

*Annex U***Women's advocacy experience in
the Philippines**

Women's legal and human rights
bureau, inc. (WLB)

WLB is a non-government legal organization that fights for and promotes women's human rights. It adheres to feminist and developmental perspectives and principles in its work.

WLB's activities include education and training on women's human rights and the law. It also conducts researches, and is engaged in policy advocacy to transform the law and the legal system to advance women's rights and leadership

What is Advocacy?

"Organized political process that involves the coordinated efforts of people to change policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate certain undesirable conditions." (Cunanan)

What is Advocacy

- An organized, systemic intentional process of influencing matters of public interest and changing power relations to improve the lives of the disenfranchised...IDRC

What is Advocacy

- “Organized efforts and actions that use the instruments of democracy to establish and implement laws and policies that will create a just and equitable society” (Advocacy Institute)

Advocacy is the process of influencing and transforming institutions, rules, policies, structures, relationships and people, towards promoting gender equality, addressing women’s rights, eliminating discrimination, and transforming conditions of oppression and violence.

Components of advocacy:

(1) Research and Monitoring

- problem identification and issue analysis: grassroots consultations, key informant interviews, policy research
- data gathering and monitoring of situation

(2) Public Education and Information

- generating support through building an informed critical mass
- influencing public sentiments through media: radio, print media, television
- making use of theatre and the arts
- capacity-building and empowerment: improving the capacity and voice of women

“a politically activated constituency and vigilant mass media are critical measures in a democracy” - WLB

(3) Lobbying

- engaging the policy making institutions and demanding accountability to women's rights

(4) Coalition-building Campaign and Mobilization

- networking and solidarity-building: widening support base that cuts across sectors

In the Philippines,
Advocacy work for women and by women may be through

- (1) legal forms (legislative lobbying, dialogues, position papers)
- (2) metalegal forms (rallies, boycott, pressure politics),
- (3) combination of both legal and metalegal

Research

- Prerequisite of sound, responsive and appropriate legislative proposals
- Necessary to support legislative proposals in terms of framework, concepts, rules and process and mechanisms
- Statistical data and quantitative figures are convincing tools in advocacy
- Basis for the Development of effective IEC materials for legislative advocacy

Research tracks

- Consultations with grassroots communities
- Obtaining data and relevant information from people's organizations
- Interviewing individuals and experts, including government officials

the legislative advocacy Plan

- Linkaging and networking
- Gaining a clear idea of legislative advocacy
- Planning your alliance
- Identifying your lobbyists and volunteers
- IEC plan
- Launching the legislative advocacy alliance

WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE

- Identifying the priority issue
 - General public's familiarity with the issue
 - Perceived winnability in the congress
- Clarifying perspectives on the issues
 - Gathered data and conducted intensive discussions on women's experiences and on how the law and the legal system dealt with rape, wife battering
 - Role of social institutions in reinforcing misconceptions (media, church, family)
- Developing the legislative proposal

- Identifying allies/champions
- Determining the non-negotiables
- Negotiations
- Public debate
- Launching a vigorous public advocacy and information drive

References

- Women's Legal Bureau, Legislative advocacy manual. 1997:QUEZON CITY
- Powerpoint presentation of Maureen Pagaduan, SEA OP CEDAW Training in BANGKOK 2008