

LGBTQ+ COUPLES DECLARE COMMITMENT

The Quezon City government, led by Mayor Joy Belmonte, vows to uphold the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and celebrates their love

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Two-hundred-twenty-two LGBTQ+ couples declared their love in a “commitment ceremony” sponsored by the city government of Quezon City on 12 February.



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PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE QUEZON CITY GOVERNMENT
COUPLE exchange their vows.

In the ceremony, officiated by Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, the couples walked down the aisle and exchanged vows similar to weddings. Serving as witnesses were city councilors Hero Bautista, Irene Belmonte and Ivy Lagman, as well as Ging Cristobal, project coordinator for Asia of Outright Action International; Miss Trans Global 2020 and LGBTQ+ rights advocate Mela Habijan; and Spark Philippines executive director and gender equality advocate Maica Teves. Philippine law still prohibits marriage between persons of the same sex, and LGBTQ+ couples remain unrecognized legally. Also, there is still no national law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). The LGBTQ+ community and their allies have been lobbying for one for more than 20 years now. Some cities and municipalities have anti-discrimination ordinances, and the first one was Quezon City’s Gender Fair Ordinance. The commitment ceremony, which is the second one held in Quezon City after 2020, is said to be an affirmation that the city is a safe place for LGBTQ+ persons, where their rights are protected.

“Hangad ng Lungsod Quezon ang

masayang pagsasama ng LGBTQIA+ couples at makakaasa kayong magiging katuwang ninyo ang lokal na pamahalaan sa pagsusulong ng pantay na karapatan at paglaban para makamit ang equality at diversity (Quezon City wishes joyful togetherness of LGBTQIA+ couples and you can expect that the local government will be your partner in pushing for equal rights and fighting for equality and diversity),” the Quezon City government wrote on its official Facebook page. Meanwhile, Belmonte exclaimed on her Facebook page: “Love has no limits. Love is universal. Love wins, always.”

“Pagbati at isang mahigpit na yakap sa mga magkasintahang LGBTQIA+ na nagpalitan ng kanilang panata ng pagmamahal ngayong araw! Isang karangalan... ang masaksihan ang inyong wagas na pagmamahal (Best wishes and tight hugs to LGBTQIA couples who exchanged their vows of love today! It is and honor... to witness your enduring love),” she added.