

CANADIAN POSITION

Human rights remain a priority in Canada's bilateral relationship and are addressed through dialogue at the ministerial level, regular consultation with Canadian and Philippine NGO groups and cooperation between Canadian human rights institutions and their Philippine counterparts. CIDA is helping with a substantial aid programme including a number of human rights activities through NGO channels. Projects include support for the rights of women and aboriginal peoples. Canada is the only bilateral donor to the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), one of the poorest regions of the Philippines. Through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, local NGOs carry out various livelihood and social service-oriented projects.