









WORLD DAY OF PRAYER




Prepared by the WDP of the Philippines




March 3rd, 2017





“Am I Being Unfair to You?”






Country Background Information



The country		
Overview		Photo/Copyright
The <i>Republika ng Pilipinas</i> is an archipelago of 7,107 islands in the Western Pacific Ocean.	1	Map 
There are many active and extinct volcanoes in the archipelago. The Taal volcano and Taal lake, in Batangas, Luzon, can be seen from Tagaytay Ridge. Its last eruption was in 1977.	2	Taal lake and volcano. ©Zenaida Maturan 
The capital of the country is Manila. The most populous city is Quezon City. The three main regions are Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. They are represented by the three stars on the Philippine flag.	3	Flag. © WDPIC 
The history of the Philippines is believed to have begun with the arrival of the first humans using rafts or primitive boats, at least 67,000 years ago. Negrito tribes (or Aytas) inhabited the isles, which were subsequently joined and largely supplanted by migrating groups of Austronesians. The indigenous population is closely related to indigenous Malaysians and Indonesians.	4	Mother and child Ayta © Rebecca Asedillo 
There are between 120 and 170 languages spoken in the country. Most of them have several varieties (dialects), totaling over 300 across the archipelago. Visayan languages are widely spoken throughout the Visayas and in some parts of Mindanao. Ilokano is the lingua franca of Northern Luzon, excluding Pangasinan. Since the 1930s, the government has promoted the use of the national language, Filipino, based on Tagalog. English is considered an official language for purposes of communication and instruction.	5	Traditional map of Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines © Wikimedia Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License 
Political history		
Indigenous customary law		Photo/Copyright
The indigenous Filipino woman enjoyed the customary law of naming their children, inherited property, engaged in trade and industry, or succeeded the village chief in the absence of a male heir. Indigenous communities gave equal importance to male and female offspring, dividing inheritance equally among children, and ensuring education for both.	6	Ayta houses © Rebecca Asedillo 







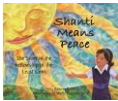

Spanish colonization		Photo/Copyright
<p>Spanish colonization and settlement began with the arrival of Miguel López de Legazpi's expedition on February 13, 1565, who established the first permanent settlement of San Miguel on the island of Cebu in central Philippines. The Spanish colonization lasted for more than three centuries.</p> <p>Spanish rule achieved the political unification of almost the whole archipelago that previously had been composed of independent kingdoms, pushing back the south advancing Islamic population. The Spanish East Indies were ruled as part of the Viceroyalty of New Spain, administered from Mexico City from 1565 to 1821, except for a brief period of British rule from 1762 to 1764.</p> <p>The Spanish colonizers introduced feudalism which led to the subordination of women to men in the whole archipelago. Women were conditioned through religion to become sweet, obedient and self-sacrificing. The indigenous woman became a sheltered, timid maiden who received an education confined to church, kitchen and children. Her most basic right, the control over her own body with its reproductive choices, has not been regained up to this time.</p>	7	<p>Fort Santiago built by Miguel López de Legazpi, Manila. © Cherina Ducusin</p> 
Philippine revolution		Photo/Copyright
<p>The Philippine Revolution against Spain began in August 1896, culminating in the establishment of the First Philippine Republic. Jose Rizal, a writer and a doctor, was detained at the Fort Santiago and executed by the Spanish colonial Army, under suspicion of conspiracy against the crown.</p> <p>During the Philippine revolution for independence against Spain, women served as informants, and as keepers of documents. Some took up arms like Teresa Magbanua of Panay Island and Gabriela Silang.</p>	8	<p>Rizal Park, Manila. © Cherina Ducusin</p> 
US military government		Photo/Copyright
<p>The Treaty of Paris, at the end of the Spanish–American War, transferred control of the Philippines from Spain to the United States. This agreement was not recognized by the First Philippine Republic Government, which on June 2, 1899, proclaimed a Declaration of War against the United States military government. Philippine president Emilio Aguinaldo was captured in 1901 and the U.S. government declared the conflict officially over in 1902. Commonwealth status was granted in 1935, preparatory to a planned full independence from the United States in 1946.</p> <p>The United States colonial rule in the late 1900s only intensified the exploitation and oppression of</p>	9	<p>Fort Santiago, Manila © Cherina Ducusin</p> 

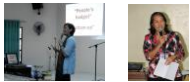
<p>women under a colonial and semi-feudal society, which maintained the old landlordism and introduced capitalist production for export. More women were displaced from the land to work in the service sector as domestic helpers. Prostitution became organized with cabarets in <i>haciendas</i> (plantations) and night clubs around the US military bases.</p>		
<p>Japanese occupation</p>		<p>Photo/Copyright</p>
<p>Preparation for a fully sovereign state was interrupted by the Japanese occupation of the islands during World War II. Japanese militarism disrupted production, occasioned hunger, destroyed properties, and dislocated and broke up families. Rape and abuse of women was widespread, with many forcibly abducted to military camps to serve as 'comfort women' for the 'sexual release' of Japanese soldiers.</p> <p>After the end of the war, the Treaty of Manila established the Philippine Republic as an independent nation. A Memorial site for the innocent victims of the war was erected in the Manila Old Town.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Memorial site, 1945 © WGT e.V</p> 
<p>Philippine Republic</p>		<p>Photo/Copyright</p>
<p>Student activism and general social unrest due to the worsening economic conditions for the majority population prompted President Ferdinand Marcos to declare martial law in 1971. Political repression increased under his rule, which was eventually brought down by the People Power Revolution of 1986, a popular uprising that brought millions of people to the streets in protest of his dictatorship.</p> <p>Today, the Philippines have a democratic government in the form of a constitutional republic with a presidential system. Two women presidents have been elected – Corazon Aquino (1986-1992) and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2001-2010), but they were heirs of their political families and patriarchal structures.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Intramuros – Manila built within the wall. © WDPIC</p> 
<p>Social and economic issues</p>		
<p>Discrimination against women</p>		<p>Photo/Copyright</p>
<p>The Philippine Constitution provides for equal rights, yet Filipino women in practice are discriminated against and treated as subordinates in the home, in the workplace, in church and in society. Philippine society still measures a woman's worth by her virtues of self-sacrifice, obedience to authorities, and social propriety in silence. Church teachings in general uphold and promote these ideals for women to emulate and live by.</p> <p>Poverty aggravates the vulnerability of women to</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>© WDPIC</p> 

<p>violence and exploitation, and makes it even more difficult for victims of abuse to find redress. There is no equal pay for equal work.</p>		
<p>Violence against women</p>		<p>Photo/Copyright</p>
<p>According to the National Statistics Office and the Philippine Commission on Women, 1 in 5 women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence. There is also sexual, psychological, economic violence, and human trafficking. The Philippines has enacted several laws protecting women from violence – Anti-Sexual Harassment, Anti-Rape and Rape Victim Assistance and Protection, Anti-Trafficking in Persons, and Anti-Violence against Women and Children with Women’s and Children’s Desks and Services. In spite of these laws, the implementation is weak.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>One Billion Rising Campaign, children Sunday school © WDPIC</p> 
<p>Natural disasters</p>		<p>Photo/Copyright</p>
<p>The islands, located on the Pacific Ring of Fire and close to the equator, make the Philippines prone to earthquakes and typhoons, with an average of twenty typhoons annually. The last decade has seen an increase in severe typhoons, notably Yolanda (international name Haiyan). Yolanda made landfall in the central Philippines in November 8th, 2013, as a category five super-typhoon.</p> <p>In Tacloban, around 90% of the city in Leyte province was destroyed and more than 14.5 million people were affected. International and church with national partner’s organizations had contributed to reconstruction and trauma healing. Still, many people remain homeless.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Tacloban: church cemetery for the victims, makeshift and damaged coconuts © WDPIC</p> 
<p>Human-made Disasters</p>		<p>Photo/Copyright</p>
<p>Ongoing armed conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the New People’s Army and Moro Islamic Liberation Front has led to internal displacement of many rural communities. In the first quarter of 2016, there were more than 12,000 displaced individuals in evacuation centers across Mindanao. Women and children are the most vulnerable to military occupation of their schools and communities.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Lakbay Lumad USA © WDPIC</p> 
<p>Children of Baseco</p>		<p>Photo/Copyright</p>
<p>Many families live in Baseco, which is near Manila Bay and the Port of Manila. Not all children can go to school, many of them spend the days playing, taking care of their siblings or working by the Manila bay.</p> <p>The children and their parents gather trash to sell. Some women sell miscellaneous second hand articles called “ukay-ukay”, or fish in the market. Men go out fishing every day, especially on sunny</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>© Cherina Ducusin</p> 

days.		
Economy		
Agriculture		Photo/Copyright
<p>The Philippines is largely an agrarian country with farmers constituting an estimated 75% of its population. While the majority of its population derives its income from the soil, farmers are largely landless peasants who till small portions of big landholdings in exchange for a share of the harvest.</p> <p>Agriculture methods remain rudimentary: planting and reaping of rice and corn is done by hand, with the aid of water buffalos to plow the earth. Increasing hectares of agricultural land are being converted into export crop plantations or destroyed by mining operations, threatening the food security of the Filipino people.</p> <p>Due to a severe drought and famine, thousands of farmers, including women and children, went to the streets of Mindanao in April 1st 2016, to demand rice from the local government. The police shot at them to disperse the rally, three were killed. The farmers took refuge in the compound of the United Methodist Church (UMC). The UMC Bishop Ciriaco Q. Francisco, of the Davao area, assured the church as a safe space and affirmed in his Pastoral Statement that “It is never a sin when poor farmers demand for food, but it is a sin to deny them food”.</p>	17	<p>Export quality rice © WDPIC</p>  <p>Rice in the popular market. © WDPIC</p> 
Dagyaw		Photo/Copyright
<p>In a community where many people cultivate rice farms, neighbors are called to help with the planting. It is a culture practice called <i>dagyaw</i>. It is intense work because the planting must be finished within the day. The neighbors are only fed, and not paid for the planting; however the rice harvested is shared among the ones who planted together. This practice continues especially in small organic farms.</p>	18	<p>Farmers © Jessica Tulloch</p>   <p>Rice as symbol in the liturgy © WDPIC</p>
Tiger Economy		Photo/Copyright
<p>The Philippines has been named as one of the Tiger Cub Economies together with Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. However, major problems remain, like the economic inequality, social and infra structure disparities between the country's different regions.</p>	19	<p>Telecommunications, Jeepneys © WDPIC</p>  
Migrant workers		Photo/Copyright
<p>The Philippines is among the largest migrant countries of origin in the world. The majority of the Filipino migrants are deployed to the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. 90% of the domestic workers are women. The government has created policies to facilitate work abroad for its citizen due to</p>	20	<p>© WDPIC</p>   <p>© KAAGAPAY</p>

<p>the lack of economic opportunity at home. While there are laws to protect the migrant workers, they remain vulnerable to exploitation, violence and discrimination.</p>		
Religions		
Islam and Traditional religion		Photo/Copyright
<p>Muslims were a minority reported as comprising 5–11% of the population, most of who live in parts of Mindanao, Palawan, and the Sulu Archipelago – an area known as Bangsamoro or the Moro region. Most Muslim Filipinos practice Sunni Islam according to the Shafi'i school. There are also some Ahmadiyya Muslims in the country.</p> <p>Philippine traditional religions are still practiced by an estimated 2% of the population. These religions are often syncretized with Christianity and Islam.</p>	21	<p>Mosque, and Bangsamoro official stamp, Mindanao © WGT e.V</p> 
Christianity		Photo/Copyright
<p>As a result of Spanish colonization, Christianity is the major religion, with more than 80% of the population being Roman Catholic, just second in Asia after East Timor. Protestant Christianity arrived in during the late 19th century and the early 20th century, with the North-American missionaries during the American occupation.</p>	22	<p>Roman Catholic Cathedral, an evangelical Church's children choir © WDPIC</p> 
<p>Pope Francis visited the country in January of 2015. Millions of people greeted him on the streets and attended the masses. His message of mercy and compassion was to comfort the people devastated by the typhoon and earthquake.</p>		<p>Pope's visit to Manila © Cherina Ducusin</p> 
Women and church		Photo/Copyright
<p>Theologian, deaconess, lay and ordained women have developed a theological reflection and initiatives to educate the church and communities about women's rights. Among the initiatives are: tell the stories of the families and communities affected by natural or human made disaster, publish theological text (for example <i>Pinays Doing Theology</i>) and recognize ecumenical leadership (for example, Sharon Rose Joy Ruiz-Duremdes, the first lay woman general secretary of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines)</p>	23	<p>Church leaders © WDPIC</p>  <p>left: Rev. Mylen Kadusale, United Church of Christ, Tacloban right: Josefina Evangelista, United Church of Christ, Tacloban</p> <p style="text-align: right;">© NCCP</p>
<p>In 2011, Sister Mary John Mananzan, a missionary Benedictine nun, was nominated for the 100 inspiring people in the world by <i>Women Deliver</i>, for integrating feminism into faith in the Philippines. She was the co-founder and chairperson of <i>Gabriela</i>, a coalition of women's organizations that promotes women's rights.</p>		<p>Sister Irene & Sister Mary John Mananzan © WGT e.V</p> 

<p>The National Council of Churches, women’s churches and civil society organizations have campaigned for the elimination of violence against women, and assistance to returned distressed migrant workers.</p>	<p>Batis Center for Women © WDPIC</p>   <p>©NCCP</p>
<p>The Kalipunan ng Kristiyanong Kabataan sa Pilipinas (3KP) or National Council of Christian Young People expresses its ministry through solidarity work, ecumenical fellowship and direct services. They are active in programs with farmers, fisher folks, workers, women, youth and children and the indigenous people. Direct service involves participation in the relief and rehabilitation, repacking and distribution of goods, and psychosocial support with the children. In solidarity, the 3KP marched with the Lumads, an indigenous group of Mindanao, to demand the government to stop the killings of the Lumads and the forced acquisition of the ancestral lands.</p>	<p>3KP © Lissa Belle R. Brown</p> 
<p>World Day of Prayer in the Philippines</p>	<p>Photo/Copyright</p>
<p>Wives of the American missionaries introduced the World Day of Prayer (WDP) in the Philippines, which brought together the church women leaders of the different Protestant denominations.</p> <p>In 1947, the United Evangelical Council of Church Women, today known as the Church Women United of the Philippines (CWUP), was organized. For the past 70 years, the CWUP coordinates the celebration of the World Day of Prayer in the Philippines through the WDP Philippines National Committee.</p> <p>The WDP National Committee of the Philippines is composed of women representatives from the nine women’s organizations of the member churches of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines.</p>	<p>24 Members of the WDP Committee, Dorothy Castro (CWUP President), WDP President (Prima Formilleza), and Former WDPIC Asia regional representative (Zenaida Maturan) © Cherina Ducusin</p> 
<p>Through CWUP, WDP Philippines participates in national and regional organizations like the Asian Christian Women’s Conference (ACWC), which Annual Assembly in 2014 was held in the Philippines.</p>	<p>ACWC Executive Secretary - Rev Moon Sook Lee; WDPIC at ACWC Assembly © WDPIC</p>   <p>From left to right: Vino Shubert, Corinna Harbig, Rosangela Oliveira, Sirirat Pusurinkham</p>
<p>The Philippines is the current home for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC), which is a movement of praying for justice, peace and reconciliation and setting aside least coin. In many countries, WDP and FLC are together empowering women and children. WDPIC chairperson participates at the International Committee for FLC.</p> <p>FLC is telling its story to the children, through the book about its founder “Shanti Means Peace”. In 2016, the Fellowship celebrated its 60th anniversary. (www.flc.net.ph)</p>	<p>Children’s book cover © 2014 by International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin.</p>   <p>Corazon Reyes, FLC Executive Secretary © WDPIC</p>

Preparatory workshop with WDPIC		Photo/Copyright
<p>More than 20 women and young women attended the workshop held in March 2014, and committed to engage in the writing process of WDP resource materials. Together the participants explored the economic and social situation of the country, the Bible text, women’s ecumenical history in the Philippines and formed the writing groups for WDP worship service materials.</p> <p>The participants came from the three main regions of the country, and from many Christian denominations.</p>	25	<p>Participants © Cherina Ducusin</p>  <p>Facilitators © WDPIC</p>  <p>© Cherina Ducusin</p>
<p>Artist: Rowena “Apol” Laxamana-Sta.Rosa</p> <p>She is a United Methodist Church member and resides in Cavite, Philippines. Rowena became a volunteer after typhoon Ondoy hit the Philippines in the year 2009, along with ecumenical and church people. She does not have a background in fine arts academe, although that is her dream.</p> <p>Rowena’s “Apol” explanation of the artwork <i>A Glimpse of the Philippine Situation</i>: “God gave the Philippines abundant resources, both human and material. God is the great provider, and provision is for all of creation. This is God’s display of economic justice in contrast to the economy where the strong and powerful take God’s resources for themselves and their families. The kingdom of God provides for all, even for those who do not acknowledge it.”</p>	26	<p>© WDP Philippines</p> 

This material is part of the worship service and educational resource for the 2017 WDP annual celebration.

For further information, please, contact:

World Day of Prayer International Committee

475 Riverside Drive Room 729.

New York, NY. 10115. USA

admin@worlddayofprayer.net - <http://worlddayofprayer.net>