

NATIONAL LGBTQIA+ AGENDA



Angat
Buhay
Lahat

LGBTQIA+
FOR LENI



COVENANT ON UPHOLDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL LGBTQIA+ FILIPINOS

Vision of a Robredo Presidency

NATIONAL LGBTQIA+ AGENDA



**Angat
Buhat
Lahat**

LGBTQIA+
FOR L=NI



EASTERN SAMAR
LGBTQIA
Para Kay Leni



Mindanao Pride



galang



mapbeks



PREAMBLE

Despite the Philippines being named one of the most gay-friendly countries in the world, it is one that continues to operate with a double standard. With regard to upholding human rights and protecting minority sectors, significant strides still need to be made. Systemic safeguards, on all levels, must be established and enforced to ensure that the individual can enjoy their inherent and inalienable human rights.

Consider the lack of LGBTQIA+ education in the country's basic and tertiary education curriculums, cases of discrimination, and gender-based violence in both public and domestic spaces that continue to be perpetrated yet go largely underreported. Government-led data collection on the situation of and lived experiences of discrimination towards LGBTQIA+ Filipinos is non-existent; this consequently leads to the serious exclusion of their rights, concerns, and needs in the design and implementation of policies and programs.

As it stands, the Philippines is a state party to key international human rights instruments, notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). All these international instruments guarantee the protection of all individuals from discrimination. The global community, for its part, has continued to advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights, putting international mechanisms in place. It is high time for the Philippines to have the courage to commit and undertake bold steps towards inclusive and transformative societies for all.

This covenant is a recognition of the State's responsibility to champion the human rights of the Filipino people, including the LGBTQIA+ community. Ahead are the proposed plans of action.



On Anti-Discrimination Legislation and Policies:

Enact Legislation that Protects and Promotes the Human Rights of LGBTQIA+ Filipinos

1. Certify as urgent the passage of anti-discrimination legislation and support the passage of other legislation that guarantees the protection and promotion of the rights of LGBTQIA+ Filipinos.
2. Support the legislation of legal gender recognition, thereby guaranteeing the human dignity of transgender, genderqueer, nonbinary, and gender diverse Filipinos.
3. Support legislation that will prohibit non-consensual corrective surgeries of intersex persons.
4. Support legislation that recognizes alternative and non-heterosexual household arrangements, and guarantees the rights of LGBTQIA+ couples to the following: co-ownership of and equitable dissolution of property, cohabitation, adoption, and joint parental authority.

Establish Safeguards That Prevent Discrimination and Violence

1. Implement existing legislation, including Republic Act No. 11313 (the Safe Spaces Act), that guarantees the protection of LGBTQIA+ Filipinos from violence.
2. Engage the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and all education stakeholders in crafting anti-discrimination guidelines rooted in LGBTQIA+ awareness, including curricula, teacher education, and the provision of safe learning spaces.
3. Initiate an interagency committee tasked to develop and strengthen the monitoring, reporting, documentation, and redress measures designed to address discrimination and LGBTQIA+ violence.
4. Adopt an Executive Order mandating all line agencies to ensure that relevant policies and guidelines are LGBTQIA+-inclusive, allocate relevant resources from existing Gender and Development (GAD) budgets, and create an interagency committee to lead in crafting policies and programs to protect and promote the human rights of LGBTQIA+ Filipinos.



On Anti-Discrimination Legislation and Policies:

Conduct Seminars and Workshops to Reinforce Anti-Discrimination Safeguards on a Granular Level

1. Instruct the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to ensure that all relevant Gender and Development (GAD) policies and programs are designed to protect and promote the rights of LGBTQIA+ Filipinos, including conducting capacity-building programs on the human rights of LGBTQIA+ Filipinos, and ensuring budget allocations for LGBTQIA+ programs.
2. Encourage all Local Government Units (LGUs), LGBTQIA+ civil society organizations, and relevant stakeholders to share good practices.

Improve Existing Redress Mechanisms

1. Identify and address the challenges faced by existing help desks and redress mechanisms in schools, workplaces, and LGUs.
 - a. Empower local stakeholders to establish community-based redress mechanisms that will provide legal, psychosocial, economic, and other relevant interventions for aggrieved LGBTQIA+ Filipinos.
 - b. Encourage both LGUs, civil society, and the private sector in establishing help desks.
 - c. Empower the Commission on Human Rights to provide comprehensive redress measures for aggrieved LGBTQIA+ Filipinos.
2. Increase awareness and improve information dissemination of current and future help desks and redress mechanisms.



On LGBTQIA+ Sexual, Physical, and Mental Health:

Address the Lack of Adequate Funding and Programs Centered on LGBTQIA+ Health and Wellbeing

1. Ensure that relevant government departments and agencies develop programs and policies that address the sexual and mental health concerns of LGBTQIA+ Filipinos.
2. Ensure the proper information dissemination and implementation of Republic Act No. 11133 (the Mental Health Act) to guarantee that LGBTQIA+ individuals are given access to mental health services without the fear of, the threat of, or encountering LGBTQIA+ discrimination.

Make Access to HIV Testing, Treatment, and Prevention More Readily Available

1. Localize and properly implement Republic Act No. 11166 (the HIV and AIDS Law) as its provisions aim to give wider access to and awareness on HIV Testing, Treatment, and Prevention.
2. Implement Local AIDS Council and HIV/AIDS 101 to not only properly enforce Republic Act No. 11166 but to ensure that the campaign to end the stigma on HIV/AIDS and the watch of policies and implementations regarding HIV/AIDS are consistent.



On Meaningful Participation of LGBTQIA+ Filipinos in Transformative Governance:

Promote Leadership Among LGBTQIA+ Youth

1. Coordinate with the SK to craft projects and initiatives for LGBTQIA+ individuals in their respective LGUs.
2. Centralize youth organizations that uphold gender equality and non-discrimination.

Promote People's Participation Mechanisms

1. Create standards in the proper fora aimed at providing representation of LGBTQIA+ individuals when needed.
2. Ensure that the National Anti-Poverty Commission, the Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor, the National Youth Commission, and other relevant mechanisms recognize LGBTQIA+ Filipinos as a marginalized sector, and ensure meaningful participation in consultations and other decision-making processes.
3. Support the efforts of LGBTQIA+ civil society organizations on data-gathering and research towards obtaining reliable and comprehensive information on the lived realities of LGBTQIA+ Filipinos, including access to government services, participation in governance and leadership, contributions to the economy, and the extent of discrimination and violence that the sector experiences.



On Meaningful Participation of LGBTQIA+ Filipinos in Transformative Governance:

Raise LGBTQIA+ Awareness in Order to Incorporate Anti-Discrimination Measures in the Philippine Education System

1. Instruct the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education to develop a national framework and plan of action towards an LGBTQIA+-inclusive education that covers curriculum, teacher education, learning materials development, and civil society participation.
2. Implement properly consulted LGBTQIA+-related seminars and workshops in schools, workplaces, and LGUs.

Address the Lack of Institutionalized Solidarity and Safe Spaces

1. Recognize the need to create institutionalized safe spaces in schools, workplaces, and LGUs not only aimed at including LGBTQIA+ individuals but also promoting gender equality and non-discrimination.
2. Mandate the crafting of anti-discrimination employment policies in relation to recruitment, hiring, and the like.
3. Engage the Department of Labor and Employment, the Philippine Commission on Women, and all relevant stakeholders in issuing labor standards that guarantee the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ workers, mandate safe and inclusive workspaces, and strengthen existing redress mechanisms on gender-based discrimination in the workplace.



On the LGBTQIA+ and Philippine Foreign Policy:

Join the Global Campaign to Advance and Protect the Human Rights of the LGBTQIA+ Community

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1. Recognize established international human rights covenants and mirror the frameworks in these policies locally to create safe spaces and end legal and social discrimination.
2. Coordinate with relevant international authorities and organizations for the improvement of the status of LGBTQIA+ and human rights in the Philippines, the development of various activities and engagements with the LGBTQIA+ community, and the dissemination of information on international human rights covenants.

Position the Protection and Promotion of the Human Rights of All LGBTQIA+ Persons in External Relations

1. Support the adoption of resolutions, statements, and agreements relevant to human rights and LGBTQIA+ persons in relevant multilateral spaces, including the United Nations (UN) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
2. Ensure that all appointees to Philippine diplomatic positions are persons who have a strong commitment to the upholding of the human rights of LGBTQIA+ persons.
3. Integrate the promotion and protection of the human rights of LGBTQIA+ persons in political, economic, cultural, and public diplomacy agendas.
4. Strengthen protection measures for LGBTQIA+ migrant workers facing violence and discrimination in destination countries, which includes ensuring that all Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLO) have LGBTQIA+ affirmative personnel and are equipped with LGBTQIA+-inclusive guidelines in handling and treating distressed migrant workers.



Consultation:

Meet and Discuss on a Regular Basis

1. Convene on a regular basis to discuss LGBTQIA+ advocacies and identify the plans of action needed should problems in implementation arise.
2. Support the execution of grassroots-level surveys and disposition checks on local LGBTQIA+ communities, which are necessary due to the still-present threat to their lives and safety.