



MC No. 26, s. 2019

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : HEADS OF CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES, DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS WITH ORIGINAL CHARTERS, AND STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

SUBJECT : 2019 National Human Rights Consciousness Week Celebration

December 3 to 10 of each year is declared as the National Human Rights Week pursuant to Proclamation No. 177, s. 1988. Subsequently, Republic Act No. 9201 or the *National Human Rights Consciousness Week Act of 2002* was enacted proclaiming that December 4 to 10 shall be the country's National Human Rights Consciousness Week aimed to raise the awareness of the people on the basic and fundamental human rights and propagate a human rights culture towards a sustainable development in the country.

This year's celebration enjoins all government offices to observe the following activities as recommended in the attached Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Circular.

A. Common to All Agencies

- Display of celebratory streamer for the 2019 National Human Rights Consciousness Week and the 71st Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- Simultaneous Flag Raising Ceremony and Recitation of Panata sa Karapatang Pantao
- Forum or public dialogue and other activities discussing the importance of human rights

B. 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.

Bawat Kawani, Lingkod Bayani

C. Celebratory Activities by Attached Agencies and in the Field

Similar activities shall be spearheaded by attached agencies of NGAs as well as by regional and provincial offices of member-agencies and partners for the 2019 National Human Rights Consciousness Week commemoration.

For more information, you may coordinate with the **Human Rights Education Division and Advocacy and Campaign Division of the Human Rights Education and Promotion Office, Commission on Human Rights, Philippines** at telephone numbers 927-6225, 925-3878, 925-3879, 928-4471 or through email at chrp.hrepo@gmail.com.


ALICIA dela ROSA-BALA
Chairperson



05 DEC 2019



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

**CIRCULAR NO. __, s. 2019
November 22, 2019**

**in consultation with the National Steering Committee for 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 : 2019 NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSCIOUSNESS
WEEK**

I. Rationale and legal basis

On 10 December 1948 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as common standard of achievement. Subsequently on 04 December 1950, the General Assembly resolved during its 317th Plenary Meeting to adopt December 10 of each year as *International Human Rights Day*.¹ Since then, the UN has annually been 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*".² The law stipulates that December 4 to 10 shall be the country's National Human Rights Consciousness Week.³ It

¹ See UN General Assembly Resolution No. 423 (V), 317th Plenary Meeting, 04 December 1950

² See Republic Act No. 9201 (approved 01 April 2003).

³ *Ibid.*, Section 2

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.⁴ 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.⁵ The Week culminates on December 10, the anniversary day of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and celebrated as the International Human Rights Day.

II. Objectives

To facilitate the yearly conduct of activities, Section 5 of RA 9201 created the national committee which consists of ten government agencies and at least two NGOs 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,”⁶ the National Committee issues this Joint Circular with the goal to ensure that the annual celebration of the human rights week shall:

1. Strengthen cooperation among member agencies of the national committee and other government institutions for the observance of National Human Rights Consciousness Week scheduled on December 4 to 10 of every year;
2. Ensure the dissemination of the theme for the observance of human rights week to all constitutional bodies, government agencies, State universities and colleges, and the general public;
3. Ascertain that the organized activities shall result in deeper understanding by the public of the ideals and principles of human rights;
4. Utilize the occasion as opportunity to impress upon the private sector that human rights is a shared responsibility with the State; and,
5. Promote human rights as universal and applicable to all, especially the members of the vulnerable and the marginalized sectors.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Section 3

⁵ *Ibid.* Section 4

⁶ See 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article II, Section 11

III. Recommended Activities

A. Common to all agencies

1. Display of celebratory streamer for the 2019 National Human Rights Consciousness Week and the 71st Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR);
2. Simultaneous Flag Raising Ceremony and Recitation of Panata sa Karapatang Pantao;
3. Inter-agency forum or public dialogue discussing the importance of human rights.

B. 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 UDHR, the Department of Labor and Employment shall focus their discussion on labor rights, rights at work, and how to get remedies for any form of labor rights violations.


C. Celebratory Activities by attached agencies and in the Field

Similar activities shall be spearheaded by attached agencies of NGAs as well as by regional and provincial offices of member-agencies and partners for the 2019 National Human Rights Consciousness Week commemoration.

IV. Effectivity

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

Signed on ____ November 2019 in Quezon City.


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

LIST OF NHRCW 2019 ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	RATIONALE	DATE	STATUS/REMARKS
1. Issuance of memo Circular ensuring Inter-Agency Committees to celebrate this occasion.			
2. Displaying of Tarpaulins in the CHR regional offices	A 6x8 tarpaulin bearing the inter-agency logos with the 71 st UDHR theme		
3. Simultaneous Flag Raising Ceremony and Recitation of Panata sa Karapatang Pantao	All government agencies are encouraged or enjoined to do the simultaneous flag raising and highlight the mass recitation of the “Panata sa Karapatang Pantao”	9 December 2019	
4. Awarding/ Recognition of CHR Allies for their contribution to Human Rights Education, Promotion, Protection, and Policy Advisory services.		6 December 2019	
5. Human Rights Services Fair	Display of Human Rights services by participating agencies. Each agency be given one booth and space for a bazaar (if the case maybe)	6 December 2019	
6. Presentation of Commission on Human Rights Policy Advisories			
7. Continuing conduct of Human Rights Forum/ Focus Group Discussion for 2019	This is in line with the Thematic issues and concerns on Human Rights in which agencies would like to bring up during the		

LIST OF NHRCW 2019 ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	RATIONALE	DATE	STATUS/REMARKS
	FGD/For a. The said activity was agreed upon in 2018, that would run through the year 2019 which still covers the 70 th UDHR Anniversary.		
8. Live streaming of CHR's report on inquiry on Climate Change by Comm. Eugenio T. Cadiz			
9. Human Rights Concert (Alab ng Puso Concert)	A Human Rights jubilation among HR performers where both government, non-government, civil society audiences and members of CHR family joins together to grace the celebration. A theme for the concert maybe reflected depicting HR situations.	10December 2019	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK

“YOUTH STANDING UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS”

04-10 DECEMBER 2019



AGENCY
LOGO

The [insert agency name] celebrates the

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK

“YOUTH STANDING UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS”

04-10 DECEMBER 2019



PANATA SA KARAPATANG PANTAO

AKO AY PILIPINO.

**IGAGALANG, IPAGTATANGGOL,
AT ISASAKATUPARAN KO
ANG DIGNIDAD AT KARAPATAN NG BAWAT TAO.**

**DIRINGGIN KO ANG TINIG NG KABATAAN,
KABABAIHAN, NAKATATANDA, KATUTUBO,
MAY MGA KAPANSANAN,
AT IBA PANG SEKTOR NA NASA LAYLAYAN.**

**TUTUTULAN KO ANG ANUMANG ANYO
NG KATIWALIAN, PAGMAMALABIS
NG MGA MAY KAPANGYARIHAN,
AT BAWAT PAGLABAG
SA KARAPATANG PANTAO.**

**BABANTAYAN KO NA GAGAMPANAN
NG GOBYERNO ANG KANIYANG TUNGKULIN
NA IGALANG, IPAGTANGGOL,
AT ISAKATUPARAN ANG MGA KARAPATAN
NG SAMBAYANANG PILIPINO.**

**GAGAMITIN KO ANG AKING KAKAYANAN
AT LAKAS UPANG SIGURADUHIN NA
ANG BAWAT ISA AY LUBOS NA MAKATATAMASA
NG KANYANG KARAPATAN AT MABUBUHAY
NANG MAY GANAP NA DIGNIDAD.**