



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS  
TREATY BODIES**

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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*Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/86/Philippines/92

24 February 2026

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the ninth periodic report of the Philippines, at the Committee's eighty-sixth session, held in October 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/PHL/CO/9](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 58 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested The Philippines to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 (a), 14 (b), 36 (a), 36 (b), and 44 (c) of the concluding observations, namely:

14 (a): "The Committee recommends that the State party accelerate the adoption of the Comprehensive Non-Discrimination Bill and ensure that it covers direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, as well as intersecting forms of discrimination, in accordance with articles 1 and 2 of the Convention, the Committee's general recommendation No. 28 (2010) on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention and target 5.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which is to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere."

14 (b): "The Committee recommends that the State party [...] accelerate the adoption of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Expression Equality Bill."

36 (a): "The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that women human rights defenders, women journalists and activists, including Maria Ressa and in particular those advocating for land rights, protection of the environment and the rights of Indigenous women, rural women, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and Muslim women, can freely carry out their advocacy for women's human rights and exercise their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association free from harassment, surveillance or undue restrictions, including arbitrary arrest and arbitrary prosecution, and when they engage or seek to engage with the Committee."

36 (b): "The Committee recommends that the State party [...] investigate and prosecute all acts of harassment, gender-based violence and discrimination, and intimidation and reprisals against women human rights defenders, including online, and ensure their constitutional right

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(under article 3.1 of the Constitution) to due process of law and the equal protection of the laws; provide remedies and reparations to victims; and establish a specific registry of such incidents, with disaggregated data and publicly available statistics.”

44 (c): “Recalling its general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party [...] amend articles 256–259 of the Revised Penal Code to legalize abortion in cases of risk to the life or health of the pregnant woman, rape, incest or severe fetal impairment and decriminalize it in all other cases.”

Although the information requested by the Committee was due in October 2025, the State party submitted a report on 24 October 2025 that exceeded the prescribed word limit and was therefore not admissible. On the same date, the Committee requested that a shortened version be resubmitted. No revised submission has been received to date. I would therefore be grateful for clarification regarding the current status of your Government’s response to the matters raised by the Committee.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of the Philippines on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder **within one month of the date of this correspondence**.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **3,150 words**, including footnotes. You may attach a limited number of annexes containing statistical data only which are not counted for the word limit. Please also send a **Word electronic version** of the information requested to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to [ohchr-cedaw@un.org](mailto:ohchr-cedaw@un.org).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jelena Pia-Comcica', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jelena Pia-Comcica

Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women