexuality and Social Justice: What's Law Got to do with it?***

March 4-6, 2015 · Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex University Campus and  
Old Ship Hotel, Brighton United Kingdom

### **Evidence and Practice in an Age of Inequality: 5th ACFID-University Network Conference**

June 4-5, 2015 · Monash University Melbourne, Australia

### **Independent Souls and Bodies: ILGA Asia Conference**

October 28-30, 2015 · ChienTan Overseas Youth Activity Center, Taipei, Taiwan

To extensively echo the local realities of LBTs in urban poor communities, GALANG takes advantage of opportunities in international spaces to amplify SOGIE-based issues in the Philippines.

On March 2015, GALANG Advocacy Officer Gyknell Tangente participated in a 2-day international symposium of IDS to share GALANG's evidence-based advocacy work. This convened lawyers, scholars, feminist activists, and funders from the United Kingdom, Vietnam, Nepal, Philippines, and Ethiopia. The participants examined how local policies affect the lives of people with diverse SOGIE in their respective countries. The global dialogue also explored different legal strategies and the roles of participating legal practitioners, activists, and scholars in reducing SOGIE-based economic and social exclusion.

On June 2015, GALANG Deputy Executive Director Maroz Ramos participated in the 5th Australian Council for International Development-University Network Conference in Melbourne, Australia. Ramos discussed the background of the current poverty and LGBT situation in the Philippines, and how poverty and sexuality affect each other. Ramos likewise shared the results of GALANG's 2015 published research that probes on how LBTs cope with economic disadvantage.

Come October, GALANG Research Officer Ronalyn Hufancia participated in the 6th International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association Asia-Regional Conference in Taipei, Taiwan. During the parallel session on "SOGIE Intersectionalities and Rainbow Coalition Work", Hufancia shared GALANG's work with Filipino LBTs in urban poor communities through the intersectionality of poverty, discrimination, and sexuality. A roundtable discussion ensued where fellow presenters from ASEAN SOGIE Caucus and member countries such as Indonesia, Cambodia, and Malaysia shared insights on locating the intersections of LGBT issues, and how this lens can help a country's thrusts towards inclusive development.



## *Partner LPOs Elect New Officers in Annual General Assembly*

### **LAB GA**

April 25, 2015 · Barangay Bagbag Hall, Quezon City

### **LAM GA**

May 22, 2015 · Barangay Pansol Hall, Quezon City

### **LFR GA**

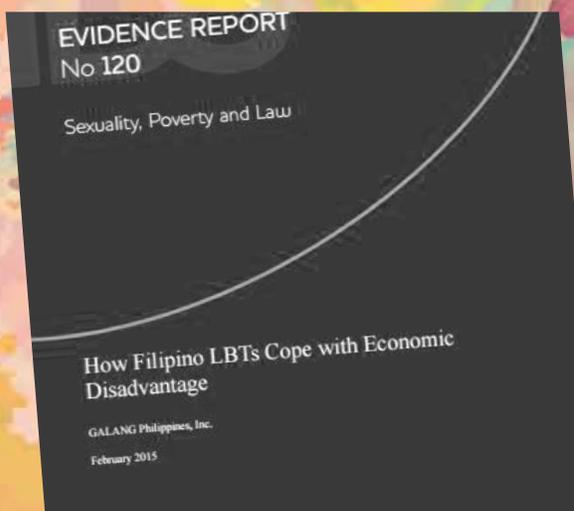
August 16, 2015 · Kalayaan V Covered Court, Quezon City

### **UNLAD GA**

November 22, 2015 · Barangay Botocan, Quezon City

GALANG's four partner LPOs --LAM, LAB, UNLAD, and LFR elected their new organizational officers for the year 2016 during their annual general assembly. In the said assemblies, LPOs presented revisions to their constitution and bylaws, accomplishments for the past year, and tactical plan for 2016. Learning discussions likewise took place through GALANG Advocacy Officer Gyknell Tangente's orientation on the newly implemented QC-ADO.

In every general assembly held by each LPO, parents, friends, family members, GALANG staff, and representatives from other three LPOs also attended the general assemblies to show support, and deliver their solidarity messages to the host organization.



## *How Filipino LBTs Cope with Economic Disadvantage: A Must-Read Documentation of LBTs in Philippine Urban Poor Communities*

How do Filipino LBTs Cope with Economic Disadvantage? This is the question GALANG explored in its research published on February 2015 in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies, United Kingdom.

To answer this huge question, the study found that LBTs resort to (1) migration, and compromise gender expression and personal safety in addressing material poverty; (2) pursue technical training/ education; and (3) engage in micro-enterprises, male-dominated trades, and informal sector to empower themselves economically. The report also highlighted that Filipino LBTs are more likely to be tolerated by their respective families when they make a substantial financial contribution. Also, this report illustrated how some LBTs come to better terms with their sexuality when they become financially independent.

This report is a recommended resource for advocates seeking to influence policy makers to formulate more inclusive policies protecting the rights of all people regardless of SOGIE. It may serve as data for policy-makers because it cites lived experiences of interviewed Filipino LBTs. GALANG proposes that SOGIE rights advocates should study the economic implications of exclusion and discrimination to underline the intersecting nature of gender and sexuality issues. Also, advocates should work with key/relevant government offices and agencies to improve access to gainful employment for persons with diverse SOGIE, improve their access to gender-sensitive and gender-responsive education. The SOGIE rights advocates should challenge the 'victim' discourse in migration and highlight the impact of increased financial independence on the exercise of SOGIE rights.



## *Discussing Impacts of Exclusion with Professor M.V. Lee Badgett*

**Commission on Human Rights (CHR)**

August 17, 2015 · CHR Conference Room, Quezon City

**Quezon City Pride Council (QCPC) and Barangay Pansol Hall**

August 18, 2015 · Legislative Hall, Barangay Pansol Rooftop, Quezon City

August 2015 was a peak month as GALANG welcomed Professor M.V. Lee Badgett to the Philippines. Prof. Badgett is the Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration, an Economics Professor from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and the Research Director of the Williams Institute of the University of California, Los Angeles. Prof. Badgett is known for her research on sexual orientation discrimination in labor markets, family structures and family policy, especially on same-sex partner recognition in US and Europe, and domestic partner health care and pension benefits.

As part of her visit to the Philippines, Prof. Badgett shared her research on the economic impact of SOGIE-based social exclusion to the House of Representatives, CHR, QCPC, and GALANG partner LPOs. Prof. Badgett presented her research in Barangay Pansol where members of LAM, LAB, UNLAD, and LFR actively listened to her insights and asked questions afterwards. One member of LAM asked, *“Do you think two people need to marry just to legitimize their relationship?”* to which Prof. Badgett answered, *“If marriage is important to people, they should have a right to get married. Our love was real even before we got married. Marriage is not absolutely necessary to have real love but if people want to, they have the right to. It is a choice. Everyone should have a right to make a choice like that.”* After the open forum, Barangay Pansol Captain Dominic Flores closed the program by firstly thanking Prof. Badgett for visiting Pansol and sharing her research with the LBTs. He pointed out that being a gay leader in a community is not an issue in Barangay Pansol because they treat their residents equally.

Prof. Badgett presented survey results conducted in different countries (including the Philippines) about homosexual acceptance and morality. With this, Prof. Badgett said the Philippines looks very supportive of LGBT people compared to other Asian countries but internally, there is still much bias and discrimination against LGBTs. Prof. Badgett likewise pointed out that discrimination does not only impact the well-being of LGBTs but also businesses, other establishments, and the country's economy.



## *Training CHR Representatives on SOGIE*

### **Basic SOGIE Orientation for CHR-Gender and Development Focal Persons in Central Office**

September 9, 2015 · Hotel Rembrandt, Tomas Morato, Quezon City

### **Basic SOGIE Orientation for CHR-GAD Focal Persons (Luzon Cluster)**

December 2, 2015 · Cocoon Hotel, Tomas Morato, Quezon City

To strategically mainstream awareness on SOGIE issues and push for more inclusive social protection policies, GALANG also engages with key human rights institutions. GALANG engaged with CHR to drive focus and support in cascading the Gender and Development (GAD) Ombud Guidelines, and its SOGIE-related provisions to CHR's central and regional offices.

On September and December, GALANG oriented around 90-100 CHR GAD focal persons, investigators, and staff from the central and regional offices in Luzon. GALANG Deputy Executive Director Maroz Ramos discussed sexuality concepts such as sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression and how discrimination happens. GALANG Research Officer Ronalyn Hufancia then discussed the legislative progress of SOGIE-related policies in the country. It was highlighted that there were already two provinces, and ten cities and municipalities with existing local ADOs, and still awaiting for the passage of other local ADOs in the Philippines.



## *Film Viewing to Advocate for Equality*

### **• Quezon City Pink Film Festival Community Screening**

October 11, 2015 · Kalayaan V Covered Court, Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City

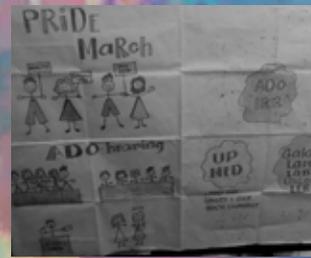
### **Sine Bahaghari**

December 10, 2015 · Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman, Quezon City

Raising awareness on SOGIE-related issues and advocating for equal rights is a continuous hurdle of human rights or LGBT rights advocates, which is also creatively and artistically presented through films.

Aside from hosting the 2nd Quezon City Pink Film Festival, QCPC also hosted a community film showing at Barangay Batasan Hills on October 11, 2015, which was co-organized by LFR--GALANG's partner LPO in Batasan Hills. Approximately 50-60 people from other LPOs (LAM, LAB, UNLAD), GALANG, other community-based LGBT organizations, and the local government of Barangay Batasan Hills attended the community screening. Three of the films were Kapampangan, Cebuano, and Bisaya LGBT-themed films produced and directed by Filipino film makers. The community screening likewise showed American short films.

Come December, Akei partnered with GALANG to host the 2nd *Sine Bahaghari*, a showcase of Filipino LGBT films that aim to present lived experiences of Filipino LGBTs to a wider audience. This was an open event attended by GALANG, representatives from LAM and UNLAD, and other students. GALANG Advocacy Officer Gyknell Tangente gave opening remarks and encouraged everyone to open their minds as they watch the films. GALANG's short documentary about urban poor LBTs entitled "*Walang Labis, Walang Kulang*" was featured along with other Filipino-made documentaries.



## *LPOs' Closer Look on Advocacy and Law Concepts*

October 10 and 24, 2015

Llanar Building, Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

LPO members as LGBT rights champions in their respective communities are continuously capacitated on legislative advocacy strategies, and updated on local and international policies that push for equal rights. The newly elected officers of LAM, LAB, UNLAD, and LFR were prioritized to enhance their confidence and leadership skills especially when lobbying or advocating for their rights. The LBT participants shared and identified protective policies that they hoped were implemented in the Philippines. Some of these are: anti-hate crime laws, inclusive healthcare laws for domestic partners, and legal recognition of same-sex marriage.

GALANG Advocacy Officer Gyknell Tangente and Research Officer Ronalyn Hufancia served as the resource persons for the 2-day training. Tangente and Hufancia discussed concepts on discrimination, how a bill becomes a law, QC-ADO, and key points in the ADB and the Yogyakarta Principles.

Participants also recounted the types and forms of discrimination they experienced, such as discrimination in the family, employment, and school. Among the stories shared, one incident highlighted was when a lesbian couple was refrained from renting a hotel room in Olongapo City because the staff verbally advised that they do not accommodate lesbians. After the rigorous training, the participants realized that legislative advocacy may be a challenging path to take but this training will help them in their fight against SOGIE-based discrimination.



## ***GALANG and QC Government Moving Ahead for Equality***

### **Quezon City Gender Summit**

October 27, 2015 · Bulwagang Amoranto, Quezon City Hall

### **Kasarian, Karapatan, Kamalayan: Basic SOGIE Orientation for Barangay Obrero**

November 8, 2015 · Chowking Tomas Morato, Quezon City

Having recently passed its local ADO, QC is now starting to host and conduct activities to mainstream SOGIE issues. On October 2015, GALANG Advocacy Officer Gyknell Tangente gave a SOGIE orientation to participants from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and GAD Focal Persons during the break-out sessions of the QC Gender Summit. The PNP group's assigned topic for the breakout session was gender-based violence. To help them understand the topic better, Tangente oriented the participants on basic SOGIE issues and related violence.

Meanwhile, through the guidance of the Quezon City Gender and Development Resource and Coordinating Office, intensive efforts were made to mainstream, and advocate for gender and development to barangays in QC. On November 2015, Barangay Obrero hosted a learning session for its residents to learn more about the issues and challenges faced by LGBTs, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities, particularly in urban poor areas. In line with this, GALANG Research Officer Ronalyn Hufancia, and Research Assistant Ingrid Saplagio served as guest speakers for the said session. They oriented about 35-40 senior citizens, adults, and youth of Barangay Obrero on basic SOGIE concepts, and highlights of the QC-ADO.



## *Working with UN Women to Stop Street Harassment*

### **UN Women Forum on Sexual Harassment**

December 10, 2015 · Microtel, Commonwealth, Quezon City

Sexual harassment in public spaces continues to impact the safety and self-esteem of women and girls all over the world. Here in the Philippines, women/girls experience the same scenario. With this growing problem, the United Nations (UN) Women's Safe Cities Global Initiative Program in the country is being implemented in QC.

As part of the program's awareness-raising activities, UN Women invited GALANG, and partner LPOs to participate in a UN Safe Public Spaces workshop. National Project Officer Ms. Katherine "Cookee" Belen served as the resource speaker for the workshop. 17 LBTs from LAM, LAB, UNLAD, and LFR participated in the workshop. Participants learned and shared experiences where sexual harassment may occur, who the perpetrators may be, and how they may stop this. They also role-played activities to show typical sexual harassment scenarios, such as employer-to-employee sexual harassment, and street harassment.



## *UP Women and Development Graduate Students Assess Field Work with GALANG*

### **Assessment of FIP with UP-WD**

October 3, 2015 · College of Social Work and Community Development (CSWCD), UP Diliman

### **Digital Storytelling**

November 21, 2015 · Llanar Building, Katipunan Quezon City

Since 2013, GALANG has partnered with UP Diliman's CSWCD students for their Field Instruction Program (FIP) where students immerse themselves and learn from integrating with local communities. 2015 marked the first year where Women and Development (WD) graduate students conducted their FIP with LAM in Barangay Pansol. During the entire time allotted for their fieldwork, UP-WD students attended LAM meetings and closely interacted with their members. On October and December 2015, UP-WD students had their midterm and final assessments with GALANG where they also presented their learning, recommendations, and plans of action in relation to their FIP.

One of the UP-WD students' plan of action was to have a digital storytelling for LAM members to help them create their own story digitally, and use it to promote and strengthen their organization. On November 2015, Ms. Liza Garcia, and Ms. Christina Lopez from the Foundation for Media Alternatives conducted a 1-day mentoring session with select LAM members to teach them the basics of digital storytelling, such as story visualization, video taking, video editing, and script writing. LAM members wrote a script about the history of LAM, and likewise videotaped GALANG Advocacy Officer Gyknell Tangente's talk about GALANG's history as the first LBT people's organization that GALANG helped establish.



## *Remembering Jennifer Laude*

### **Jennifer Laude Candlelighting**

October 10, 2015 · UP Diliman Grandstand, Quezon City

Jennifer Laude was killed by a US marine in Olongapo City on October 11, 2014. This incident sparked sorrow and outrage to the Laude family and millions of Filipinos. In solidarity, candle lighting activities were organized by LGBT groups to commemorate Laude's death and to call the Philippine government's attention to ensure that justice will be served.

Civil society and non-government organizations once again organized a follow-up candle lighting activity for Jennifer Laude on October 2015 at the UP Diliman Grandstand. This was to express solidarity, commemorate Laude's death, know updates about the legal progress of her case, and ultimately call for justice. Friends, families, and allies present during the event prayed and lit candles.

GALANG Philippines, together with other LGBT organizations were gravely disappointed with the decision of the Olongapo Regional Trial Court Branch 74 on December 1, 2015 that downgraded the original charge of murder against Pemberton to only homicide. GALANG believes that such conviction is a half-baked justice; hence, they strongly called on the Philippine government to ensure that Pemberton serves his jail term in the country as a national prisoner with no special rights.