

## **Session 2.4 : Trafficking in Women and Children: Interrogating Demand and Affirming Gender Equality (Perspective of Four Countries)**

*Sponsors: Women and Gender Institute of Miriam College (WAGI-MC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*

*Schedule: 25 September/ 3:15-5:15pm/ Leyte Function Room*

### **Session Abstract**

The session will analyze and discuss female migration patterns and their intersections with trafficking of women and children particularly into the sex industry from the perspective of four countries. It will look at migration trends in four countries: the processes of recruitment; deployment methods and the major destinations of women who migrate and in the process are trafficked into the sex industry, the marriage market or into domestic service. The presentations will examine the factors facilitating the migration women with emphasis on the issue of demand.

Governments have often viewed trafficking as a crime of illegal migration where trafficked women are often treated as criminals. The UN Optional Protocol on Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (2000) dramatically changed this traditional view into one where women and children trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor and the sale of organs are now regarded as victims rather than perpetrators

More importantly, the Protocol calls attention to the issue of DEMAND as a contributing factor in the growth of trafficking of women and children.

The presenters will share their experiences and insights on how trafficking of women and children can be effectively addressed drawing from their ground level work with survivors of trafficking. Strategies focused on among other things, the demand side ranging from legal, metalegal and grassroots organizing will be extensively discussed by the speakers.

### **Session Objectives**

1. To analyze the interconnectedness and linkages of migration and trafficking issues as shown in the experiences of 4 countries;
2. To draw lessons and insights from the experiences of the speakers on how to develop gender responsive policies on migration and trafficking by linking these to gender equality policies of governments; and
3. Based on their best practices, to present strategies in addressing the issue of demand as a critical factor in eliminating the trafficking of women and children.