Philippines Systemic Advocacy Learning Lab (SALL)

Global Rights for Women is working with eight organizations in Metro Manila around a Safety and Justice Reform process that partner organizations around the world have utilized.

GLOBAL RIGHTS for WOMEN *Justice for Victims of Violence*

Strengthening Systemic Advocacy in the Philippines

Global Rights for Women is conducting a two-year Systemic Advocacy Learning Lab (SALL) until 2025 to support 28 activists and service providers in applying the concepts and techniques of systemic advocacy to challenges they see survivors face in getting support and safety.

Program Description

Interagency coordination is strengthened when agencies operate and share information based on common policies, protocols, and key concepts. The Systemic Advocacy Learning Lab aims to elevate work that participant organizations are already doing, and strengthen it by expanding the concepts and skills that GRW has found lead to lasting reform.

According to the United Nations, globally, 139 women are killed every day by intimate partners or family members. In Southeast Asia, women's access to justice is weakest when seeking safety and accountability. The UN reports that the "rule of law is weakest and men's privilege is often most entrenched when in the private sphere and in the home."

In the Philippines, 1 out of every 4 married women has suffered domestic violence, and there is a lack of concrete information to show the extent of VAW in the country as many cases of violence against women often go unreported due to a culture of silence.

Through trainings and consultations, GRW seeks to build the capacity of systems professionals and women's human rights NGOs to improve policies and practices so that they more effectively protect women and girls' safety, and provide them access to justice. Additionally, to develop skills within civil society for ongoing monitoring and research to ensure consistent impact.

Program Background

GRW received a 2 ½ year grant from Cummins Powers Women (the philanthropic arm of the Cummins Corporation) to develop partnerships with Manila-based organizations and support their efforts to address and end gender-based violence.

After an October 2022 visit to meet and interview potential partner organizations, GRW implemented the Systemic Advocacy Learning Lab (SALL) to share the concepts and tools developed by Domestic Violence Turning Points (2012) from their systemic reform work used around the world.

Eight organizations opted to join the SALL cohort, which is a two year course featuring monthly online group learning sessions, two in-person workshops in the Metro Manila area, and support to apply the skills being learned on challenges they identify as blocking safety and support for survivors of gender-based violence.

Global Rights for Women is being sponsored in this work by the Cummins Corporation and their initiative Cummins Powers Women.

Cummins Inc. is a multinational corporation that produces heavy equpment engines with key locations in the Philippines.

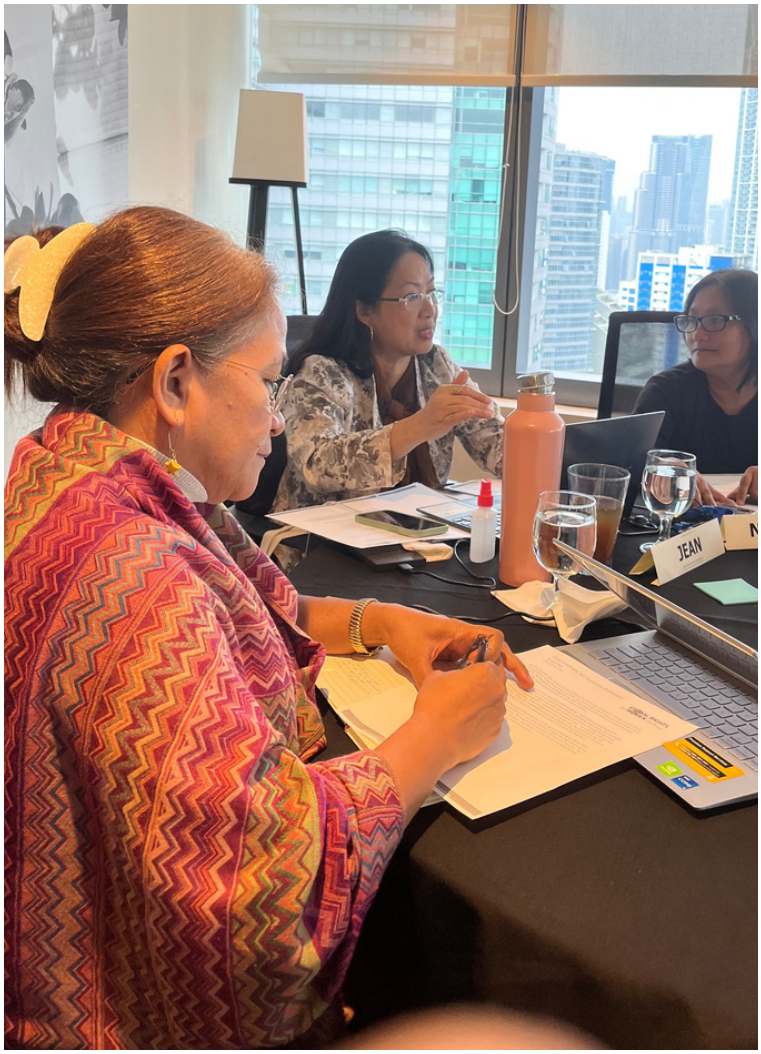
Cummins Powers Women unites Cummins leaders and employees around the world in finding solutions to gender inequality in the communities in which they work to reinforce Cummins' commitment to the advancement of women everywhere.

GRW Guiding Principles

- Local activists best know their own context and can lead change.

- Systemic advocacy skills go beyond individual advocacy (focusing on a systems response to one case) for problem identification and solutions, and beyond training as the main way of seeking to improve systems.

- New approaches have a better chance of working when people have an opportunity to question and adapt them and practice applying it with coaching and support.



"Systemic advocacy is about addressing the underlying structures and dynamics that perpetuate issues. By focusing on systemic change, we can all work towards creating lasting impact and transforming institutions and society, for the better." **-Joey, helpline manager, Lunas Collective**

"Solving a systemic issue requires us to prioritize constructive engagement with the institutions who hold power and resources." **-Jeza, Chief Operations Officer, Lunas Collective**

Project Goals

The goal of Safety and Justice Reform is the promotion of women's human rights to equality and freedom from gender-based violence, and protecting victims of violence from future harm and possible death at the hands of perpetrators.

Coordination and communication among agencies is essential. The action of one practitioner is strengthened by the cumulative effect of coordinated actions across the criminal justice system.

GRW is working to increase the safety of women in the Philippines by supporting partner organizations in assessing gaps in women's access to safety and justice within the Philippines, including:

- Improving women and girls' access to justice in the Philippines by working with local and regional NGOs, advocates, and key actors to influence improved and enforced policies for violent offenders.
- Coordinating a regional convening of NGOs in the Philippines and surrounding countries to strengthen and unify existing efforts, and ensure women and girls have consistent safety.
- Utilizing GRW's network of Philippines-based human rights attorneys to conduct ongoing research on enforcement of current and improved policies.

By the Numbers

8

organizations represented

25

Participants

14

training hours

3

GRW staff on-site

1

interpreter, 4 people used headsets

11

documents/31 pages + slides & polling translated in advance

Program Partners and Supporters

Organizations:

Center for Migrant Advocacy
Coalition Against Trafficking of Women-Asia Pacific
Lunas Collective
Sagib Babae Foundation
SAGIP NG/City of Muntinlupa
Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panlegal (SALIGAN)
SPARK! Philippines
Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau, Inc

Cummins Powers Women:

https://www.cummins.com/company/esg/social/corporate-responsibility/cummins-powers-women

"The Systemic Advocacy Learning Lab made me realize that although individual efforts are essential, systemic advocacy seeks to address the root causes of social problems by advocating for broader policy changes, institutional reforms and shifts in social norms." **-Rai, Community Coordinator, Lunas Collective**

GRW

To learn more about Global Rights for Women, please visit our website at: www.globalrightsforwomen.org.

For specific questions about the Spring 2017 and future workshops, please contact Melissa Scaia, International Training Director (mscaia@grwomen.org) or Amy Lauricella, Director of Outreach and Legal Reform (alauricella@grwomen.org).