

1998 MANILA DECLARATION OF HERSTORY FOR THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

Whereas, national and international studies have consistently pointed out the state of unbalanced development in every society in the world, one root cause being unequal gender relations where women are not able to fully contribute to development nor enjoy its benefits;

Whereas, women, together with men, must be at the center of all development efforts if human development is to succeed;

Whereas, engendered development is governed by equality of rights and opportunities between women and men;

Whereas, developing the feminine principle and spirituality in both women and men can facilitate their transformative role in the home, community, nation, and the global village;

We, the participants of the International Congress on Women's Role in History and Nation Building, have gathered in the City of Manila, Philippines, from the eighth to the twelfth of December 1998, culminating the centennial celebration of Philippine Independence and ushering in the third millennium;

Affirm that women have contributed to history making and nation building the world over, but these contributions have been marginalized in the writing of history and have not been fully recognized;

Realize that women have helped shape history, as wives and mothers, nurturers, caregivers, service providers, leaders and peacemakers, as well as role models and instillers of moral and ethical values and bearers and transmitters of culture and heritage;

Recognize the need to develop women-centered methodologies that would facilitate appreciation, better understanding, and documentation of the struggles, achievements, and heroism of women;

Agree that Herstories are vital and indispensable in bringing about the needed individual, societal, and structural transformation toward gender equality;

And encourage the creation of gender and development mechanisms at all levels of decision making, to deliberately promote the advancement of women and men, through Herstories and Histories, as equals in their dignity and worth as human beings, but with different roles in the development and empowerment of various sectors of society.

We, the participants, pledge to promote the global movement of Herstories:

To raise the consciousness of women on their enormous human resource potential to assume crucial and multifaceted roles in shaping and providing directions for the coming millennium, in a society that is gender-balanced, holistic, and humane;

To rectify women's invisibility and marginalized position in history and in contemporary society through the celebration of Herstory in both reproduction work and production work;

To advocate values that will empower human potential toward equality, development, and peace;

To propagate the culture of peace and nonviolence through values, attitudes, and modes of behavior that prevent conflict, using dialogue and negotiation, thereby addressing the disharmony at its very root;

To sustain and broaden the role of women as the primary preservers and protectors of Mother Earth, as well as the

promoters of sustainable development and equitable growth;

To support women's entry into politics and government service in key positions, at local, national, and international levels, to help bring about more honesty, efficiency, and transparency in governance and service of Motherland;

To promote the sharing of household and family responsibilities between men and women, and to encourage the feminine principle in both women and men to come to fore for a balanced socialization and nurturance of children;

To strengthen cooperation, dialogue, and networking between and among governments and civil society in the promotion of women's Herstories so that they can take their rightful place in History;

To encourage the exchange of information, resources, experiences, and expertise in the integration of gender perspectives in policies and programs, as well as the convening of national, regional, and global conferences in relation to the real and true role of women in history and society, as well as in critical areas of concern affecting the advancement of women;

To organize a worldwide network of women and men who will undertake research, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the progress of the global movement for Herstories;

To organize a Board of Convenors from among the participating countries and sectors, to be assisted by a Secretariat, which the Philippines is offering to provide through GO and NGO women networks represented by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) and the Philippine Women's University-Development Institute for Women in Asia Pacific (PWU-DIWA), respectively. The Board of Convenors and its Secretariat will identify focal

points in other regions and continents who are willing to join the global movement for Herstory; convene biennial global conferences and annual national conferences, as well as host an information network at <http://herstories.net> for the purpose; and facilitate a participatory planning, programming, and management process.

Signed this 11th day of December 1998, in the City of Manila, Philippines.