

INCORPORATING BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINE LEGAL SYSTEM

Commissioner Karen S. Gomez-Dumpit

Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines

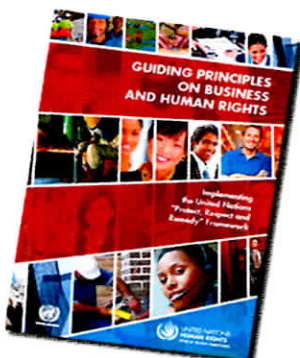


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“What each business does affects its workers, the community in which it operates, and in one way or another, society more broadly.”

- Joseph E. Stiglitz

Keynote Address to the UN World Forum on Business and Human Rights (2013)



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Outline of Presentation

- The Business and Human Rights Discourse in the Philippines
- Efforts of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines to advance the BHR Discourse
 - Integrating Gender in the CHRP's BHR Efforts
- Challenges and Ways Forward

in context

Business and
Human Rights



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The BHR Discourse in the PHL

- 2014 – BHR was introduced to the business sector.
- 2014 – Initial government efforts thru the CHRP: Executive Forum on UNGP
- CSO initiatives to create NAP (mostly on an industry or sector basis)

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CHRP's Efforts in BHR

In line with its Protection Mandate

- Investigative monitoring of ESC rights in Nueva Vizcaya
- Climate change inquiry

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CHRP's Efforts in BHR

In line with its Promotion Mandate

- CHR Action Plan on Business and Human Rights
- Revitalized the Commission's Technical Working Group on Business and Human Rights

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CHRP's Efforts in BHR

In line with its Policy Advisory Mandate

- Convened a forum to discuss the possibility of adopting a NAP on BHR
- Position Paper: Amendment of the Corporation Code to incorporate the UN Guiding Principles on BHR

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Integrating Gender in CHRP's BHR Initiatives

- Workshop on BHR and unpaid care work
- Called out a popular apparel which staged a fashion show that objectified women
- Position Paper: Amendment of the Anti-sexual Harassment Law to create safe spaces
- Consultations and reports on the HR situation of the most marginalized women
- Assessment of the impacts of development projects on the rights of women

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CHRP's Role in the BHR Discourse

- Promotion activities to mainstream BHR in government and business sector
- Monitoring of human rights situations
- Facilitate creation of NAP following a three-fold approach: GUIDE, INFORM, ASSIST

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Challenges & Ways Forward

- Push for government commitment on BHR
- Capitalize on CHRP initiatives on human rights protection, promotion, and policy advisory
- Need to streamline and coordinate efforts among different stakeholders
- Broaden the BHR discourse to cover all stakeholders
- Changing the paradigm of the business sector in its view of social programs

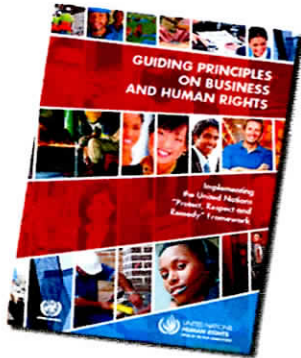
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“The reason that businesses should embrace corporate responsibility is not selfish self-interest, but because it is the right thing to do.”

- Joseph E. Stiglitz

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