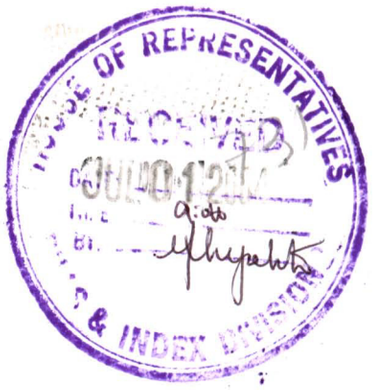


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 731

Introduced by REP. JUDY J. SYJUCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Children comprise almost half of our country's population and the world's, as well. They are innocent, largely dependent on adults and are the most vulnerable group in the society. For these reasons, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child spelling out the basic human rights of children everywhere.

Children suffer as victims of war, poverty, calamities, discrimination, and different forms of crime and violence despite of the many rights granted to them. Children world over are abused physically, emotionally and psychologically, not only by those who are strangers to them, but worse sometimes, even by their own families. We get to hear news of children being sent to white slavery rings, pimped by their blood relatives just for money. Innocent kids are peddled as if they are usual commodities, inanimate and without souls.

We concur that the children are our country's future and hope, yet daily in media, we see their cries and pain. Sadly, we seem to be undaunted by it, we keep on playing deaf to their mourning and call for help. We fail to do something to ease their misery, and this will surely corrupt them now, stealing away our chance to build a stronger nation in the coming years and giving up our way back to rectitude.

With this premise, there is a need to amend the present legislation with respect to child abuse and exploitation. To counteract violence committed against children and to alleviate the burden on their young shoulders, there is a need to provide a healthier environment; and to deter child-abusers from doing their unlawful acts, stiffer and heavier penalties must be imposed.

This proposed bill seeks to classify acts of child abuse and exploitation as heinous crime and punishable by death, for we believe, that a child-abuser should be placed in the same light as those perpetrating heinous offenses.

Hence, in view of the foregoing considerations, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

JUDY J. SYJUCO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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First Regular Session

House Bill No. 731

Introduced by REP. JUDY J. SYJUCO

AN ACT
INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR CHILD ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION, THEREBY DECLARING IT AS HEINOUS CRIME, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610 AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7610 as amended, is hereby amended to be read as follows:

SEC. 5. Child Prostitution and Other Sexual Abuse. --- Children, whether male or female, who for money, profit, or any other consideration or due to the coercion or influence of any adult, syndicate or group, indulge in sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct, are deemed to be children exploited in prostitution and other sexual abuse.

The penalty of [*reclusion temporal* in its medium period to] *reclusion perpetua* TO DEATH shall be imposed upon the following:

(a) XXX
(1) XXX
(2) XXX

XXX

SECTION 2. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7610 as amended, is hereby amended to be read as follows:

SEC. 7. Child Trafficking. --- Any person who shall engage in trading and dealing with children including, but not limited to, the act of buying and selling of a child for money, or for any other consideration, or barter, shall suffer the penalty of [reclusion temporal to] *reclusion perpetua* TO DEATH. XXX

SECTION 3. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7610 as amended, is hereby amended to be read as follows:

SEC. 9. Obscene Publications and Indecent Shows. --- Any person who shall hire, employ, use, persuade, induce or coerce a child to perform in obscene exhibitions and indecent shows, whether live or in video, pose or model in obscene publications or pornographic materials or to sell or distribute the said materials shall suffer the penalty of reclusion perpetua in its [medium] maximum period.

If the child used as a performer, subject or seller/distributor is below twelve (12) years of age, the penalty OF DEATH shall be imposed [in its maximum period].

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The publication shall not be later than seven (7) days after approval hereof.

Approved,