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Philippines: ICJ welcomes draft bill prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) today welcomed the consideration of a bill by the Philippines' Senate that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and urged timely consideration of the bill.

“Anti-discrimination laws, such as this one, provide an important tool to tackle discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity around the world,” said Philip Dayle, ICJ Legal Officer. “The bill follows an emerging international practice and would be vital in ensuring compliance with international human rights standards that bind the Philippines, such as the right to non-discrimination, equality before the law, and an effective remedy,” he added.

In a written submission to the Senate Committee on Labour, Employment and Human Resource Development, the ICJ today set out the basis for protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in international human rights law.

The ICJ will continue to monitor the progress of the bill throughout the parliamentary process and encourages the timely adoption of such a law.

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The ICJ is an international non-governmental organisation comprising sixty of the world's most eminent jurists and has a worldwide network of national sections and affiliated organisations

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