

makatao, makatayo.

THE 2025 **HUMAN RIGHTS**
ELECTORAL AGENDA

About HRPEC and the Project

The Human Rights and People Empowerment Center (HRPEC) is a non-government organization with a mission to empower communities to advance the cause of human rights. We envision a society where rights are realized, protected, and guaranteed for all.

Together with 16 civil society organizations, we drafted a 12-point electoral agenda for human rights, with the support of the GOJUST Human Rights Component and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR). On February 3, 2025, we present this agenda to candidates of the 2025 elections.



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12-Point Legislative Human Rights Agenda

The human rights landscape in the country has been marked by serious concerns in recent years, with the absence of justice for victims of extrajudicial killings and an increasing number of enforced disappearances of human rights and environment defenders. Beyond these civil and political rights, economic and social rights demand urgent attention amid the climate emergency, including sustainable food systems, fair labor conditions, and livable communities. To advance these efforts, civil society must be able to take an active role in shaping better policies and monitoring implementation.

Makatao, maka-tayo. To stand for human rights is to stand with the Filipino people. As these challenges persist, it is critical that human rights are at the front and center of the 2025 elections. Eighteen civil society organizations convened to collectively draft a 12-point human rights legislative agenda, which will serve as a basis for candidates to uphold the rights of the Filipino people not only during the electoral process but also in the governance that follows.

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1 Sa maka-tayong Pilipinas, **May hustisya.**

Ensure justice for victims of EJKs, enforced disappearances, and other state-sponsored crimes.

1. Exhaust the investigative powers of the legislature to ensure that all victims of extrajudicial killings (EJKs) and other state-sponsored crimes are given justice.
2. Legislate monetary and non-monetary assistance as well as reparations for victims of Oplan Tokhang and other state-sponsored crimes.
3. Forward bills defining and criminalizing the act of EJK.
4. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
5. Create an oversight committee to investigate cases of enforced disappearances and review the implementation of the Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012.
6. Abolish the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC).
7. Recommend the executive branch to rejoin the International Criminal Court (ICC).



2 Sa maka-Tayong Pilipinas, **Ligtas ang HRDs.**

Support human rights bills and defend human rights defenders.

1. Sponsor the Human Rights Defenders Bill.
2. Sponsor the Human Rights Education Bill.
3. Legislate a bill that criminalizes red-tagging.
4. Repeal the Anti-Terror Law.
5. Legislate a bill for the Barangay Human Rights Action Center.
6. Sponsor a general anti-SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) bill.



3 Sa maka-tayong Pilipinas, **Kasarian at kakayahan ay sari-sari.**

Ensure gender equality, disability and social inclusion, with special focus on the marginalized, excluded, and vulnerable sectors.

1. Sponsor the following:
 - SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics) Equality Bill.
 - Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Bill (CADB).
 - Anti-Hate Crime Bill.
 - Gender Recognition Bill.
 - Divorce Bill.
 - Magna Carta for Children.
 - Positive Discipline Bill.
 - Decriminalization of Safe Abortion.
2. Review the implementation of the following:
 - Safe Spaces Act.
 - Magna Carta of Women.
 - Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children Act.
 - Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act.
3. Review and update the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons.
4. Push for the inclusion of the special committee on LGBTQIA+ Affairs in the General Appropriations Act.



4 **Maka-magsasaka** ang maka-tayong Pilipinas.

Strengthen the local agriculture economy towards food sovereignty.

1. Repeal the Rice Tariffication Law.
2. Support the Magna Carta of Young Farmers.
3. Protect agricultural lands towards local food production.
4. Sponsor the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill.
5. Support production subsidies for small farmers.



5 Sa maka-tayong Pilipinas, **Manggagawa naman.**

Uphold and strengthen the rights of workers in the formal and informal sector.


1. Sponsor the following:
 - Anti-Wage Only Contracting Bill.
 - Security of Tenure Bill.
 - Magna Carta of Workers in the Informal Economy.
 - Magna Carta for Delivery Riders.
 - HB 11007 (Anti-Endo and Contracting Law).
 - HB 1513 (guarantee of full trade union rights for the public sector).
 - Bills that protect waste workers.
2. Increase the minimum wage to achieve a living wage in a set number of years.
3. Institutionalize the International Labor Organization (ILO) Labor Standards.
4. Review compliance to ILO C190 (Violence and Harassment Convention).
5. Review the implementation of Batas Kasambahay.
6. Review and update the Migrant Workers Act of 1995.
7. Abolish the regional wage board.
8. Require establishments to include an orientation of workers' rights with their employees.
9. Explore avenues to strengthen the Labor Code in enforcing its rules for the protection of workers' rights.



6 Sa maka-tayong Pilipinas, **Itinataguyod ang IP rights.**

Uphold and support indigenous peoples' right to self-determination.

1. Investigate violations to indigenous land rights and free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC).
2. Review the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA), especially the function of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

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3. Ensure the allocation of resources to basic social services for indigenous peoples.
 4. Support the effort to mainstream indigenous knowledge systems and practices (IKSP) at both national and local levels.



7 Makakalikasan ang maka-tayong Pilipinas.

Ensure the right of future generations to a balanced environment.

1. Sponsor the following:
 - National Land Use and Water Bill.
 - Environmental Human Rights Defenders Bill.
 - Alternative Minerals Management Bill (AMMB) or People's Mining Bill (PMB).
 - Expansion of the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act (NIPAS) and Expanded NIPAS Act to include watersheds in the list of Protected Areas.
2. Investigate incursions to Protected Areas, Climate-Critical Watersheds, and Key Biodiversity Areas.
3. Impose moratorium on deep-sea mining, offshore mining, and large-scale reclamation.
4. Investigate human rights violations against environment and land rights advocates.



8 Sa maka-tayong Pilipinas, Mahalaga ang klima.

Protect and promote human rights in the face of the climate emergency.

1. Sponsor the following:
 - A Gender-Just Energy Transition Bill (GJET).
 - Just Energy Transition Bill (JET).
 - Just Transport Modernization Transition Bill.
 - Promotion of active and public transportation.
 - Climate Accountability Bill (CLIMA).
2. Support and promote the following efforts:
 - Community-based disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), incorporating IKSPs.
 - Inclusion of mass transport in urbanization plans nationwide.
 - Mainstreaming climate change education.
 - Urban and rural greening programs with native trees.
 - Calling to make polluters pay in international and bilateral spaces.

- Public inclusion in decision-making for resource utilization.

- Investigate and review the following:
 - Carbon-crediting projects in the country.
 - National energy utilization and planning.
- Amend the Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016 to include farmers, fisherfolks, waste workers, and other frontline stewards of the environment.
- Increase appropriation for the creation of flood-preventive infrastructure, especially in historically vulnerable areas.
- Strengthen support for mental health recovery brought about by climate anxiety.



9 Sa maka-tayong Pilipinas, **May aksyon sa edukasyon.**

Push for a transformative and gender-just education.

- Provide adequate funding and other non-monetary support for Alternative Learning System Community Learning Centers (ALS CLC) and teachers' welfare.
- Integrate a more robust human rights education into the curriculum, including SOGIESC and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
- Craft and file a Magna Carta for students' and learners' rights and welfare with a gender lens.



10 **Malusog at maginhawa** ang maka-tayong Pilipinas.

Ensure a diverse and inclusive right to health.

- Push for an affordable and accessible universal healthcare system by controlling the corporate spending in PhilHealth, providing sufficient government subsidies, and lowering the premium of members.
- Ensure the adequate implementation of benefits for health workers, as mandated by Magna Carta of Public Health Workers.
- Sponsor the Magna Carta of Health Workers and the Magna Carta for Barangay Health Workers.
- Ensure the proper implementation of the Mental Health Act.

5. Sponsor expanded paternal leave and menstrual leave.
6. Review the implementation of the Reproductive Health Law with special attention to the implementation of the SRHR program, including the establishment of SRHR centers nationwide.



11 Pabahay at kabuhayan sa maka-tayong Pilipinas.

Cultivate safe, livable, and sustainable communities.

1. Push for a government-subsidized jeepney rehabilitation instead of unjust phaseout and modernization.
2. Impose moratorium on the forced consolidation of jeepneys.
3. Sponsor the Magna Carta of Commuters.
4. Provide support to public utility vehicle drivers and operators whose livelihoods were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the jeepney phaseout.
5. Push for onsite, in-city, and near-city resettlement.
6. Ensure safe, affordable, and decent housing.
7. Review laws on housing and settlements, including policies on forced eviction.
8. Sponsor the General Housing Condonation Bill.



12 May pananagutan Sa maka-tayong Pilipinas.

Promote transparent, accountable, and participatory governance.

1. Support freedom of information by ensuring public access to official records and government data.
2. Ensure transparency in the monitoring and evaluation of government policies and programs.
3. Support the institutionalization of a People's Council in every local government unit.
4. Review and update the Public Assembly Act to avoid its weaponization against human rights defenders.

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