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Audio Description script for The Photographers' Gallery, Saturday 4 July 2020

Hannah Reyes Morales, photograph from the series *Shelter from the Storm*, Philippines, 2016

This colour photograph is landscape in format. Two women are in the foreground of the photograph, one behind the other. Their heads, upper chests and shoulders dominate the right-hand side of the image. They are inside a room facing outward to the daylight, standing in front of either the room's window or doorway.

The room behind the women is sparsely decorated with pale, pinky-peach painted walls. At the far back of the room, directly behind the women, hangs a dark blue curtain slightly out of focus. It has a regular pattern of lighter-coloured spots. To the bottom left of the photograph in the background, leaning against the painted wall, are two soft objects, also out of focus. They could be toys or articles of clothing.

The two women appear to be in their late teens or early 20s. They are facing us and their gazes point slightly downwards to two different points beyond the frame of the photograph. They are both smiling.

The woman in the foreground is smiling openly, her bright white teeth contrasted against her muted red lipstick, the corners of her mouth turned slightly downward. Her dark hair is cut in a bob, with wisps of it falling either side of her round-shaped face. Her eyes are dark brown, her skin colour light brown. She is wearing a vest top with thin shoulder straps. The top has a green and brown-coloured camouflage pattern. She wears a pair of delicate, metal hoop earrings that have a short chain drop dangling from them.

The other woman stands slightly behind her to her right side. Her right arm is bent upward from the elbow and she leans her right hand softly on the shoulder of the woman in the foreground. Her oval face leans forward and her lower chin and bottom lip rest on her hand. Her lips are closed, turned into a

shy smile. Her eyes are also brown, her skin of a similar complexion as the other woman and her dark glossy hair appears to be tied back. She is wearing a sleeveless top with a blue, red and white pattern and black trim.

There is a sense of warmth and intimacy in how they are standing and how they are touching each other.

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This photograph is from the series *Shelter from the Storm* that was completed by Hannah Reyes Morales in 2016. *Shelter from the Storm* examines how the displacement of Filipina women after frequent typhoons have made them more vulnerable to sexual violence and trafficking. The Philippines has constantly ranked among the most at risk countries to climate change — five of the ten deadliest typhoons to hit the Philippines have come in the last decade. The project follows women from Eastern Visayas, ground zero for Typhoon Haiyan, and the poorest region in the Philippines.

The women in the photograph are sisters – Gemma on the right and Joanne on the left. They are in Angeles City, a city notorious for its sex industry and its red light district. Shortly after being displaced from Typhoon Ruby, Gemma followed her eldest sister Jojo to Angeles City to work in the sex trade.