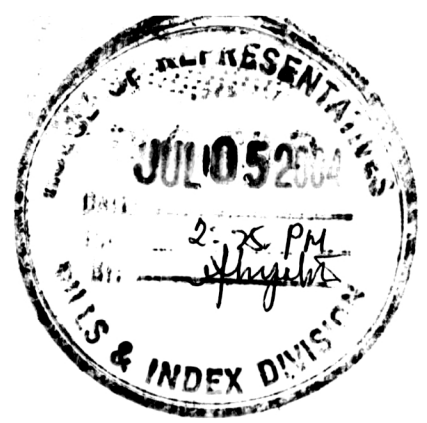




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1084

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE EDGAR T. ESPINOSA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Violence against women and children is one of the pervasive forms of human rights abuse in our society today. It encompasses, but is not limited to, battering, sexual abuse and harassment, trafficking in women, prostitution and exploitation.

Women victims are often forced to endure situations of violence due to the lack of services that will support the decision to resist violence. This problem is very prominent among victims, or survivors, of domestic violence who feel the need to leave their homes but are restrained from doing so by the absence or lack of financial resources, child care support, and shelter. Many actually think they do not have much choice in the situation but to suffer in silence and solitude, resulting in serious physical psychological consequences.

Victims of violence need a network of assistance, which can intervene quickly and effectively. Shelter, employment, childcare support, medical and legal assistance and psychological counseling are the common immediate needs of women and children survivors of violence. These can be provided or facilitated by crisis centers or shelters.

Aside from center-based programs and services, the communities, non-government organizations and government agencies with potential resources for responding to this issue need to work cooperatively and efficiently in order to provide effective assistance to the women and children crisis survivors. This requires adequate training on the part of the individuals who deal directly with them.

Republic Act 8505 partly addresses this problem through the provision of assistance and other protection to rape victims through the establishment of rape crisis centers. This bill seeks to expand the coverage of these centers to include victims of other forms of gender violence such as the trafficked, prostituted and/or exploited women. It also includes the Philippine National Police and the technical Education and Skills Development Authority in the committee tasked to oversee the implementation of the law.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is strongly urged.



EDGAR T. ESPINOSA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWELFTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1084

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE EDGAR T. ESPINOSA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTERS FOR WOMEN AND
CHILDREN VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF ABUSE OR EXPLOITATION,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. ***Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Women’s and Children’s Crisis Center Act.”

Section 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to value the dignity of women and children and to ensure the protection of their fundamental human rights. Thus, the State shall extend the necessary assistance to all women and children victims and survivors of abuse, neglect, exploitation and all other act inimical to their well-being.

Section 3. ***Coverage.*** – The beneficiaries of the center shall be women and children victims and survivors of the following acts and/or circumstances:

- a) sexual abuse;
- b) domestic violence;
- c) physical or psychological abuse;
- d) prostitution;
- e) trafficking;
- f) illegal recruitment and/or labor exploitation;
- g) armed conflict;
- h) abandonment, neglect, distress, and other forms of exploitation; and
- i) other acts and/or circumstances as provided by law or determined by the Interagency Council as herein created.

SECTION 4. *Women's and Children's Crisis Center.* – To carry out the above-declared policy, there shall be institutionalized in every province and city at least one (1) "Women's and Children's Crisis Center" hereinafter referred to as the Center. The Center shall be under the management and supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination with the local government units concerned.

SECTION 5. *Functions of the Center.* – The Center shall have the following functions:

- a) To provide temporary shelter or emergency refuge to women and children victims and survivors;
- b) To assist women and children needing medical care and when necessary, refer and/or bring them to the nearest health center or hospital for proper medical treatment;
- c) To provide guidance counseling service and undertake a comprehensive rehabilitation program for women and children victims and survivors;
- d) To establish an efficient system for the periodic inventory and monitoring of women and children victims and survivors within their jurisdiction, in coordination with the appropriate government and non-government agencies;
- e) To secure legal assistance or service, when necessary, for women and children victims and survivors;
- f) To undertake programs for development of material and child health care, consciousness-raising , and capability-building to enhance public awareness of issues and promote community participation;
- g) To provide training in traditional and non-traditional occupations and placement, seminars and income-generating activities and other relevant skills or training to help women and children to become productive members of society;
- h) To strengthen and facilitate linkages of women and children's groups and non-governmental organizations with the appropriate government agencies and local government units to maximize the delivery of basic and support services for women and children and advocate for the protection and advancement of their rights, and
- i) To perform such other functions to be determined by the Inter-Agency Council as herein created or as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Authority to Accept Donations.* – The Center or the DSWD, through the President of the Philippines, may accept donations and grants, both domestic and foreign, for the purposes relevant to its functions. Donations and grants coursed through the DSWD shall be allotted to the various Centers in such amount as it may deem best or for the purposes specified by the donor. Such donations and grants shall be subject to pertinent accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

All donations made by any person or entity in favor of the Center shall be exempt from the payment of the donor's tax and such amount of donation shall be deductible from the gross income of the donor pursuant to the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

SEC. 7. *Inter-Agency Council.* – There shall be established an Inter-Agency Council to be chaired by DSWD and to be composed of the heads or duly authorized representatives of the following agencies:

- a) Department of Health;
- b) Department of Justice;
- c) Department of Interior and Local Government;
- d) Department of Education, Culture and Sports;
- e) Commission On Higher Education;
- f) Department of Labor and Employment;
- g) Philippine Information Agency; and
- h) Two (2) representatives of accredited non-government organizations of/ for women and children determined by the DSWD.

SEC. 8. *Functions of the Inter-Agency Council.* – The Council shall have the following functions:

- a) Determine the composition of the Center's staff;
- b) Adopt programs for the rehabilitation of victims and survivors and their families;
- c) Adopt programs geared toward the development of long-term livelihood, technical, social and other related skills which would help the affected women and children become productive members of society;

- d) Develop training programs on human rights, gender sensitivity and legal management of cases of abuse and exploitation against women and children;
- e) Development programs to enhance public awareness on the abuse and exploitation of women and children; and
- f) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 9. **Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriations of DSWD. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the Center's continued operation and maintenance shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with other government agencies concerned, shall issue the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. **Separability Clause.** – If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts not affected shall remain valid.

SEC. 12. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 13. **Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED,