

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Situation in the Philippines- Issue 1

- The maternal mortality rate (MMR) remains high at 90 deaths per 100,000 live births
- Access to health care- a concern for 54 percent of women aged 15 to 49 years (NDHS 2017)
- Most common barrier was “getting money for treatment”
- Inadequate food, care, and nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers impact the MMR

Situation in the Philippines- Issue 1

- **SRHR related recommendations in the 3rd UPR Cycle:**
- Increasing access to modern contraceptives (Brazil) including rural and indigenous communities (Denmark)
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (Sweden)
- Implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Act (New Zealand)

Recommendation – Issue 1

- Fully implement the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Act and the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Reproductive Health Law to “grant free care and services to indigents” (Section 7, RPRH Act) especially prioritizing access to SRH information and services such as family planning, contraceptives, maternal health care, among others for all Filipinos.

Situation in the Philippines– Issue 2

- Increase of unsafe abortions, from 560,000 in 2008 to 610,000 in 2012 (Center for Reproductive Rights, 2012)
- In cases of rape and incest, a woman is constantly exposed to "the violation committed against [her] and [experiences] serious traumatic stress..." (Committee Against Torture)

Situation in the Philippines– Issue 2

- During the pandemic it was reported that search queries related to violence against women climbed to 63% (GABRIELA, 2021)
- Rape cases within the households during the lockdowns and community quarantines take place (FPOP Consultation)

Situation in the Philippines– Issue 2

- Noted Recommendation in UPR 3rd Cycle:
- "Take immediate steps to permit abortion in cases where a woman's or a girl's life or physical or mental health is in danger, where the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest and in cases of fetal impairment, with a view to decriminalizing abortion in the near future (Netherlands)

Recommendations – Issue 2

- Decriminalize abortion by amending the Revised Penal Code and ensure access to safe abortion is permitted, at a minimum, when the pregnancy presents a threat to the health or life of the woman, when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest, or when there are fetal malformations and implement policies and programs for safe abortion and post-abortion care.



Thank you