

## JOY BELMONTE

### MAYOR, QUEZON CITY

Tatler Philippines · 1 Apr 2022 · 141

The political arena has long been male-dominated, but women like her prove that it needn't be so. Some of her proudest projects involve the security of women, children and those in the LGBTQIA+ community. The Quezon City Protection Center for Victim-Survivors of Gender-Based Violence and Abuse gives victims access to a lawyer, doctor, social worker, police officer and councillor under one roof. Meanwhile, the Bahay Kanlungan programme provides temporary shelter to gender-based violence and abuse victims. Women detained in Camp Karingal can also get involved with the No Woman Left Behind project, which gives them a chance to finish their education while detained.



“Although there are many more women politicians now than in the past, equality in terms of political participation, for the most part, eludes women,” says Mayor Joy Belmonte. Politics, which is highly time-consuming, may often interfere with the traditional role of women as caregivers. “It prevents them from entering the political arena for fear of being judged or out of guilt because of cultural norms.”

It is essential for Belmonte to consciously combat and transcend gender stereotypes that are often ingrained in our culture. “Women must lift each other,” she reminds us because even memes or “harmless jokes” can be indirectly harmful.