

Harassment-free, success-full



Gender-based Sexual Harassment refers to violence that targets an individual or a group of people on the basis of their gender. This harassment may come in three forms: physical, mental and emotional. Its intent is not always rooted by sexual interest or intent, most of the time it was to target a certain gender to make them feel small or unwelcome within the group. Gender-based Sexual Harassment may happen in all spaces: the streets, workplace and schools, as it also reflect the cultural norms within those spaces. Anyone can be harassed: from women, persons with disabilities, to LGBTQ people. Although this issue has been raised for more than 20 years, 70-90% of women still experience harassment in some spaces. Women still continue to receive discrimination and harassment all over the world, even in our country.

However as modernization takes place, the days where a woman is limited to marrying early and has less job opportunities are gone. A study conducted by the Wunderman Thompson Philippines found that the main priorities of the modern Filipina are being financially independent and succeeding in their own businesses. As we can see a lot of professional women breaking the 'glass-ceiling' of the corporate world, women taking up leadership positions, women breaking the record and women with successful start-up businesses.

A world free of Gender-Based Sexual Harassment is a world where discriminations based on gender are superficial. All people, not just women who break the stereotypical gender roles are able to prove to the

world that gender fluidity does not diminish someone's ability to work, function and be efficient in the areas they are assigned in. This also means that women, who in the past centuries, considered as less capable and efficient than men are able to break the conventional presumption of gender roles and responsibilities. A woman who actively speaks up for the freedom of expression like Maria Ressa, a Nobel Prize laureate. A woman who strongly lifts herself and the community she belonged at like Hidilyn Diaz, the first-ever Olympic gold medalist of the Philippines. A woman who shatters the proverbial 'glass-ceiling' of the corporate world and advocates women empowerment in the workplace like Marife Zamora, the chairperson of Convergys Philippines. A woman who drew the line of success to science and education like Dr. Erika Fille Legara, the founder of the first formal Data Science program in the Philippines. Lastly, a woman who has a heart of a servant leader and serves her country radically like Leni Robredo, the current Vice President of the Philippines.

A community where a modern Filipina takes charge of her own story, well being, independence and life decisions, is supported. It is where she knows what she wants and she does not stop at any hurdle thrown at her into reaching the kind of woman she wants to be. A community who believes that success knows no gender. That is the community we envision and the one our generation will inherit.

"Harassment-free, success-full" is one of the winning essays by **Ms. Alyssa Almagro** during the essay writing contest that NFRDI conducted to promote the 2021's 18-day campaign to

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