



# Women's BULLETIN

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## mentoring against

# VAW

[ VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ]



While many may not be aware, wolf whistling and catcalling are forms of sexual violence that women all over the world are forced to endure on a daily basis. Art & layout by K. Villanueva

### Men do care.

Men are oftentimes shown in a bad light in relation to their very complicated and interesting relationship with the opposite sex. The insinuation that a man is 'dominant' over a woman goes beyond the bounds of the word itself; it translates further to other facets of societal issues where men's machismo destroys the fundamentals of morality and equality. Such dominance too can extend to various acts of violence committed against the 'weaker sex'.

With this in mind and considering the staggering statistics of women violently assaulted all over the world, an initiative to protect Filipinas against unabashed and deliberate violence was crafted through MOVE or Men Opposed to VAW (Violence Against Women) Everywhere, with members perceived as tormenters of women, the men.

### Men are MOVEd

Maka-Diyos. Makabayan. Maginoo. These three words on which MOVE is founded mirror its vision to assemble God-fearing men who emulate the principles of gender equality and advocate the involvement of men and organization towards a nation free from all forms of violence.

The concept of creating an organization of men fighting for women's welfare was conceived by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) that had initiated anti-VAW activities participated in by prominent men politicians like former vice president Noli De Castro and former senate president Franklin M. Drilon.

Launched in 2006, MOVE seeks to speak out against VAW; examine, propose and formulate total male involvement and actions in the elimination of VAW; form partnerships and linkages with similar groups working on VAW locally and internationally; organize and conduct researches, studies and fora in recognition of the social effects of VAW for policy and program development; and establish resource network on VAW.

"The core of MOVE is to be a contributing agent to fight all kinds of violence especially violence committed against women," said Celso M. Batalla, Administrative Assistant II of Bureau of Local Government Supervision and current president of MOVE-DILG Chapter.

### Let's get into the MOVE

The almost insurmountable notion against men as perpetrators of violence against their wife, child or coworker may take a while to be broken down. That's why initiatives like MOVE driven by men who declare themselves as advocates against VAW are breaths of fresh air.

According to Batalla, progressive beginnings of MOVE-DILG Chapter was ushered in by former DILG Secretary Jessie M. Robredo who had actively participated in the activities of MOVE both as a leader and a member.

Going eight years now as the president of the MOVE-DILG Chapter, he shared that he envisions more participative ranks of DILG men pronouncing their unity with the cause of MOVE.

"We have been inactive for a while but there is still hope that the men of DILG will be tapped again to join the cause. I am sure that we are more than willing to join hands and be one with the initiative," he said.

He also said MOVE is of the essence here in DILG for he knows some women employees who are victims of violence themselves but refuse to come out of the shadows for fear of ridicule and judgment.

During the DILG Insider's conversation with Batalla, he aired his sentiments regarding the disbursement of the Gender and Development budget in DILG which is more driven towards women empowerment and gender equality.

"We all want to contribute to women empowerment but men should also be a part of that dynamics. MOVE will be more than willing to step up its efforts with a little finance nudge from GAD allotment," he explained.

Batalla also shared that it's embarrassing to admit but it had been years since they were able to mount a DILG-initiated MOVE activity.

"Hopefully, this piece will open eyes that as much as we at DILG-MOVE want to actively implement projects, we need help, we need financial help," he said. --- **Xeph Domingo Garcia**