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FILIPINO COMMUNITY ORGANISING ON WOMEN'S ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

I wish first to acknowledge the peoples of the Kulin Nation, the traditional owners of the land on which we gather today, and thank them for their hospitality in welcoming our people to this beautiful country. I wish also to acknowledge that the history of the Filipino and Aboriginal peoples goes back many centuries. The threads of our family ties are interwoven and we embrace with pride the cloth patterned from our combined cultures. I would also like to thank Nicki Saroca and Julie Stubbs for their generosity in sharing information and their support for the work of CPCA and SPAN.

INTRODUCTION:

Just so you know where I'm coming from, I will say something about myself and my ancestry.

Dee is my nickname, Hunt is my husband's name, and my family name is Dicen. I am a Filipina. My father was born in 1899 in Dumangas on the island of Panay in the Visayas region of the Philippines. He was one of the early Overseas Filipino Workers who went to America during the 1920s as seamen. And, as happened to many immigrants of his generation, he never went home; as a factory worker he could not even afford a visit. I was born in New York City; left America in 1960 to work in the United Kingdom and stayed there for 26 years. In 1984, having been involved in the feminist movement and the anti-fascist/anti-racist struggle, I started volunteering with the Philippine Support Group in

London working on the PSG's newsletter. In 1986, I migrated with my Australian husband. We lived for 2 years in Sydney and now live next door to a rainforest 40 kms outside Brisbane which is one of the best decisions I've ever made. This land and its people have been very kind to me.

Currently, I am the Coordinator of the Centre for Philippine Concerns Australia - Brisbane Branch and the Editor of "Kasama" the quarterly newsletter of Solidarity Philippines Australia Network.

The issues that I will touch upon in this paper are not "happy" ones; they might cause you to feel a deep disturbance in the pit of your stomach; they might leave you with a nagging concern that there is a lot more work that needs to be done before we can feel confident about the safety and security of women and children in our society. This paper is about how the Filipino community in Australia has dealt with serial sponsorship, domestic violence, sex tourism, introduction agencies, the violent deaths and disappearances of Filipino women and children in Australia and the so-called "mail-order bride" phenomenon. And, at the conclusion, I hope to point us toward ways in which we can enhance our knowledge and strengthen our ability to share a better world with everyone.

Just recently non-government community-based groups in Queensland have been reminded, once again, of just how vulnerable we can be because of the mutable nature of the policies of funding bodies. This recent blow from the Queensland government is aimed at women's services – the Domestic Violence Resource Centre in particular.¹ Agencies operating in other sectors, such as ethnic services, have also recently had the 'hard word' put upon them. I don't need to tell you about what's going on – a brain scan of key words such as "rationalism", "refugees", "women" and "violence" will return enough links for you to draw your own conclusions.

In times like these there is a need to review; to go back and have a critical look at aims, practice, and achievements. Preparing for today's forum has been an excellent opportunity for reflection.

BRIEF BACKGROUND ON THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA:

In the 1970s, the Martial Law regime of then President Ferdinand Marcos promoted tourism as the Philippines' high dollar-earner. Travel agencies, introduction services and marriage bureaus set up their offices in Manila and all the major provincial cities. The large number of

Filipinas marrying Australian citizens significantly altered the pattern of Filipino migration to Australia. (Whiten 1998)

In the latter half of the 1970's there began a change in Filipino migration overall from a male to a female-dominated pattern. (KAKAMMPI 1998² and Rosales 1999³)

To this day, amongst Filipinos residing in Australia there is a gender ratio of two to one; in other words there are two Philippines-born women for each Philippines-born man. (Cunneen & Stubbs 1996 and 1998)⁴ This is a very peculiar community composition.

PROBLEMS BEGIN TO EMERGE:

Serial sponsorship came out as an issue of community concern in the late 1970s with increasing incidents of domestic violence and even spousal homicide by the 80s. The lack of support for women and children brought these issues to the attention of community based organisations. Filipino groups found themselves coping with the trauma and consequences often without the backing and support of government. (Whiten 1998 and Marginson 1990)⁵

Filipino activists took up the challenge and successfully lobbied for funding to support community based projects and eventually bring about significant changes in immigration legislation.⁶

The domestic violence provisions in Australia's immigration law are another example of the community's pursuit of greater protection for women and children at risk.⁷

Serial sponsorship and domestic violence are not issues particularly suffered by Filipino women alone. But as a group we have faced some very specific problems and we still need the space in which to share opinion and views on how we will seek solutions. We need to understand better our reasons for raising these disturbing issues.

One subject of heated debate is the so-called "mail-order bride" phenomenon. Malicious use of this terminology has brought such distress to individuals that many Filipino organisations shy away from facing up to the fact of the existence of violence perpetrated against women who have come to reside in Australia as the wives and fiancées of men they met through one form of 'introduction' or another.

In order to deflect the media spotlight upon this aspect of Filipino-Australian marriage, the Philippines' Ambassador to Australia, Delia Domingo-Albert, initiated a project in 1999 to project Filipino women achievers and change the image. (Pango-Frias, June 1999 and

November 1999) But, it is unfortunate that the Ambassador herself sees this phenomenon in terms of “stigma” and “shame”.

The Filipino community effort in 1993 to denounce a book extolling the virtues of marriage to Filipino women (“Because of the way they’re brought up, they expect to put more into a marriage than they’ll get out of it”) is another example of what needs to be done and what can be achieved. (Maltzahn & Garcia 1993) ⁸

Written by a former Western Australia police officer who has had three wives, this book tells you that marriage to an imported woman from the Philippines will not take “a lot of money compared to what you earn in twelve months, only the cost of a lousy second-hand car really.” He married his third wife when he was 57 and she a 19 year-old virgin. In accordance with the “Mail-Order Bride Law” of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 6955), Rora Navarro-Tolentino, then Ambassador to Australia, recommended prohibition of the book’s distribution in the Philippines. ⁹

There is no comparable law in Australia and civil libertarians would no doubt argue against such a law being passed.

But, despite the illegality of the business in the Philippines, introduction agencies continue to trade, and more recently, through the use of the Internet, off shore services proliferate. (SIBOL 1997) ¹⁰

If you spend any time at all online you will be inundated with agency adverts and “spammed” with unsolicited emails.

In Manila last August during the Bayanihan International Solidarity Conference, the Women’s Caucus had this to say about the globalised commodification of women:

The age of technology is upon us. Boon it is, undoubtedly. Communications has never been this quick and systematic, but with it came a host of intensified problems for the peoples of the South and particularly women. You want a domestic helper? Put in your order through the Internet. You want a sex slave? The Internet provides you with an international gallery of women from the former Eastern European States down to a village in Indonesia. You want sex? There’s Internet sex anytime you want it. You want a wife? Surf the Internet that glamorizes women from the South as loyal, obedient, god fearing virgins. One Internet site even advertised Filipino women as low maintenance wives. (Women’s Caucus 2001)

Statistics from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), an agency of the Philippine Government, which record a low percentage of marriage between Filipinos and foreign nationals resulting from the activities of introduction agencies are quoted by agency proprietors to give a minimal appearance to the extent of their business. (Paredes-Maceda 1995) ¹¹

We should bear in mind however that this data compiled by CFO is supplied by the women themselves and their fiances or husbands. As “mail-order” marriage agencies are illegal in the Philippines, the couples would most likely refrain from stating this as the mode of their introduction. (Hunt & Gatbonton 2000)

Given the high profile of Filipino women featured in the introduction agencies’ catalogues and, if we extrapolate the volume of trade from these figures, it is hard to believe that over five years an average of 1,900 Filipino clients per year could support the international marketing costs of the introduction agency business and still make a profit. There must therefore be many more clients passing through the marriage agency market than is declared or perhaps there are other business opportunities that are ‘complimentary’ to the introduction ‘services’. ¹²

The high percentage of spousal homicides that have beset the Filipino community is another issue of heated debate.

In 1990 the conviction on a charge of manslaughter and the subsequent light sentencing of Gene Bongcodin’s ex-husband for her murder the year before so enraged the Filipino community in Melbourne that demonstrations outside the court galvanised a campaign to research the incidence of the deaths and disappearances of Filipino women and their children in Australia. This ongoing data collection which is compiled by the Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia (CPCA) commences with reports from 1980 onwards. (CPCA data 2001)

Here is a brief extract from a summary of the data to date:

In 30 cases since 1980, involving 37 Filipino women and children, six children and twenty-one women have been killed, one woman survived an attempted murder, five women and two children have disappeared, two women died in a mass suicide incident.

All thirty-seven victims are Filipinos. Where the ethnicity of the perpetrators is known, all but two, to the best of our knowledge, are non-Filipinos.

A copy of the full summary including brief biographical notes about the women and children is appended. (CPCA summary 2001) But, I must caution you against making the erroneous assumption that all the women included in our data about deaths and disappearances entered Australia as sponsored wives or fiancées or, for that matter, met their partners through an introduction agency.

CPCA research and lobbying was instrumental in bringing about a research project undertaken by the Race Discrimination Unit of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC). Submissions from the public were invited, the National Coordinator of CPCA visited most capital cities in Australia to publicise the research, and in October 1994 the conference “Stopping Violence Against Filipino Women: A Government and Community Responsibility” was held in Melbourne, funded by the Office of the Status of Women and jointly convened by CPCA and HREOC.

The enduring outcome of this project is the publication of “*Violence Against Filipino Women*” in 1996 which showed that Filipino women living in Australia are almost six times over-represented as victims of homicide. In February 1998, a second edition of the report was published as a book entitled *Gender, ‘Race’ and International Relations: Violence Against Filipino Women in Australia*. (Cunneen & Stubbs 1996 and 1998) ¹³

Another major CPCA project was the organisation with the Network Against Sex Tours of the Campaign Against Sex Tourism and Trafficking in Filipino Women Exposure/Study Tour to the Philippines in 1995. ¹⁴ In July 1996, CPCA-Brisbane published “*Confronting Sexual Exploitation*” the report of the Study Tour participants. (Campaign Against Sex Tourism 1996) ¹⁵

During September and October 1997 the Network Against Sex Tours hosted “*Women Cannot Be Bought*” a national speaking tour of Australia by two speakers from Manila: Cecilia Hofmann from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia/Pacific (CATW-AP), and Melvie Galacio from Bukluran ng Kababaihan sa Lansangan/*Association of Women Street Walkers* (BUKAL). ¹⁶

CPCA and SPAN has aimed, whenever possible, to work in conjunction with our partner organisations in the Philippines. Our links with organisations in the Philippines are very precious. They keep us grounded in Filipino history and culture, mindful of our social responsibilities, and connected to the global Filipino family.

Another recent example of this sort of project was a forum in February 2000. “*Violent Deaths and Disappearances Amongst Filipina Immigrants in Australia*” took place in Manila organised by KAKAMMPI (Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anak ng Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino, Inc./Association of Migrant Workers and their Families, Inc.) in cooperation with CPCA and SPAN (Solidarity Philippines Australia Network). (KAKAMMPI 2000) ¹⁷

CONCLUSION:

I have only had the space here to tell you about the major Australia-wide activities that have been organised over the past few decades. But absolutely none of these would have been possible without all the local organising of the many volunteers and community based organisations. Their efforts and constant attention to the local situation are the backbone of achievement.

Networking and the formation of coalitions and alliances with other ethnic formations, indigenous peoples’ organisations, women’s services, religious groups, human rights, peace, solidarity, and development education groups have broadened our perspectives. We have learned a lot about organising in Australia, particularly from Aboriginal people.

Publication in both hard copy and digital format has taken our issues and concerns to a wide audience. Research and data compilation has given us the facts we need in order to air our views and conclusions with confidence.

At the opening of this paper I referred obliquely to the “fallout” in terms of funding cuts to women’s services in the current political climate. When a major organisation such as the DVRC can have its funding halved, virtually overnight and with no justification of substance, we have to worry that development of services that focus on violence against women from a feminist perspective is under serious threat.

In such times, the continued viability of community based organisations is even more vital because we are independent of government policy manipulation through control of funding. In simple terms, if you have no core funding there is none to take away.

We need to continue our projects and we need to expand our work. We need to acquire more sophisticated systems for our data collection. We need more people to take on the work of better organising the information resources we already have. We need you to become members of CPCA and SPAN because we need your membership fees, but most of all we need your ideas, involvement, energy and commitment.

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ENDNOTES:

¹ For a full account visit the Domestic Violence Resource Centre's website at <http://www.dvrc.org.au/>

² KAKAMMPI (Association of Filipino Migrant Workers and Families): "Over the last two decades, there has been a noted shift in migration patterns ... not only true in terms of destination, but in terms of job categories as well. Since 1995, over half of land-based deployments involved Filipino women. In 1975, women comprised a mere 12% of annual deployments. The feminization of contract work is an immediate consequence of the marked decline in the construction and other traditional industries and the increased demand for service workers, notably domestic helpers and entertainers."

³ Rep. Loretta Ann P. Rosales: "Philippine labor statistics show that the trend of Filipinos going overseas to work has changed from a male to a female-dominated one. Feminization of migrant workers can be traced as early as the 1980s when the demand for tutors was easily filled by Filipino teachers who were receiving meager salaries. When the demand for tutors dropped, the majority of teachers began working as baby-sitters and eventually as domestic helpers. From then on, Filipinas worked as domestic helpers and care-givers to the young and old of Hongkong, Singapore, Australia; as dancers and singers in Japan; as chambermaids in the hotels in Dubai, Germany; as maids or servants in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other middle east countries; and as laborers in Taiwanese semi-conductor companies."

⁴ Chris Cunneen & Julie Stubbs: "Patterns of migration from the Philippines to Australia are distinctive in that unlike immigration from any other source country, immigration from the Philippines has been significantly gender biased in the favour of women. ...[which is consistent with Filipino emigration patterns to a range of destinations]... there were approximately twice as many women as men who had been born in the Philippines residing in Australia [at the time of the 1991 census]. This imbalance is greater in the 20-49 years age group where women outnumber men to an even greater extent. A large proportion of Filipino women migrating to Australia (approximately 70%) have been sponsored as the fiancées or spouses of men who are Australian residents."

⁵ Agnes M. Whiten: "In 1984, the Filipino Australian Welfare Association was founded to assist Filipino families during their settlement. This association was the only Filipino group in Brisbane which received funding from the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs under the Grant-In-Aid scheme. Significantly, most of the settlers who sought help from this agency were women in cross-cultural marriages."

Melba Marginson: "(In Melbourne) in 1984, the Samahan ng mga Pilipinang Nagmamalasakit was formed. It projected the women's issues to the community by using cultural forms like theatre and dance. Filipina survivors of domestic violence were encouraged to participate in cultural activities and to socialise with Filipinas in more happy marriages. In 1987, Luzviminda was formed by a social worker based at the Footscray Migrant Resource Centre. It organised survivors of domestic violence in two suburbs ... In the same year, the Centre for Filipino Migrant Concerns was established to provide continuing education to survivors [of domestic violence]."

⁶ "Serial sponsorship of visa applicants appears to be highly correlated with the perpetration of domestic violence. In November 1996, amendments to Australia's migration legislation

were introduced to curb serial sponsorship. Sponsors in the spouse, fiance and interdependency visa classes may now sponsor a maximum of two partners in their lifetime, at least five years apart.” (Australian Government response to the questionnaire on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Downloaded from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/Australia.htm>)

⁷ “The Domestic Violence Provision of Australia’s Migration Program allows people applying for permanent residence in Australia on the basis of a spouse (including de facto/common law spouse) or interdependent relationship to remain eligible for permanent residence after the breakdown of their relationship if they, or a member of their family unit, have experienced domestic violence. The Provision was introduced in 1991 in response to community concerns that some spouses and partners might feel compelled to remain in abusive relationships to obtain permanent residence, rather than end the relationship and be forced to leave Australia.” (Fact Sheet #38, Public Affairs Section, Department Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Canberra. Revised on 1 November 2001.)

⁸ Kathleen Maltzahn & Chat Garcia: “Filipino women in West Australia denounced *War of the Sexes* for its "brutal attacks on the values and integrity of Filipinos" and critiqued the Philippine Consulate's planned co-sponsoring of the book launching. Within days, Filipino women and their supporters had stopped the launching, forced the Consulate to dissociate from promotion of the book, and prompted Philippine ambassador Rora Tolentino to protest that the book, "disregards human respect and dignity, especially of women". Mr. Morgan was unable to find another place to hold the launching of the book.” (Also other articles and correspondence on file with the author.)

⁹ Republic Act No. 6955, enacted 13 June 1990 “declares unlawful the practice of matching Filipino women for marriage to foreign nationals on a mail-order basis and other similar practices, including the advertisement, publication, printing or distribution of brochures, fliers and other propaganda materials in furtherance thereof and providing penalty therefore.” (copy on file with the author.)

¹⁰ SIBOL (*Sama-Samang Inisyatiba ng Kababaihan sa Pagbabago ng Batas at Lipunan* — Women’s Joint Initiative for Legal and Social Change) observes that when this law was enacted in 1990, advertisements for commercially-arranged marriages disappeared but, in reality, the mail-order bride business thrives underground because the law does not assign a monitoring agency to ensure implementation. Also, marriage matching via the Internet is beyond the reach of the law.

¹¹ Catherine Paredes-Maceda: The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), an agency of the Philippine Government, reports that so-called “mail-order brides” constitute 10% of the marriages between Filipinos and foreign nationals. Between 1989-1994, 95,000 Filipino men and women were engaged to be married to foreigners, the great majority of whom met their partners through work or personal introductions.

¹² In an exchange of Letters to the Editor of the *Sunday Mail*, and a full page article, one introduction agency proprietor who ‘specialises’ in Filipinas claimed that fees charged by his agency amount to about \$10,000 a year in the four years he’d been in business: “It is a sort of very pleasant and satisfying hobby activity. The cost of running the operation takes up most of the fees.” The reporter who wrote the article noted the conflicting information the agency sends out to men registered with their service, e.g. “All the girls on our books have come to us through recommendations. We only accept girls of high moral standards who are not after money,” and the fact that the agency cannot possibly have examined the backgrounds of all the 800 women it says it has on file. It did not enhance credibility when he remarked about

one women's photograph, "That's a nice one - big boobs." (Blanch, Ken, 'The Marriage Makers', *The Sunday Mail*, 19 March 1995, p. 105 and collected articles and correspondence on file with the author.)

¹³ "Violence Against Filipino Women" confirmed that Filipino women between the ages of 20–39 are 5.6 times more likely to be victims of domestic homicide in comparison with the average for Australian women in the same age group. The launch in Sydney of this report was co-convened by HREOC, the Institute of Criminology, and CPCA. In February 1998, it was published as a book under a new title, "*Gender, 'Race' and International Relations: Violence Against Filipino Women in Australia*" and was launched in Manila through the offices of CPCA's network partners.

¹⁴ Fifteen Australian and New Zealander women, including eight Filipinas, travelled to the Philippines from June 19 to July 4, 1995 to look at the experience of Filipino women in prostitution, the role of Australian men, the Australian government and the Australia-based sex trade industry. In partnership, the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific was the Philippine secretariat and the Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia was the Australian Secretariat. The tour received sponsorship from many organisations and prominent individuals and generated considerable media exposure in both countries.

¹⁵ The publication and first printing of this report was grant-aided by the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund. The report was launched at the International Peace Research Conference in Brisbane. The project was so successful that additional material was received, and as well as producing and distributing an Addendum to the first printing, a second printing was achieved in conjunction with the Filipino Women's Working Party, Sydney.

¹⁶ The tour was hosted in Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra. Both visiting speakers had a week's schedule of public forums, media exposure and meetings with women's services providers/agencies.

¹⁷ KAKAMMPI: The main resource person of the forum was Melba De Guzman-Marginson from the Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia. A highlight of the forum, albeit quite poignant, were the testimonies of Ester Canonizado and Estrella C. Masigan, mother and sister, respectively, of Rosalie Canonizado. The panel of reactors included: Rachel Gibbs, Senior Migration Officer from the Australian embassy, Ellen Agot, Director of Migrants Integration and Education Office of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, and the Honorable Patricia Sarenas, chairperson of the Committee on Women, House of Representatives. CPCA-Brisbane and SPAN prepared background materials and updated statistics for the forum.

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VIOLENT DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES OF FILIPINO WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA SINCE 1980

SUMMARY OF DATA COMPILED BY THE CENTRE FOR PHILIPPINE CONCERNS-AUSTRALIA (CPCA) AS AT 9TH OCTOBER 2001

IN 30 CASES since 1980, involving 37 Filipino women and children, six children and twenty-one women have been killed, one woman survived an attempted murder, five women and two children have disappeared, two women died in a mass suicide incident.

Almost all the known suspected, accused, or convicted perpetrators were either the woman's employer, husband, de-facto partner, ex-partner, or fiancée.

In the 24 cases resulting in 27 deaths (not including the mass suicide incident), there were 12 convictions: seven of the accused were convicted of murder and five of manslaughter (one man killed two children, another will be tried soon for killing his three children, another also murdered the woman's estranged husband). One man committed suicide before he could be charged with attempting to murder his wife and killing their child. Another, whose wife has 'disappeared', was recently found dead apparently having taken his own life.

In four cases we do not know the result of the trial. Of the two trials which resulted in acquittals, one man, though he was acquitted of the murder of his second wife, was eventually convicted of murdering his first wife.

All thirty-seven victims are Filipinos. Where the ethnicity of the perpetrators is known, all but two, to the best of our knowledge, are non-Filipinos.

The Women and Children:

1. ***Teresita Andalís***. Teresita was drowned on 10 August 1980 in Brisbane, Queensland. Her employer had insured her life for \$400,000. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour.

2. ***Carmelita Lee***. Carmelita was found in January 1984, shot dead, bound and naked, at home in Wollongong, NSW with her de-facto partner who had also been killed.

3. ***Pauline Kelly***. Pauline was beaten to death; her body thrown over a cliff on 23 December 1986 in Wollongong, NSW. Her husband was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 7 years gaol.

4. ***Rowena Sokol***. Rowena was shot 5 times and beaten about the head with the butt of a rifle on 23 February 1987 in Blacktown, NSW. Her husband was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 10 years gaol.

5. ***Azucena "Asing" Pollard and her baby son Harry jnr***. Missing. Asing's husband reported she disappeared with their 3-year-old son sometime between 8 January and 4 June 1987 from their family home in Tumburumba, NSW.

6. ***Nenita Westhof***. Nenita died on 18 February 1987 in Brisbane, Queensland. She was found at home with her throat slashed. Nine days later her ex-husband was shot by the same man. Her de-facto partner was convicted of both murders and sentenced to life imprisonment.

7. ***Lusanta de Groot***. Both Lusanta and her 11-month-old baby were repeatedly hit on the head with a hammer by her husband. The baby died, Lusanta survived. Her husband committed suicide by jumping from a cliff. North Head, NSW, 1987.

8. ***Nenita Evans***. Missing. Nenita disappeared on 8 January 1987 in Melbourne, Vic. Her body has never been found. An inquest concluded that she was the "victim of foul play by an unknown assailant".

9. ***Bibiana Doria Singh***. Missing. Victoria. Last seen 1987.

10. ***Socorro North and her child***. Missing. Tasmania. Last seen 1987.

11. **Bella Rodriguez Elmore.** Bella was stabbed in her home and her body thrown off a pier at Exmouth on 18 March 1988. Her husband, a US serviceman stationed at Northwest Cape, WA, was tried by court martial and is now jailed in Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

12. **Jean Angela Strachan Keir.** Jean was murdered on February 9 or 10, 1988. Her body was buried in the yard of her house in Tregear, NSW. In 1999 DNA testing provided the forensic evidence to convict her husband of murder. He was sentenced to 24 years to serve a minimum of 18 yrs. He had previously been acquitted of the murder of his second wife, Rosalina Canonizado.

13. **Julieta Apacway Herring.** Julieta was drowned in her swimming pool on 25 November 1989 in Berowa Heights, NSW. Her husband was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. On appeal his sentence was changed to 22 years and 3 months with a minimum term of 18 years.

14. **Generosa Bongcodin.** Gene was strangled in her ex-husband's Newport, Vic. residence on 9 July 1989. Her husband was allowed to plead guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter and was sentenced to 8 years to serve a minimum of 5½ years.

15. **Nanette Villani.** Nanette's decomposing body, with cut wounds to the head and other parts of her body, was found by police in June 1989 in her flat in Moorabbin, Vic. No one has been charged with her murder.

16. **Milagros "Mila" Dark.** On 17 February 1990 Mila was found bashed to death, with her head bound in a plastic bag, 10 km from her house in Endeavour Hills, Vic. Her husband was acquitted of the murder due to lack of evidence.

17. **Eve Roweth.** Eve was found dead in March 1991 at her place of work in Marrickville, NSW. She had been stabbed 30 times. No one has been charged.

18. **Teresita Garrott and Normita Garrott.** Teresita, Normita and their husbands, who were brothers, were found having apparently taken their own lives at Candelo, NSW, 1991.

19. **Rosalina Canonizado.** Rosalie was strangled with a lamp cord and her body set on fire on 13 April 1991 in her Tregear, NSW home. Her husband was acquitted due to lack of evidence. However, he was eventually convicted of the murder of his first wife, Jean Strachan. (We refer to Rosalina by her family name of Canonizado out of respect for the wishes of her mother who does not wish for her daughter to be remembered in the name of Keir.)

20. **Pia Navida.** Pia's body was found in the Royal National Park, NSW, in 1991. No one has been charged.

21. **Marylou Orton.** Marylou was stabbed to death on 13 March 1992, in Fawker, Vic. No one has been charged.

22. **Milagros "Mila" Bordador Wills.** Deaf and mute, Mila was repeatedly bashed on the head with a blunt object in her flat in Morningside, Brisbane on 3 April 1993. Her de-facto partner was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

23. **Elizabeth Mary Haynes and Yohana Rodriguez.** The two girls, 5 and 12-years-old, were strangled and suffocated by their father during an access visit at his house in Port Kembla, NSW on 24 April 1993. He was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to two concurrent maximum 12-year jail terms for which he will serve a minimum of 6 years.

24. **Elma Rebecca Albarracin Young.** Elma was strangled on 20 February 1994. Her body was found dumped by the roadside not far from her home in Munruben, Qld. Elma was 5 months pregnant. Her husband, a senior police constable, was convicted of manslaughter. Although he was sentenced to 10 yrs imprisonment with no recommendation for parole, he was released after serving only 4 years and 7 months of his sentence.

25. **Priscilla Squires.** Priscilla was punched and repeatedly stabbed on 29 November 1995 in Darwin, NT. Her estranged husband was charged with murder and committed to trial. (We do not know the result of the trial.)

26. **Susan Dimatulae Pecson.** Missing. Susan disappeared on 26 September 1996 on her way to work in Paradise Point, Qld, a short distance from her home. Susan's blood stained car was found nearby, although her body has not been found. Her husband was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

27. **Mary Ann Stanton.** Mary Ann was shot while she was on the phone at home in Mindura, WA in March 1998. Her husband has been charged with wilful murder. (We do not know the result of the trial.)

28. **Annabel Sabellano Strzelecki.** Missing. Annabel's husband said he had not seen her since 6 June 1998 when she left their home in Clare, SA. No charges have been laid. Annabel's husband committed suicide sometime during the weekend of 17/18 June 2000.

29. **Ruth Amores Butay.** Ruth's body was found at her Werribee, Vic. home on 23 June 2000 in the laundry cupboard. She had returned to her home after a week's separation from her husband because of domestic violence. Her husband was suspected of the killing and arrested. (We do not know if he or any other suspect was brought to trial.)

30. **Ashley, Ryan, and Jarrod Fraser.** On 20 August 2001, the bodies of three children aged 7, 5 and 4-years-old were discovered after having spent the weekend with their father on an access visit at his home in Caringbah, NSW. He has been charged with murder. (We do not know the result of the trial.)

You may, with written permission, quote from these statistics provided you acknowledge the source and send us a copy. Contact CPCA at the above addresses.

We recommend you also refer to *Gender, 'Race' and International Relations: Violence against Filipino Women in Australia*, published by the Institute of Criminology, Sydney, Australia

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