

## STORIES OF INTEREST

# Ople Center Hosts Vital Workshop to Empower Task Force Combatting Trafficking and Child Exploitation

Alhakim B. Palangalan

Tagaytay, Philippines – In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening the fight against human trafficking and online sexual abuse, the Ople Center conducted a two-day hybrid workshop on Referral Pathways for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), Trafficking, and Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) Cases. This workshop, held on February 21 and 22, 2023, served as a platform to enhance the knowledge, skills, and attitude of the task force involved in these critical areas.

The workshop welcomed participants from various Regional Task Forces, including Region 9-Zamboanga, Region 7-Cebu, Region 3-Clark, and the National Capital Region. Additionally, the event saw the active participation of Ople Center Staff and the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) Secretariat. Together, these individuals gathered to exchange insights, strategies, and best practices in the fight against trafficking and child exploitation.

The workshop featured a panel of distinguished resource speakers representing various government agencies, including the Department of Justice, Department of Migrant Workers, Bureau of Immigration, Philippine National Police, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and Approach Consortium. Their valuable contributions added depth and expertise to the discussions, providing participants with a well-rounded understanding of the complex challenges they face.



Crucially, this program received substantial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID Philippines) and the Partnership for Development Assistance in the Philippines (PDAP Strength CTIP) Inc. These organizations, in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), have played a pivotal role in empowering this workshop, underlining the importance of a united front against human trafficking and child exploitation.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the opportunity for participants to share their key takeaways and learnings. This knowledge exchange promises to have a lasting impact, as these dedicated individuals return to their respective regions and organizations with renewed vigor and enhanced capabilities to combat the pressing issues of trafficking and child exploitation.

The Ople Center's two-day hybrid workshop has further strengthened the resolve of all participants in the fight against human trafficking and child exploitation. By fostering collaboration, sharing expertise, and engaging in meaningful dialogue, this event promises to make a significant contribution to the ongoing efforts to protect the rights and well-being of vulnerable individuals. As the participants return to their roles, they bring with them not only new knowledge and skills but also a stronger collective determination to combat these heinous crimes.

**“** This workshop has been very beneficial for me in appreciating the work that we continue to do: to assist our victim-survivors in their recovery, reintegration and to achieve self-sufficiency. I am looking forward to share what I learn with my colleagues in the Field Office. **”**

**SUNSHINE GRACE ARQUINTELLO**  
Social Welfare Officer @ DSWDP

During the Workshop on Referral Pathways for OFW Trafficking and OSAEC cases and CSME Users Training

**“** It would greatly benefit on how I would deal with victims and witnesses of TIP and OSAEC cases as a victim witness coordinator. The workshop also introduced me to the new laws, the amendments to the old laws, and as well as the process from the moment of reporting until the reintegration of the victims and their aftercare. **”**

**ATTY. MAYBEN ABUCION**  
WVC

During the Workshop on Referral Pathways for OFW Trafficking and OSAEC cases and CSME Users Training

**“** This workshop further enhanced my skills in handling cases of Trafficking in Person (TIP) and helps me gained more knowledge about the laws and protection against TIP. **”**

**SHERYL B SANTOS**  
BACAT-CRAWAC

During the Workshop on Referral Pathways for OFW Trafficking and OSAEC cases and CSME Users Training

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