

about the author

Evalyn G. Ursua is a human rights advocate, litigator, researcher and academic. She has worked on women and children's rights issues in the Philippines for more than 20 years. She and two lawyer friends pioneered women's rights legal advocacy in the Philippines when they founded a women's legal resource advocacy group in 1990. Since then, she has engaged in test case litigation involving women's human rights as well as in education and training programs in communities and for women activists in various parts of the Philippines.

Ms. Ursua's policy development work included personally writing and co-writing proposed legislation on rape, abuse of women in intimate relationships and prostitution for non-government organizations and government agencies that legislators sponsored and became the basis of enacted laws. She also wrote a proposed law on divorce for a party list group which is still pending in the Philippine Congress.

Ms. Ursua also taught courses on gender and the law and on marriage and the family at the University of the Philippines College of Law and Department of Women and Development Studies in Diliman, Quezon City.

For her work in defending and promoting women and children's rights, she was given The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) Award for Women and Children's Rights Advocacy by the TOWNS Foundation, Inc. in 1998, during the Centennial Year of the founding of the Philippine Republic.

Ms. Ursua has a Bachelor of Laws from the University of the Philippines (Class Valedictorian, 1990), and a Master of Laws in Asian Legal Studies from the National University of Singapore.