



**Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

**CIRCULAR NO. 1, s. 2020
October 30, 2020**

**in consultation with the National Steering Committee for the 2020 National
Human Rights Consciousness Week**

**TO : ALL HEADS OF CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES;
DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT (NGAs); LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs); GOVERNMENT-OWNED
OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCs) WITH
ORIGINAL CHARTERS; AND STATE UNIVERSITIES
AND COLLEGES (SUCs)**

**SUBJECT : 2020 NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSCIOUSNESS
WEEK**

I. Rationale and legal basis

On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as a common standard of achievement. Subsequently, on December 4, 1950, the General Assembly resolved during its 317th Plenary Meeting to adopt December 10 of each year as *International Human Rights Day*. Since then, the UN has been annually releasing the theme and logo for the celebration of the International Human Rights Day.

In response to this resolution, former President Corazon C. Aquino issued in October 1988 *Proclamation 177* that declared December 3 to 10 as *National Human Rights Week*. Subsequently, the Philippine government

enacted Republic Act No. 9201, otherwise known as the *National Human Rights Consciousness Week Act of 2002*. The law stipulates that **December 4 to 10 of every year** shall be the country's **National Human Rights Consciousness Week**. It also mandates all government agencies, including government-owned and controlled corporations, to celebrate the period through various simple and appropriate activities that shall raise the awareness of the people on their basic human rights in relation to the services of these agencies. Learning institutions, both public and private, are mandated to observe human rights week to propagate, particularly among the students, a human rights culture that aims at sustainable development in the country. The week culminates on December 10, the anniversary day of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is celebrated as the International Human Rights Day.

II. Objectives

To facilitate the yearly conduct of activities, Section 5 of R.A. No. 9201 created a national committee, which consists of ten government agencies and at least two non-government organizations as members. The Committee Chair is the head of agency of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Vice-Chair is the head of agency of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Guided by the State policy under the 1987 Constitution that, "[t]he State values the dignity of every person and guarantees full respect for human rights," the Committee Chair, in consultation with and with the approval of the national committee, issues this Circular with the goal to ensure that the annual celebration of the Human Rights Week shall:

- Strengthen cooperation among member agencies of the national committee and other government institutions for the observance of the National Human Rights Consciousness Week scheduled on December 4 to 10 of every year;
- Ensure the dissemination of the theme for the observance of human rights week to all constitutional bodies; departments, bureaus and agencies of the national

government; local government units, government-owned or controlled corporations; universities and colleges, and other learning institutions, public and private; and the general public;

- Ascertain that the organized activities shall result in a deeper understanding by the public of the ideals and principles of human rights;
- Utilize the occasion as an opportunity to impress upon the private sector that human rights is a shared responsibility; and,
- Promote human rights as universal and applicable to all, especially the members of the disadvantaged, marginalized, and vulnerable sectors of society.

III. Recommended activities

- **Common to all agencies**

- Physical display of a celebratory streamer for the 2020 National Human Rights Consciousness Week and the 72nd Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), as well as its display on official websites, electronic platforms, and social media platforms of government agencies;
- Simultaneous Flag Raising Ceremony and Recitation of Panata sa Karapatang Pantao on December 7, 2020; and
- Inter-agency forum or public dialogue discussing the importance and primacy of, as well as the respect for, human rights.

- **Agency-based activities**

Agencies are to initiate various celebratory activities that shall raise the awareness of their own employees and clientele on their human rights in relation to the services of their agencies. For example, in the context of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Department of Labor and Employment shall focus their discussion on

labor rights, right to work, and how to obtain remedies for any form of labor rights violations.

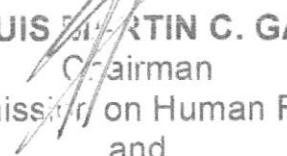
- **Celebratory activities by attached agencies and in the field**

Similar activities shall be spearheaded by attached agencies of national government agencies, as well as by regional and provincial offices of member-agencies and partners, for the 2020 National Human Rights Consciousness Week celebration.

IV. Effectivity

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

Signed on 20th October 2020 in Quezon City.



JOSE LUIS MARTIN C. GASCON
Chairman
Commission on Human Rights
and
Chair, NHRCW National Committee