



CSOs and NGOs working for the Rights of Migrant Workers¹

Name of Organisation: Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA-Phils), The Philippines, 2002

Website of Organisation: <https://centerformigrantadvocacy.com/home-2/>

Facebook of Organisation: https://www.facebook.com/pg/Center-for-Migrant-Advocacy-Phils-Inc-118982998224225/about/?ref=page_internal

Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes

The Center for Migrant Advocacy - Philippines (CMA-Phils) is an advocacy group that promotes the rights of overseas Filipinos, land- or sea-based migrant workers and Filipino immigrants and their families. CMA-Phils was established in 2002 with the vision to promote a society where justice, good governance, equal opportunity, and gender equality prevails, and where migrants enjoy equal rights and protection. CMA-Phils' goals are to uphold the rights of all Filipino migrants and their families while helping to improve their economic, social and political conditions through policy advocacy, providing information, networking, capability-building and assist directly to distressed migrants. CMA-Phils gathers information, conducts studies, and analyses urgent issues on overseas migration and related concerns and disseminates these to its partners, networks, and constituents.

CMA-Phils has four main functions:

- 1. Policy and Public Advocacy.** CMA-Phils initiates and pursues key policy reforms to guarantee the rights of overseas Filipinos by strengthening protection measures, uplifting general welfare, delivering prompt assistance and facilitating effective reintegration. CMA-Phils raises awareness and pursues lobby initiatives, networks with relevant agencies, international bodies, and other organisations in pushing its reform agenda and campaigns.
- 2. Direct Assistance.** CMA-Phils provides immediate help to migrant workers and their families, especially those who are distressed, most vulnerable and need immediate help. CMA-Phils documents cases and facilitates welfare, legal, representation, and livelihood assistance to victims of abuse, armed conflict and health hazards.
- 3. Research and Information.** CMA-Phils conducts research to support its policy advocacy initiatives and public information activities. CMA-Phils issues timely positions on key issues affecting Filipinos who are working abroad and their family members. CMA-Phils also organises public forums and provides resource speakers relating to overseas migration.
- 4. Networking and Partnership.** CMA-Phils interacts with and supports the activities of Filipino groups and migrant advocates abroad. CMA-Phils currently maintains close links with over 50 Filipinos, migrant advocates, and solidarity organisations in the region.

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¹ The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, it has provided training to over 2600 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP (www.dtp.unsw.edu.au) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote the rights of migrant workers and human rights more broadly.

Profile written February 2017