

# GALANG NEWS

BUILDING COMMUNITY STRENGTH. FUELING COMMUNITY GROWTH. | JAN - JUN 2014



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## Solidifying Partnerships and Scoring Victories in Barangay Bagbag

January 20, 2014 | Barangay Bagbag Hall, Quezon City

August 16, 2014 | SB Covered Court, Barangay Bagbag, Novaliches

GALANG is now an official non-government organization (NGO) representative in the Barangay Bagbag Development Council (BDC). The BDC members' oath-taking on January 20, 2014 took place after the council's General Assembly.

GALANG was given the space to present the issues and concerns of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) sector, as it is one of the sectors recognized by the Council. The organization recommended the strengthening of programs that are inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression (SOGIE).

Barangay Bagbag and GALANG likewise signed the 'Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to Strengthen Alliances for Gender Equality' on August 16, 2014. The MOA formalizes the commitment between the two bodies to jointly promote and protect gender equality in the community.

The agreements enshrined in the MOA include the promotion of awareness on, and the strict implementation of, the 'LGBT No Discrimination Ordinance of Barangay Bagbag' (Barangay Ordinance No. 004, Series of 2009), and the conduct of gender-sensitivity, diversity, and LGBT human rights training activities in the barangay.

The MOA also secured the commitment of other stakeholders from churches, schools, and other civil society organizations (CSOs).

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## Renewed Hope for an Anti-Discrimination Law

January 28, 2014 | UP Center for Women's Studies, Quezon City

March 7, 2014 | Likhaan Center for Women's Health, Quezon City

The 16th Congress saw the re-filing of several anti-discrimination bills in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, renewing the hope for LGBT Filipinos to witness the passage of this long-overdue legislation, and thus, finally see their human rights upheld.

Along with other LGBT organizations who have been tirelessly pushing for the passage of an Anti-Discrimination Law (ADL), GALANG has also been vigorously lobbying for the measure. The organization has produced and submitted to identified policy-makers its position paper in support of the pending bills. The key recommendations articulated in the position paper include the designation of the Commission on Human Rights as the lead implementing agency of the ADL, and the creation of measures such as an Executive or Administrative Order that will ensure the implementation of the ADL at the local level. Likewise, GALANG expressed support for the progressive and pro-active diversity programs and policies that are grounded on continuing education and awareness-raising.

GALANG has also joined LAGABLAB, a network of LGBT organizations engaged in legislative advocacy, and has participated in its capacity-building activities and strategizing meetings, among which was a Political Mapping and Legislative Lobbying Training given by the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) and LAGABLAB's Strategic Planning Workshop.

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## Shedding Light on Struggles of Urban Poor LBTs

February 6, 2014 | Bellarmine Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City

March 29, 2014 | Asian Institute of Management, Makati City

June 21, 2014 | Asian Institute of Management, Makati City

In an effort to mainstream the issues faced by urban poor LBTs, GALANG and its partner LPOs continue to utilize various platforms for awareness raising.

At the activity co-organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) entitled 'Being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) in Asia: A Participatory Review and Analysis of the Legal and Social Environment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Persons and Civil Society' held on June 21, 2014, GALANG was invited to share about the impacts that the existing legal and social environment have on urban poor LBTs.

At the 'Gender and Sexuality Psychology: Bisexuality Workshop' held on February 6, 2014 at the Ateneo de

Manila University as part of Professor Nico Canoy's Psychology class, Leslie Ampo-an, Lesbian Alliance Bagbag's secretary, shared with the students the struggles that she faces as a bisexual woman. Ampo-an also shed light on the common misconceptions about bisexuality and likewise highlighted how important it is to be truthful to one's self and embrace one's identity.

At Rappler's 'Work It: A Forum on Gender and Job (In) Security' held on March 29, 2014, Anne Lim, GALANG's Executive Director, talked about the challenges faced by urban poor LBTs in securing and maintaining jobs. The forum sought to provide a platform for discussing how gender affects access to employment, and for exploring the links between gender justice and the economic empowerment of women.

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## Marching for All Women at Pansol's 1st IWD Pride March

March 8, 2014 | Barangay Pansol, Quezon City

In honor and celebration of all women regardless of class, age, sexual orientation and gender identity/expression (SOGIE), GALANG and its partner LBT people's organizations (LPOs) marched on the streets of Barangay Pansol for the community's first International Women's Day (IWD) Pride March.

The march was held in solidarity with women around the world as they celebrate the 2014 International Women's Day. The theme for the event was *Martsa ng Kababaihan Tungo sa Pantay na mga Karapatan* (Women's March Towards Equal Human Rights).

After the march, a short program was conducted at Pansol's covered court. Representatives of GALANG's partner LPOs spoke during the program, namely: Debbie Dabu of Lesbian Alliance Movement (LAM); *Lakas ng Kababaihan Para sa Karapatan* (Strength of Women for their Rights), Leslie Ampo-an of Lesbian Alliance Bagbag (LAB), Bhilog Dancel of *Ugnayan ng Nagkakaisang Lesbyana Laban sa Diskriminasyon* (UNLAD) (Association of United Lesbians Against Discrimination), and Shirlyn Bagas of Lesbians For Rights (LFR). Officials of Barangay Pansol and women of different roles and identities also gave their respective solidarity messages.

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## LPOs Trained on Strategic Planning

March 15-16, 2014 | Cloud 9 Hotel and Resort, Antipolo City

May 17-18, 2014 | Cloud 9 Hotel and Resort, Antipolo City

In line with its commitment to strengthen the capacities of its partner LPOs, GALANG conducted two batches of Training on Strategic Planning with the leaders of LFR, UNLAD, LAM, and LAB. All four LPOs successfully created their respective three-year strategic plans and reviewed their respective organizations' existing vision, mission and goals (VMGs) as training output.

The training provided the participants with an introduction on strategic planning, as well as with the know-how on the conduct of a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis, formulation of VMGs, identification of programs and projects, and the creation of a strategic plan.

Ten leaders per LPO were trained. The first batch (LFR and UNLAD) was held on March 15-16, 2014; the second batch (LAM and LAB) was held on March 17-18, 2014.

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## Capacity Building for LPOs on Facilitation

April 26-27, 2014 | Gems Hotel and Conference Center, Antipolo City  
July 19-20, 2014 | Cloud 9 Hotel and Resort, Antipolo City

Facilitation is an essential management skill for community organizations. For this reason, GALANG conducted two batches of Training on Facilitation—the first training was held on April 26-27, 2014 with LFR and UNLAD members, while the second training was held on August 19-20, 2014 with LAM and LAB members.

The training participants were selected from the LPOs' pool of educators, as well as the LPOs' leaders and members who have exhibited potential to become trainers.

The training used the methodologies of lectures and workshops, providing the participants with the chance to strengthen their facilitation skills in order to manage the flow of organizational meetings, encourage participatory discussions, and conduct educational activities.

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## Members of GALANG Partner LPOs Complete Skills Training

May 5-8, 2014 | Gender Office (UPDGO), University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City  
June 17, 2014 | Tandang Sora Hall, TESDA Women's Center, Quezon City

Recognizing the importance of having technical skills in order to obtain employment and livelihood in an economic context that puts emphasis on competency, members of GALANG partner LPOs strove to complete skills training on plumbing and housekeeping.

Jeniffer Marasigan, President of UNLAD, graduated as part of the second batch of the Plumbing NC II course provided by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Women's Center. The closing ceremonies of TESDA Women's Center's competency-based training programs entitled '*Juanang May Kakayahan at Abilidad, Magsisilbing Tatag Natin sa Pagsulong at Pag-unlad*' ('Skilled and Capable Juana, Serve as Our Strength in Moving Forward and Development') was held last June 17, 2014. Three GALANG staff—Gyky Tangente, Janell Castil, and Jover Larion—were present to congratulate and support Jeniffer in her graduation ceremony.

Similarly, GALANG's partner LPOs were chosen to be among the beneficiary organizations for Lingap Galing Cleaning Consultants' free housekeeping training. Successful trainees will have a chance to become part of a pool of cleaning consultants to be deployed by Lingap Galing in Quezon City.

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## **GALANG Organizes Forum on Policy Audits as a Tool for Inclusive Development**

May 9, 2014 | Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila

How does sexuality figure in development? This is one of the questions that GALANG, with support from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and Mama Cash Fund for Women, sought to address at the 'Policy Audits for Inclusive Development: An International Forum on Sexuality, Poverty, and Law' held on May 9, 2014.

The event launched a multi-country study that uses a common audit framework in interrogating how poverty reduction policies in the Philippines, Brazil, China, India, and South Africa deal with issues of sexuality. The objectives of the study include discussing how researchers and activists can conduct policy audits, drawing a common understanding on how gender and sexuality norms are upheld and reaffirmed both by policy and practice across different settings, and advocating for change with powerful actors within the development sector.

Each focus country presented its policy audit during the forum. Women's and LGBT Human Rights experts formed the panel of reactors that provided feedback on the country reports. Anti-Discrimination Bill authors Rep. Ibarra Gutierrez III and Rep. Maria Leonor Gerona-Robredo gave their welcoming address and keynote speech, respectively. Similarly, Quezon City Vice Mayor Maria Josefina Belmonte talked about how she is championing the comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Ordinance of Quezon City.

A total of 135 participants attended the forum, including representatives of GALANG partner LPOs, women's and LGBT organizations, and development agencies.



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## **GALANG Participates in Regional Training and Forum**

**May 28 - June 1, 2014 | Chiang Mai, Thailand**

GALANG's Deputy Executive Director, Maroz Ramos, participated in two back-to-back regional activities from May 28 to June 1, 2014 in Chiang Mai, Thailand: the Pre-APFF Grantee Partner Meeting and Resources Mobilization Training, and the 2nd Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF).

Mama Cash, an international feminist funding organization, organized the capacity building training on resource mobilization for its grantees. Dovetailed to this training was the Grantee Partner Meeting where partners reviewed the organization's strategic plan.

The APFF was organized by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, together with several women's rights' donors and funders such as Mama Cash, Global Fund for Women, South Asia Women's Fund, and FRIDA| The Young Feminist Fund. The APFF was a convergence of feminists from the five sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific and other global allies.

With the theme, 'Creating Waves, Fostering Movements', the APFF provided a much-needed space for sharing of experiences among various women's rights organizations in the region and for collectively imagining the realization of political, economic, and social change.

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## Standing with the Baguio LGBT Community

June 22, 2014 | Baguio City

GALANG and its partner LPOs once again joined the 8th Baguio Pride March, marking the 6th time that GALANG marched in solidarity with the local LGBT community of Baguio.

With the theme, 'Celebrate the Heritage of Struggle. Continue the Fight for Equality. Let a Thousand Flowers Rise', this year's march was held along Session Road. The Baguio Pride March is annually organized by the Baguio Pride Network.

Thirteen marchers from GALANG and its partner LPOs joined the march, specifically Mitch Flores, Annalyn Hagos, and Ma. Cristina Valencia of LAM; Leslie Ampo-an and Mhelo Satorre of LAB; Claire Bulagner and Bhilog Dancel of UNLAD; Margie Daguinod and Salyn Perando of LFR; and Gyky Tangente, Janell Castil, Mary Jane Largo, and Jover Larion of GALANG. At the after-party held in Rainbow Bar, representatives of the four LPOs gave messages of solidarity.