

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3950

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ABIGAIL FAYE C. FERRIOL**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Women and children are two sectors that suffer from marginalization and discrimination in present society. They are placed at a disadvantageous position on account of gender and age. The attached bill aims to uplift the lives of suffering women and children by strengthening and expanding the scope of social welfare extended to them.

The Constitution has recognized the plight of women and children. A number of provisions are devoted to them. For one, the rights of women form part of Article XIII of the Constitution which covers Social Justice and Human Rights. In the case of children, Article XV Section 3 (2) of the Constitution specifically states that:

The right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

Moreover, the Philippines is also bound by international agreements produced in the United Nations that it has agreed to. Two examples are the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). As a signatory to these agreements, it has committed to the advancement of the rights and welfare of women and children.

This bill recognizes the need to bolster the capacity of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in mitigating and alleviating the ill effects of marginalization and discrimination experienced by women and children. The current facilities are stretched to cover several provinces or cities; some are assigned to cover more than one region. The facilities have to be made more accessible to those who are in dire need of the services. To realize this, it is the purpose of this legislation that there will be at least one shelter for women and children established in each city in the National Capital Region and each province in the Philippines.

The shelters will serve as temporary refuge and support but are not limited to the following: street children, abandoned children, women and children who are victims of physical and sexual abuse, homeless or those displaced by armed conflict. These shelters will also serve the purpose of uplifting the conditions and rehabilitating the lives of those under its care.


ABIGAIL FAYE C. FERRIOL
Representative
Kalinga Party-list

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3950

Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE ABIGAIL FAYE C. FERRIOL

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHELTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EVERY CITY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND IN EVERY PROVINCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the "**Shelter for Women and Children Act of 2010.**"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to uphold the rights of women and children and promote their welfare. It is also the policy of the State that there shall be priority for the needs of women and children. Moreover, the State is also cognizant of the special protection needed by children from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

Towards this end, the State shall ensure that a shelter for women and children be established in every city in the National Capital Region as well as in every province in the Philippines. These shelters shall serve provide temporary refuge and support for the women and children.

SEC. 3. Coverage. – This Act shall cover all women and children. Children, for the purposes of this Act, are persons below eighteen (18) years of age. The following are the intended beneficiaries of this program:

- (a) abandoned and neglected children
- (b) street children
- (c) stowaway or runaway children
- (d) physically abused, maltreated or exploited children
- (e) sexually abused children
- (f) children victims of armed conflict
- (g) battered or physically abused women
- (h) sexually abused women
- (i) women victims of armed conflict
- (j) women and children in analogous circumstances

SEC. 4. Scope of the Program. – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall be primarily tasked implement this program. The DSWD shall coordinate with the local government units (LGUs) and other government agencies to ensure the rights of women and children are protected and that their needs are provided for. The DSWD, when needed, may also utilize private volunteers and develop partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civic organizations in the performance of services needed in the program. The services to be extended under this program shall include but will not be limited to the following:

- (a) Temporary shelter;
- (b) Emergency medical services;
- (c) Feeding program;
- (d) Educational, legal and counselling services
- (e) Livelihood program
- (f) Adoption or securing foster homes
- (g) Referral to other government agencies
- (h) Transfer to larger and more specialized institutions to ensure rehabilitation and recovery
- (i) Other functions deemed necessary for the effective implementation and attainment of the goals of this Act

SEC. 5. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the budget of the DSWD and shall be immediately included in the following year's annual General Appropriations Act, and thereafter.

SEC 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DSWD shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC 7. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,