



**BEYOND LIMITS.** Gil A. Irinco, a journalist by passion, a leader by action, and a pageant enthusiast by heart, proves that being a top-performing student is only part of her inspiring story. Her journey reflects the drive to excel while embracing every facet of life.

### *Pageant Queen. Youth Leader. Campus Journalist.*

These are just some of Gil Agustín Irinco's roles apart from being an academic achiever, theater artist, and simply, a daughter. But lurking behind these responsibilities is a greater purpose: to advocate for gender equality and inclusivity—an advocacy close to her heart as a transgender woman.

Ms. Irinco is one of the 1,143 participants for this year's School Press Advisers' Movement, Inc. (SPAM) 16th National Campus Media

Conference (NCMC) and 3rd International Research Conference on Media and Community Development at National University-Clark, SM City Clark, Mabalacat City, Pampanga. Aside from representing her school, Biliran Province State University Main Campus, she proudly represents the entire LGBTQIA+ community, exuding her true purpose in every strut and flaunt.

Wearing her six-inch heels, shiny hair, and sleek mascara, she's more than ready to show her true self regardless of what the people around her would say. She knows her purpose. And the moment she steps onto the stage, she knows that she's not alone—the entire rainbow community is with her journey.

### *Finding Her Purpose.*

Gil Irinco grew up questioning her gender identity. Unlike most children who adhered to conventional gender norms, she found herself drawn to things that defied tradition. Instead of playing with typical "boy" toys, she loved Barbie dolls.

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# Many Crowns

But this curiosity soon led her to struggle with society's perception, which viewed her difference as a mistake. And the journey to self-acceptance was not easy.

People around her often reinforced harmful beliefs, telling her that no one would love someone who is gay or that homosexual people would be jailed for simply being who they are. She was forced to live a life of concealment, fearing judgment and rejection.

For a time, she felt trapped in a body that didn't reflect her true self, worried that any misstep could destroy her. Even though every fiber of her being longed for authenticity, the fear of being exposed kept her hiding in the shadows.

However, Gil soon realized that discrimination, as painful as it was, was just one part of her journey. It would not stop her from embracing her true identity. From that moment on, she knew she had found her purpose in life.

"I shouldn't hide myself. I shouldn't be in denial. And I should rather be loud and proud of my identity," Ms. Irinco quipped. "And by this, I want to become an inspiration for my fellow queers to be their true self, never be afraid to voice out, and if there are still who are scared, I want to be the reason why they shouldn't be scared anymore."

Harnessed by her experiences and strengthened by the very people who supported her in her endeavor, Ms. Irinco instilled in her heart her purpose of living—to promote and fight for gender equality and inclusivity, not just for her, but for the entire LGBTQIA+ community.

## The Heavy Weight of the Pageant Crown.

Gil Irinco is a veteran queen who holds the biggest titles inside and outside the university premises. She's the reigning Queen of BiPSU 2025, Eastern Visayas 4-H Queen Agrivocacy 2024, Miss Gay Queen Bachao 2024, Queen Bahandi Kawayan 2024 - Battle of Municipal Queens, and Summer Feast Ms. Gay Queen 2022. These titles are a testament to her dedication and commitment to her advocacy and to inspire her fellow members to go out of their comfort zone and defy the odds.

Joining beauty pageants is one of Ms. Irinco's ways of advocating for what she fights for. She carries with her the purpose of being the voice of the fellow LGBTQ members and serves as their representation, especially those who are silent and scared to show their true identity. Up until this day, she is an advocate for gender equality and inclusivity, both in the university and her community.

Her head may carry the weight of these crowns on her, but her purpose is clear: to fight for gender equality and inclusivity, and empower her fellow LGBTQIA+ community who are ones criticized and left out because of showing who they truly are.

## The Tough Crown of a Youth Leader.

Behind the glitz and glamour of her life, Ms. Irinco is more than just a pageant queen; she's also

a youth leader who serves as a Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) member of the Municipality of Kawayan—a platform she uses to achieve her purpose of standing as a representation to her fellow queer members.

In her role as a community leader, she promotes programs that highlight the skills and talents of the LGBTQIA+ community members. From HIV symposiums to community services, Ms. Irinco proved that a transgender woman can thrive in a leadership role. She's an embodiment, a true definition of what a real queer is—one who has diverse skills, promotes equality and inclusivity, and a leader who aims to fight for what is right.

Her purpose of leading the youth is vivid: she wants them to be who they really are regardless of their status, gender, and identity. After all, a true leader should be a prime mover of a society where gender equality and inclusivity thrives.

## The Royalty in a Campus Press Uniform.

Gil Agustin Irinco is currently a fourth-year Bachelor of Science in Education major in Filipino (BSEd-Filipino) student. She is also the Chief Executive Editor of The Pillar Publication who continues to uplift others and advocate for her cause. One of her remarkable contributions is her bravery in standing against corruption and joining protests and rallies that serve a cause.

Looking at her array of commitments, it's astounding how she handles everything with such grace. Balancing academic demands is already a challenge in itself. But add her passion for pageantry, desire to serve the youth community, and dedication to campus journalism—and she still thrives.

Her message to those who look up to her is, "If I can do it, so can you. Live life to the fullest, enjoy every moment, and always give your best shot. Just like the Latin phrase 'vivamus moriendum est,' which means, we must live because we must die."

Her head may carry countless crowns—each heavy and unyielding—but she wears them with poise and grace, going beyond what defines an average queen. After all, she is not just a student, she is a queen who empowers others, a youth leader who leads by example, and a campus journalist who fights for what is right—all are heavy, but for the very purpose of advocating for gender equality and inclusivity, she'll endure.

**"I only live once, but if I will be come the very reason why the LGBTQIA+ community is recognized and accepted in our society, once is enough"**

