

Women in Security Programme

*Empowering the Next Generation of Filipina Leaders
in Security and Foreign Policy*

March - November 2026 | Philippines

About the program

The Women in Security Program is a flagship initiative of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Philippines designed to empower the next generation of Filipina leaders in the fields of security, foreign policy, and governance.

While Filipina women have long played vital—but often underrecognized—roles in promoting peace and protecting communities, they remain underrepresented in formal institutions shaping the country's national security and foreign policy. As the Philippines faces increasingly complex challenges—ranging from maritime tensions in the West Philippine Sea to digital threats and climate insecurity—inclusive, people-centered leadership is more urgent than ever.

Through a combination of structured mentorship, thematic workshops, and collaborative projects, the program seeks to equip emerging women leaders with the skills, networks, and confidence to contribute meaningfully to national and regional security discourse.

About the program

We are seeking early-career Filipina leaders who meet the following criteria:

- Aged 25–35 years old
- Demonstrated professional involvement in security or allied fields (e.g., peace and conflict, foreign affairs, defense, civil-military relations, climate and human security, international law, journalism, etc.)
- Background in sectors such as academe, civil society, government, media, or grassroots/community organizing
- A strong commitment to social justice, inclusive governance, public service, and values-driven leadership

Applicants from underrepresented regions and sectors are strongly encouraged to apply.

There is no program fee for participating in the program. However, participants must be prepared to cover their own transportation costs to the venues, which will be in Makati or Quezon City. We also have a limited number of scholarship slots available for participants coming from Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, which will cover airfare and accommodations.

Program Components

- **Mentorship** from leading Filipina experts in national security, geopolitics, and governance
- **Workshops** on critical topics including maritime security, defense policy, foreign relations, and gender in peace and security
- **Collaborative Outputs** such as policy briefs, op-eds, or research paper developed with mentor guidance
- **Networking Opportunities** with policymakers, experts, and fellow emerging leaders
- **Certificate of Completion** upon fulfillment of program requirements

Important Dates

- **March 23 – 27, 2026**
In-Person programme launch & workshop
- **April 18, June 6, August 15, October 24 (Saturday mornings)**
Online expert insights series
- **May 6 – 8, 2026**
Study Tour
- **November 10–12, 2026**
In-Person SSGR Conference & culminating activity
- **Monthly Mentoring Sessions**
Scheduled with mentors

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How to Apply

Please submit the following documents to Monica Ang-Tan at monica.ang-tan@fes.de by 23 February 2026:

- Updated CV (max 2 pages)
- Letter of Intent (max 500 words) outlining your interest in the program and its relevance to your leadership goals
- Recommendation Letter from a professional or academic referee
- A short write-up (max 300 words) on a current issue in security that you are passionate about

Shortlisted applicants may be invited for a brief interview.

Be part of shaping a more inclusive, secure, and democratic future. Apply now and join the FES Women in Security network of women leaders.