

CWERC

Background: CWERC was established in February 1987, following a consultation on women's issues in Baguio City.

Objectives: The CWERC was organized primarily to support the development of the women's movement in the Cordillera region. It aims for economic changes which foster women's equality (overcoming patriarchal division of labour, control of women over their bodies, shared responsibility of child care and housework, equal pay for equal work, no discrimination in employment, and access to credits. It aims for political changes which promote feminist women's organizations, laws protective of women, and structures which are democratic and participatory. It aims at cultural changes which foster feminist awareness amongst women, public awareness of women's oppression, a gender-fair educational system, popular and empowering non-formal education for women.

Activities:

CWERC has three main programs: research, organizing, and education. More specifically, CWERC carries out economic, political, and cultural activities.

Its economic activities are:

1. research on roles of indigenous women in production and reproduction, sustainable agro-forestry practices and technologies developed by women, child rearing practices, etc.;
2. Case studies of women's participation in struggles for defense of ancestral land, experiences of women in implementing socio-economic projects, etc.;
3. defining a framework for development which has a feminist perspective and is ecologically sustainable;
4. coming up with an integrated development plan for Cordillera women; supporting socio-economic projects of women's organizations;
5. launching campaigns with women's organizations to demand needed projects for women from government.

Its political activities:

1. setting up of women's crisis center and child-support programs;
2. propagation of women's rights;
3. development of education materials on women's rights and human rights;
4. providing training on for women's organizations;

5. sponsoring symposia on women's issues;
6. research on customary laws and impact on women, indigenous political structures and participation of women, impact of militarization on women and children;
7. networking with GOs and NGOs;
8. reorienting traditional women's orgs. to become more feminist.

Its cultural activities:

1. development of education curriculum and training modules making use of popular methods; 2. influencing media, formal/ non-formal institutions through statements, press-releases, etc.; 3. publications and documentation;
4. library and resource center with public access;
5. propagation of cultural practices supportive of women;
6. developing cultural presentations on women's issues/situations;
7. providing trainers' training on basic women's orientation, facilitators training etc.;
8. producing audio-visual materials on women; and
9. publications exchange.

Government status: Non-Governmental

Services: Education - Legal

Issues this organization deals with: Womens Rights