

# Filipino Women Today: Breaking the Barrier

*"A strong woman understands that the gifts such as logic, decisiveness, and strength are just as feminine as intuition and emotional connection. She values and uses all of her gifts."*

- Nancy Rathburn

True enough, the quotation implies how stronger women are now than they were before. Amidst rampaging issues on gender inequality, women today, particularly Filipino women, dream bigger, believe stronger and survive longer. But, what really makes them stand out from the crowd and handle themselves with such grace and honor? Here's a rundown of the top 5 qualities of a Filipino woman and some examples.

## A Filipino woman is a good leader

Beyonce's song asks, "Who run the world?" then you yell, "Girls!" You got it right. A lot of Filipino women are exceptional in leading their people all for the goal of campaigning for good local governance.

Take for instance, the first female Quezon City Mayor who happens to be 2016 Tandang Sora Awardee - Adelina S. Rodriguez. Earlier this year, Rodriguez was conferred the award during the commemoration rites for Melchora "Tandang Sora" Aquino's 204th Anniversary. Rodriguez was awarded because of her many programs under her administration and her notable initiatives in preserving the status of Quezon City as the capital of the Philippines.

## A Filipino woman is career-oriented

In the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), women's employment rate stood at 93.9% in 2014. This shows that our country has a gender-fair economic participation among other Asian nations.

Over the last ten decades, the number of career-oriented females has grown in the country paving the way in achieving equality and empowerment. With the influx of opportunities for them, they become more and more career-oriented. This is backed by their confidence and enthusiasm on the tasks given to them with productive outputs making their way to the top.

## A Filipino woman is persevering

Whether she was born from the haves or have nots, she follows her dreams and turns them into realities whatever comes her way.

A very good example of a persevering woman is no less than Ms. Universe 2015 Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach. Despite being unable to get the highly-coveted Bb. Pilipinas - Universe crown twice, failure is not part of her vocabulary. She persevered and the rest, as they say, is history.

## A Filipino woman takes risks

According to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), majority of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are women. There are 67 men for every 100 women OFWs.

With the large number of Filipino women abroad, they become vulnerable to abuse but still take the risks just to provide for their families. They draw strength from their loved ones making them sturdy from all the hardships of being away from home. No wonder, OFWs earned the title of bagong bayani.

## A Filipino woman is religious

Based on articles.com, more than 80% of Filipino women are Roman Catholic. This number also shows that they are raised from the Filipino culture with strong faith in God. Their religiosity is relative to their openness about sharing their personal problems and their active church involvement than men. More so, it is a huge factor for them in choosing a man who is caring, responsible and respectful to be their partner for life.

With all that has been said about Filipino women, we now know how they make a marked difference in this world. Just like men, they rise when they fall, inspiring every single person around them. Truly, they are all confidently beautiful with a heart. - **Daryl M. Jaramilla**



## SHOW 'EM SOME LOVE

MARCH IS WOMEN'S MONTH

Celebrating Women's Month is definitely an opportunity for us to reflect on how women of all ages contribute in making this world a better place to live in. And to show appreciation to their contributions, why not show simple acts of love?

-  Smile to show you care.
-  Send them a greeting card.
-  Buy them gifts.
-  Write them a poem or a song.
-  Cook dinner for them.
-  Go on a travel with them.

Happy Women's Month!

From the Department of the Interior and Local Government

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By: Public Affairs and Communication Service

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