

# One Imperative – Hindi



Adeline Chang, *Typewriter*  
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guest-edited by  
Val Alvern Ambrose Ligo

## Everyone has a story.

Everyone has reasons for why they laugh, smile, cry, fear, and hope; as do those that clean our dishes, do our laundry, cook our food, and help us lead easier lives. Their stories are often-times, invisible and unheard – and because of that, we forget that behind their roles, they are also mothers, daughters, sisters; someone of importance to someone else. At first, I wanted to collect and write stories that reflected the feelings and emotions of domestic workers in Singapore – their heartbreak, their homesickness, their loneliness. But I realised that doing so removed much of what makes these stories genuine and real.

Thus, I only edited minimally, leaving much of it raw.

The title of this issue is 'Hindi' – Filipino for 'No' – and their stories are their own imaginings of what *no* means to them. In their expressions, in their words, in their songs, and in their writings, we get a glimpse beyond a narrative – we read their anxieties, their fears, their love, and their dreams. And I implore you to – as you read this – look past the sympathy you might feel, and understand that these are stories of hope and sacrifice; of lives they could not, and – at the same time – have to, refuse.

I cannot thank these four women, Criselda, Marcela, Vivelyn, and Rebecca, enough for contributing their words to this tiny piece; and for allowing themselves to be vulnerable to your good selves who are reading this.

In putting this together, I hope I do them, and their stories, justice.



Criselda  
48  
Luzon, Philippines



Marcela  
37  
Philippines



Rebecca  
42  
Leyte, Philippines

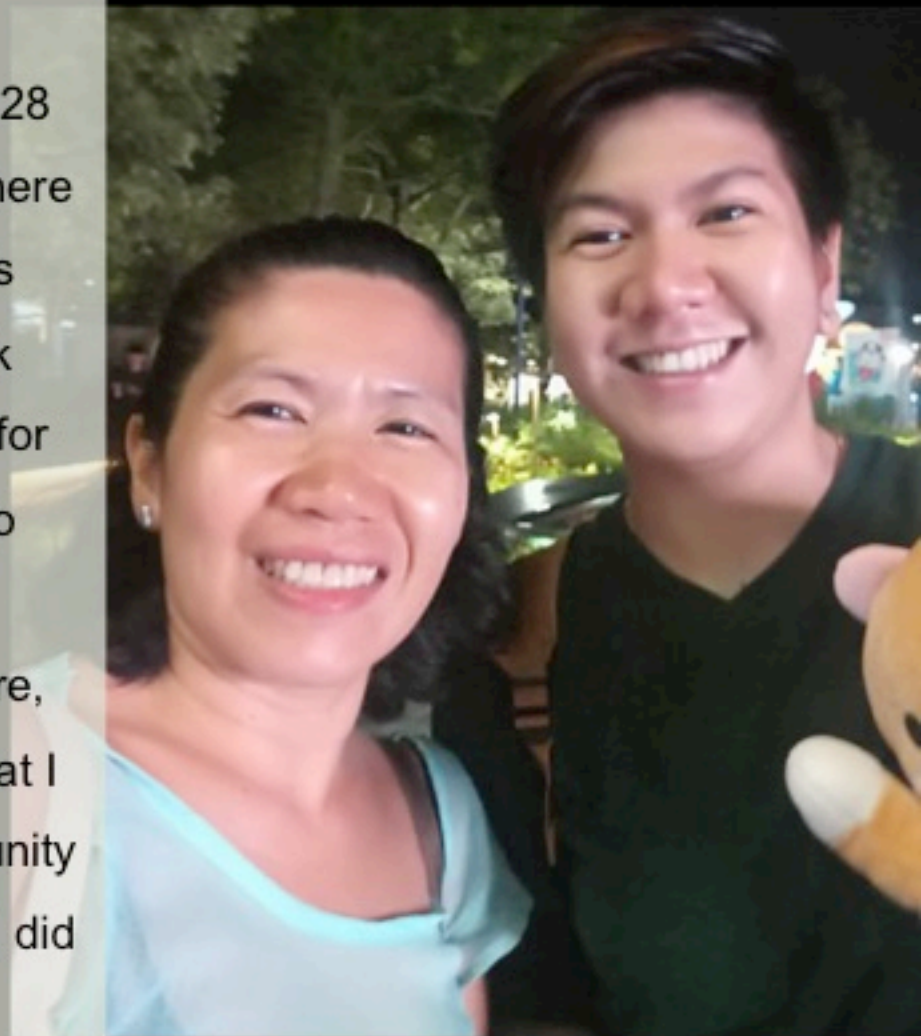


Vivelyn  
43  
Leyte, Philippines

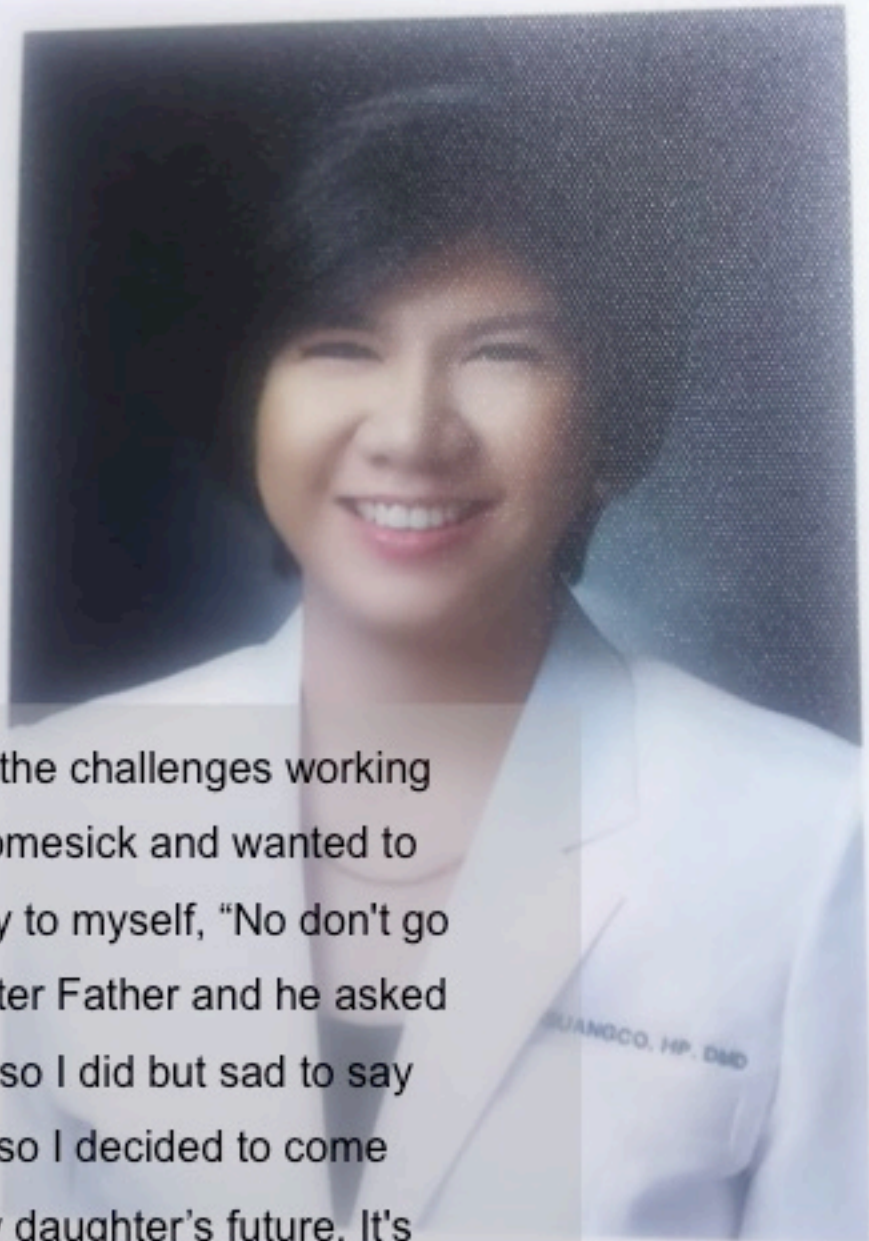
# Criselda

Hi first let me introduce myself. I'm Criselda Pico, 48 years old, a Filipino citizen from Luzon, Philippines and a single mother. I had one daughter who is now a Dentist.

Currently I'm working here in Singapore for 28 years as a house manager. Before I came here to work abroad, I was working in a garments factory as an artist. I never dreamed to work abroad but I didn't expect that it just for fun for me when one of my co-workers asked me to sign a bio data for Singapore and shocked when they say I have work here in Singapore, and will fly after a week that the first time that I couldn't say 'No' because this is big opportunity for me to earn more and help my family so I did came here for a very young age.



**“I'm doing this it's for you and soon we will be together”**



And I did have the courage to face all the challenges working abroad it's hard and often times I'm homesick and wanted to go back home but day by day I will say to myself, "No don't go home". That was until I met my daughter Father and he asked me to go home to the Philippines and so I did but sad to say that he didn't continue to support and so I decided to come back again as I needed to work for my daughter's future. It's painful when you leave your kids miles and miles away but I have no choice but to sacrifice for her future and most of the time she always ask me to go home but I needed to explain to her , I did tell her many times, "No, I won't go home for good yet as need to work until you finish your school." That's what I always tell her and I really thank God because all those sacrifices and love for her to finally graduating as a Dentist.

# Rebecca

Good day!

Each one of us has our own reasons why we say "No".

My Story starts like this.

My name is Rebecca C.Amamangpang, 43 years of age.

I'm working Singapore for 13 years till present. I am happy in spite of some difficulties in work but through that years I experienced also easy life and have freedom. Before I proceed. I will tell you my dreams and hobbies. My hobbies use to enjoying myself in singing in smule. Discover new things around environment especially our nature, I loved making friends and happy of it. I always wear my big smile because for me it feel comfortable and happy.

My dreams in life is to be FRICH (FREE and RICH) to go back to Philippines to be with my Family and never work abroad.

**“I don't have kids but I miss my parents and siblings (my family). Its different if you will stay together.”**



The reason why I'm here in abroad is to earn more money for survival. In spite I don't not want too because I'm afraid to work in abroad other people. If I stay in the Philippines nobody will give money. I don't want to depend on my parents.

work

It's not easy to other family but I need too. You need to smile even your not in mood because employers will see you.

You need to work in spite your not very well and tired. So during my off days I use it to enjoy and be my friends and taking photos feel better.

Many years working here abroad, I can't say yes to go home, I will say NO because I don't have more savings yet. Even I'm tired already. I need to work because I didn't yet reach my Goal to be FRICH!

Thank you!

More Powers



# Marcela

[https://](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXJBMdN4c40)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXJBMdN4c40](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXJBMdN4c40)

Marcela chose to sing for her contribution. The song is called 'Anak', meaning 'Child'.

Lyrics:

Nung isilang ka sa mundong ito  
Laking tuwa ng magulang mo  
At ang kamay nila  
Ang iyong ilaw

At ang nanay at tatay mo'why  
Di malaman ang gagawin  
Minamasdan  
Pati pagtulog mo

At sa gabi'why napupuyat ang iyong  
nanay  
Sa pagtimpla ng gatas mo  
At sa umaga nama'why kalong ka ng  
iyong  
Amang tuwang-tuwa sa yo'

Ngayon nga ay malaki ka na  
Nais mo'why maging Malaya  
Di man sila payag  
Walang magagawa

Ikaw nga ay biglang nagbago  
Nagging matigas ang iyong ulo  
At ang payo nila'why  
Sinuway mo

Lyrics:

The day you were born to this world  
Your parents were full of joy  
And their arms are your light

And your mother and father  
Worry and don't know what to do  
Watch over you even in your sleep

And in the night, a sleepless night, your  
mother  
Is still awake to prepare your milk

And in the morning you are in the lap  
Of your father, who is so joyful because of  
you

Now you are all grown up  
You desire to be independent  
Even if your parents forbid, they can't stop  
you

Isn't it you that changed a lot  
Disobeyed them, remained stubborn  
And you did not follow their advice

Di mo man lang inisip na ang  
Kanilang ginagawa'why para sa yo  
Pagka't ang nais mo'why másunod  
Ang layaw mo dimo sila pinapansin

Nagdaan pa ang mga araw  
At ang landas mo'why maligaw  
Ikaw ay nalulong  
Sa másama bisyo

At ang una mong nilapitan  
Ang iyong inang lumuluha  
At ang tanong nila ANAK  
Ba't ka nagkaganyan?

At ang iyong mata'why biglang lumuha  
Ng di mo napapasin  
Pagsisisi at sa isip mo't nalaman  
Mong ika'why nagkamali

You did not take the time  
To think about all the things they've done for you  
For you desire, only what is pleasurable  
You just ignored them

And the days have passed  
And you took a wrong turn in life  
You are imprisoned in a horrible vice

And you approach  
Your dear crying mother  
And she asks "Child, what happened to you?"

And your eyes immediately shed tears  
Without you noticing

You are regretful and realize  
That you were at fault

Vivelyn

Ako e Vivelyn N. Mican, 42 years old  
nakatira sa Brgy. Balaibales, Lungsod  
Philippines. Sampag taon na po akong nagtrabaho  
dito sa Singapore, at may dalawang anak na  
babae isang 20 years old. My hobbies is i like  
to cook, at ang pangarap ko sa bahay ay ang  
mapangalapas ko ng pag-aral mga anak ko  
at makapag invest kanti para sa pagtanda ko.  
at bilang isang single mother nag decision  
akong mag-abroad dito sa Singapore kanti  
labag sa loob ko dahil malilit pa non mga  
anak ko. gusto ko man silang alagaan hindi  
pagdi kasi kelang sabid ko sa pinas, at may  
maintenance na gamot that time anak ko, dati  
isa operahan sija nrong 1/2 years old palang sija  
kasi isa lang ang kidney at tinubuan ng seast, so  
kinakailangan tanggalin, after 10 years bumalik  
ulit seast nira so kinakailang operahan ulit  
gusto ko mang unawhi para hindi pagdi ko  
walang mag-alaga ng mga anak ng amo ko,  
at lagi silang nag holiday, yon ang pinaka  
masakit sa isang ina na malayo sa mga  
anak, ina operahan anak ko na wala ako sa

tabi nya. gusto kong mag-unawhi para hindi  
pagdi kaysa umiyak nalang ako that time ko  
wala akong magawa, masakit sa loob ko  
manalang sa mga anak, kaysa magayon gusto  
kong mag-ipon at makawhi na sa pilinas  
at manalagaan ko sila at makabawi sa time  
na wala ako sa tabi nila.

Thank you.....  
Vivelyn N. Mican

I am Vivelyn N. Macan,

42 years old from Brgy. Baliw Hilongos Leyte, Philippines. I have been working in Singapore for ten years and I have two daughters, the older is 20 years and the other one is 14 years old. I love to cook. My biggest dream is to let my children finish their studies. I also want to have investments that will finance my retirement. I am a Single mother and because life is difficult for us, I decided to work in Singapore. It was a tough decision for me. I wanted to stay in the Philippines and take care of my children especially that they are still young. However, my salary cannot support even our basic needs. Plus my oldest daughter is taking maintenance for her condition. She had undergone surgery when she was 1.5 years old . There was a cyst on her Kidney. The operation left her with one kidney functioning. It was difficult but I need to sacrifice. Then, after 14 years she was diagnosed with cyst in her kidney, again. It came back. She has to do surgery one more time to take it out. It was heartbreaking for me. I wanted to go home and be with my daughter in this time, however, my boss did not allow me. I beg but they said NO because no one would take care of their children since they are always out of the country. It is the hardest thing that could happen to a mother. I have NO choice but to be away from her the time she needed me the most. I was left helpless that time. All I can do is cry. I don't want to be away from my children. This longing is my strength. This is the reason why I wanted to save and be able to go back to the Philippines for good. I wanted to be with my children, spend more time with them and be with them in every milestone of their life.

Sincerely,

Vivelyn N. Macan



Jeremy Fernando, *To rest, perchance to dream*  
2017

