

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 821

**22 MAR 2011**

Submitted by the Committee on Women & Gender Equality on  
Re: House Bill No. 4434

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill Nos. 1480 and 3427

Sponsors: Representatives Ma. Angelica M. Amante-Matba, Josephine Veronique Lacson-Noel, Luzviminda C. Ilagan, Emerenciana A. De Jesus, Rufus Rodriguez and Maximo B. Rodriguez

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Women & Gender Equality to which were referred House Bill Nos. 1480 introduced by Representatives Luzviminda C. Ilagan and Emerenciana A. De Jesus, entitled:

AN ACT

DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE OF EVERY YEAR AS "NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN"

and House Bill No. 3427 introduced by Representatives Rufus B. Rodriguez and Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr., entitled:

AN ACT

DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

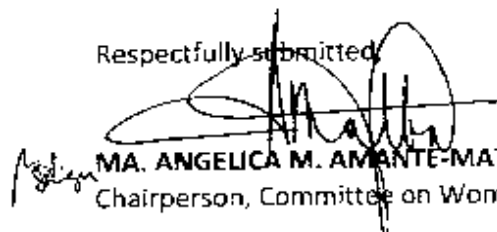
has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 4434 entitled:

AN ACT

DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE OF EVERY YEAR AS "NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN"

be approved in substitution of House Bill Nos. 1480 and 3427 with Representatives Luzviminda C. Ilagan, Emerenciana A. De Jesus, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Maximo B. Rodriguez, Ma. Angelica M. Amante-Matba, Josephine Veronique Lacson-Noel, Antonio L. Tinio, Bernadette Ramirez Herrera-Dy, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Jane T. Castro, Maria Jocelyn V. Bernos, Abigail Faye C. Ferriol, Neri J. Colmenares, Teddy A. Casiño, Rafael V. Mariano, Raymond V. Palatino, Reena Concepcion G. Obillo and Maria Isabelle 'Beng' G. Climaco as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

  
MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE-MATBA  
Chairperson, Committee on Women & Gender Equality

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
QUEZON CITY

(In substitution of House Bill Nos. 1480 and 3427)

Introduced by Representatives Luzviminda C. Bagan, Emerenciana A. De Jesus, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Maximo B. Rodriguez, Ma. Angelica M. Amante-Matba, Josephine Veronique Lacson-Noel, Antonio L. Tinio, Bernadette Ramirez Herrera-Dy, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Jane T. Castro, Maria Jocelyn V. Bernos, Abigail Faye C. Ferriol, Neri J. Colmenares, Teddy A. Casiño, Rafael V. Mariano, Raymond V. Palatino, Reena Concepcion G. Obillo and Maria Isabelle 'Beng' G. Climaco

**AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE OF EVERY YEAR AS "NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN"**

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

1           SECTION 1.     In recognition of the need to establish a comprehensive and structured  
2 campaign for national consciousness on anti-violence against women, November 25 of every year is  
3 hereby declared as a "National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women".  
4

5           SEC.     2.     The following activities shall be undertaken in observance of this occasion:  
6

7           (a)     Heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, government-  
8 owned-and-controlled corporations, local government units, and employers  
9 in the private sector shall together with their employees, organize, engage  
10 or participate in activities designed to raise public awareness on the  
11 problem of violence against women and the elimination of all forms of  
12 violence against women.  
13

14           (b)     The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO),  
15 Philippine Information Agency together with the Bureau of Broadcast and  
16 other members of the government media concerned shall be mandated to  
17 allocate a minimum of one hour airtime for programs exclusively raising  
18 public awareness on the problem of violence against women and the  
19 elimination of all forms of violence against women. Relative thereto, all  
20 Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster ng Pilipinas-affiliated television and radio  
21 networks nationwide are encouraged to allocate airtime for said programs.  
22

23           (c)     Publishers of local newspapers and magazines shall be encouraged  
24 to highlight the problem of violence against women and the elimination of  
25 all forms of violence against women.  
26

27           (d)     The Department of Education (DepED), the Commission on Higher  
28 Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development  
29 Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the Philippine Commission on  
30 Women (PCW) formerly the National Commission on the Role of Filipino  
31 Women (NCRFW), women non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and  
32 other NGOs advocating for women's human rights, shall lead public and

private school communities at all levels in organizing consciousness raising activities on the problem of violence against women and the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

3  
4  
5       SEC. 3.       The National Statistics Office (NSO), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the

6 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Labor and Employment  
7 (DOLE), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and all Philippine embassies and consulates shall, in  
8 coordination with the PCW, undertake data gathering and systematization of databases on all forms  
9 of violence against women, including Filipino women working and/or residing abroad. These  
10 agencies shall consolidate their findings and make a report to the public every November 25 of each  
11 year, on the statistics and status of violence against women.

12  
13       SEC. 4.       The PCW and the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT),  
14 constituted under Section 20 of RA 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act Of 2003 and the Inter-  
15 Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IAC-VAWC), constituted under  
16 Section 39 of RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004, shall  
17 coordinate, monitor and evaluate the activities outlined in the annual 18-day campaign at the  
18 national level.

19  
20       At the regional level, the Regional Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking and VAWC  
21 (RIACAT-VAWC) shall likewise coordinate, monitor and evaluate said activities for the annual  
22 campaign at the provincial, city, municipal and barangay level. They shall also make an annual report  
23 of their findings to be reported to the public every November 25.

24  
25       The PCW, IACAT AND THE IAC-VAWC shall likewise coordinate and tap the expertise of other  
26 government agencies and institutions like the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board  
27 (MTRCB) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), as well as other private sector  
28 organizations in the implementation of activities for the 18-day campaign.

29  
30       SEC. 5.       Funds for the implementation of the aforesaid activities, programs and  
31 projects shall be taken out of the 5% Gender and Development budget allotted to all government  
32 agencies and local government units as mandated by Section 36 of Republic Act 9710 or the Magna  
33 Carta of Women.

34  
35       SEC. 6.       If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held to be  
36 unconstitutional or invalid, the validity of other sections herein shall not be affected thereby.

37  
38       SEC. 7.       This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two  
39 national newspapers of general circulation.

40  
41       Approved,  
42

## FACT SHEET

House Bill No. **4434**

(In Substitution of House Bill Nos. 1480 & 3427 )

### **AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE OF EVERY YEAR AS "NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN"**

*Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN, EMERENCIANA A. DE JESUS, RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ, MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE-MATBA, JOSEPHINE VERONIQUE LACSON-NOEL, ANTONIO L. TINIO, BERNADETTE RAMIREZ HERRERA-DY, LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, JANE T. CASTRO, MARIA JOCELYN V. BERNOS, ABIGAIL FAYE C. FERRIOL, NERI J. COLMENARES, TEDDY A. CASIÑO, RAFAEL V. MARIANO, RAYMOND V. PALATINO, REENA CONCEPCION G. OBILLO AND MARIA ISABELLE 'BENG' G. CLIMACO*

*Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY (PRIMARY)  
Committee Chairperson: REP. MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE-MATBA*

#### **OBJECTIVE**

- To provide an enabling mechanism for Resolution 54/134 on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (VAW) which the United Nations General Assembly adopted at its 83<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting of the 54 session on December 17, 1999.

#### **KEY PROVISIONS**

- Recognizes the need to establish a comprehensive campaign for national consciousness on violence against women (VAW);
- Mandates heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, government-owned and controlled corporations, local governments units, and employers in the private sector together with their employees to organize, engage or participate in activities designed to raise public awareness and elimination of VAW ;
- Mandates the Presidential Communications Operations (PCOO), Philippine Information Agency (PIA) together with the Bureau of Broadcast and other members of the government media concerned to allocate a minimum of one (1) hour airtime for programs exclusively raising public awareness on the problem of VAW and the elimination of all forms of VAW;
- Mandates the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), women non-governmental organizations and other non-governmental organizations advocating for women's human rights to lead all public and private school communities at all levels in organizing consciousness raising activities on the problem of violence against women and the elimination of all forms of violence against women;

- Mandates the National Statistics Office (NSO), the Philippine National Police (PNP), ~~the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the~~ Department of Labor & Employment (DOLE), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), and all Philippine embassies and consulates in coordination with the PCW to undertake the data gathering and systematization of a database on all forms of violence against women, including Filipino women working and/or residing abroad;
- Creates a compliance and monitoring team composed of the PCW and the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking (IACAT), the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children (IACAFAWC) and the Regional Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking and VAWC (RIACAT-VAWC) on the activities outlined in the annual 18-day campaign.
- Uses funds which will be taken out of the five percent (5%) Gender and Development (GAD) budget allocated to all government agencies and local government units for the implementation of activities, programs and projects.

## **RELATED LAWS**

- Republic Act No. 7192 (Women in Development and Nation Building Act)
- Republic Act No. 7877 (Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995)
- Republic Act No. 8353 (Anti-Rape Law)
- Republic Act No. 8505 (Rape Victims Assistance and Protection Act of 1998)
- Republic Act No. 9208 (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003) and
- Republic Act No. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004)
- Republic Act No. 9710 (Magna Carta of Women)

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1480

Introduced by Gabriela Women's Party  
Representatives LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN and EMERENCIANA A. DE JESUS

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

One of the most pervasive problems of women worldwide is gender violence. Everywhere and at all ages, women are victims of violence. To address this problem, the United Nations has generated various international instruments and urged governments to pursue policies and programs that will empower women to advance their rights and welfare and prevent gender violence.

Specifically, the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985) rallied governments and women's organizations and other non-governmental organizations to focus on violence against women as this hinders women's participation in development and the promotion of their human rights. Thus in 1979, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was held to mobilize State Parties to take appropriate actions on violence against women. This paved the way for the passage by the UN General Assembly of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in December 1979.

The Beijing Platform for Action, a blueprint for the women's advancement in countries around the world adopted by governments in 1995 during the Fourth World Conference on Women also listed 12 critical areas of concerns, which include ending violence against women and promoting women's human rights. At the national level, in recognition of the importance of the role of women in nation building, the Philippine government ratified RA. No. 7192, or Women in Development and Nation Building Act (1991) which guarantees equal participation of women in nation building. Specific measures were also enacted to address specific forms of violence against women. These are: RA 7877 or Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995, RA 8353 or Anti Rape Law, classifying rape as a crime against persons, RA 8505 or Rape Victims Assistance and Protection Act of 1998, crating a women's crisis center in every province and RA 9208 or Anti Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

While these efforts have contributed to bringing into the fore the violence committed against women, the fact remains that physical, sexual, psychological and state violence continue to be perpetrated against women. In the Philippines, 1 in 5 aged 15 to 49 has experienced physical violence since age 5 (NSO). From 2002 to November 2008, 51,104 VAWC cases were recorded by the PNP-WPCC, with 9,485 cases in 2009. Sexual harassment cases increased from 907 in 2008 to 960 in 2009. Eight out of ten cases of violence against women were perpetrated by men.

This situation is only reflective of the pervasive thinking that women are mere objects that can be abused for men's and society's convenience. On a deeper analysis, this situation reflects an existing unequal power relation between men and women and the inequities in the prevailing socio-economic structures in many countries such as the Philippines.

Despite economic modernization and political advancement, the traditional values, that treat women as secondary citizens, have remained generally intact as these have been passed on from generation to generation. It is time that we discard the values that treat women as secondary citizens.

The pervasive patriarchal culture that views and treats women as objects and properties of men must be transformed into one that looks and treats women as equal partners in development and nation building. Towards this, a massive education and reorientation on gender roles in society and the important contributions specifically of women in society must be incessantly and systematically carried out. Legislative measure is one of the instruments that can promote positive values towards women, uphold the dignity and human rights of every person in society, and appreciate the vital contributions of women and men in national development.

At the international level, the United Nations General Assembly on its 83rd plenary meeting of the 54th session on December 17, 1999 adopted Resolution 54/134 on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The UN General Assembly in this resolution, decided to designate November 25 as International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

In the said resolution, the UN General Assembly invites, as appropriate, Governments, the relevant agencies, bodies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and other international organizations and nongovernmental organizations to organize on that day activities designed to raise public awareness of the problem of violence against women.

Also in the same resolution, the UN General Assembly expresses concern that some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, migrant women, women living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, the girl child, women with disabilities, elderly women and women in situations of armed conflict, are especially vulnerable to violence. It also exhibits alarm that women do not fully enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and concern about the long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in relation to violence against women.

In the resolution, member states also recognize that violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men, and the prevention of their full advancement. They also affirmed that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into subordinate positions, compared with men.


November 25 is significant to many women's organizations and movements worldwide. This was the day when three sisters (Patria, Maria Teresa and Minerva Mirabal) from the Dominican Republic, who were involved in activities against the Trujillo dictatorship, were persecuted and later on assassinated in an accident on November 25, 1960. The sisters referred to as the "Inolvidables Mariposas", the "Unforgettable Butterflies," have become a symbol of the victimization of women. They have become symbols against prejudice and stereotypes.

The death of the three sisters caused public uproar not only in the Dominican Republic but in the whole Latin American region. The protests also spread in other countries so that a 16-Day of Activism Campaign Against Gender Violence which starts on November 25 and ends on December 10 every year was launched by 23 women organizations from 20 countries led by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991.

In the Philippines, as early as 1999, women organizations have been commemorating November 25 as the International Day Against Violence Against Women. Consciousness-raising activities, protest actions, seminars and theater presentations have been mounted during this day to highlight the issue of violence against women. However, these efforts are very limited and center mainly in the key cities of the country.

To have an enabling mechanism for this UN General Assembly resolution at the national level, this bill proposes that November 25 of every year be observed in the Philippines as a National Consciousness Day For the Elimination of Violence Against Women and that appropriate mechanisms be made available to realize this effort.

Toward this end, the support of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN  
Gabriela Women's Party List

  
EMERENCIANA A. DE JESUS  
Gabriela Women's Party List

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1480

Introduced by Gabriela Women's Party  
Representatives **LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN** and **EMERENCIANA A. DE JESUS**

**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE OF EVERY YEAR**  
**AS "NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF**  
**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN"**

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

**SECTION 1.** In recognition of the need to establish a comprehensive and structured campaign for national consciousness on anti-violence against women, November 25 of every year is hereby declared as a "National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women".

**SECTION 2.** The following activities shall be undertaken in observance of this occasion:

- (a) Heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, government-owned-and -controlled corporations, local government units, and employers in the private sector shall together with their employees, organize, engage or participate in activities designed to raise public awareness on the problem of violence against women and the elimination of all forms of violence against women.
- (b) The Philippine Information Agency shall be mandated to allocate a minimum of one hour airtime for programs exclusively raising public awareness on the problem of violence against women and the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Relative thereto, all Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster ng Pilipinas-affiliated television and radio networks nationwide are encouraged to allocate airtime for said programs.
- (c) Publishers of local newspapers and magazines are encouraged to highlight the problem of violence against women and the elimination of all forms of violence against women.
- (d) The Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, in coordination with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), women non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other nongovernmental organizations advocating for women's human rights, shall lead public and private school communities at all levels in organizing consciousness raising activities on the problem of violence against women and the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

SECTION 3. The National Statistics Office, Philippine National Police, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Foreign Affairs and all Philippine embassies and consulates shall, in coordination with the PCW, undertake data gathering and systematization database on all forms of violence against women, including Filipino women working and/or residing abroad. These agencies shall consolidate their findings and make a report to the public every November 25 of each year, on the statistics and status of violence against women.

SECTION 4. A compliance and monitoring team headed by a duly designated representative of the PCW shall be created to coordinate and monitor the implementation of this Act. Said team shall be composed of one representative from each of the following agencies:

- (a) The Philippine Commission on Women;
- (b) The Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- (c) The Department of Education;
- (d) The Commission on Higher Education;
- (e) The Department of Interior and Local Government;
- (f) The Department of Foreign Affairs;
- (g) The Department of Justice;
- (h) The overseas Workers Welfare Administration;
- (i) The Philippine Overseas Employment Agency;
- (j) The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board; and
- (k) Three NGO representatives coming from the sectors of women, children, and overseas Filipino workers.

The team shall be headed by the duly designated representative of the Philippine Commission on Women. Members of the team shall receive emoluments as may be determined by the team in accordance with existing budget and accounting rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. Funds for the implementation of the aforesaid activities, programs and projects shall be taken out of the 5% Gender and Development budget allotted to all government agencies and local government units.

SECTION 6. If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the validity of other sections herein shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and  
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.

---

House Bill No. 3127

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1979 the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was convened to mobilize State Parties to take appropriate action against violence against women. This paved the way for the passage by the UN General Assembly of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in December 1979 and the Beijing Platform in 1995.

Republic Act No. 9170, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women, was enacted as our country's response to its obligations under the CEDAW.

Republic Act No. 7877, or Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995; Republic Act No. 8353, or Anti Rape Law Republic Act No. 8505, or Rape Victims Assistance and Protection Act of 1993; Republic Act No. 9208, or Anti-Trafficking in Person Act of 2003 and Republic Act No. 9262, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act were also enacted.

The United Nations General Assembly, on December 17 1990 adopted Resolution 54/134 designating November 25 as the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women. Said Resolution invites members of the United Nations to organize activities designed to raise public awareness of the problem of violence against women.

This bill proposed that November 25 of every year be observed in the Philippines as a National Consciousness Day on the Elimination of Violence against Women and that appropriate mechanisms be made to realize this effort.

Approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and  
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.

---

House Bill No. 3427

AN ACT

DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE OF EVERY YEAR AS THE  
NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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

**SEC. 1.** In recognition of the need to establish a comprehensive and structured campaign for national consciousness on against violence against women, November 25 of every year is hereby declared as the "National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of Violence Women".

**SEC. 2.** The following activities shall be undertaken in observance of this occasion:

(a) Heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, government-owned and controlled corporations, local government units, and employers in the private sector shall, together with their employees, organize, engage, or participate in activities designed to raise public awareness on the problem of violence against women and the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

(b) The Philippine Information Agency (PIA) shall be mandated to allocate a minimum of one (1) hour airtime for programs exclusively raising public awareness on the problem of violence against women and the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Relative thereto all Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster ng Pilipinas-affiliated television and radio networks nationwide are encouraged to allocated airtime for said programs.

(c) Publisher of local newspapers and magazines are encouraged to highlight the problem of violence against women and the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

(d) The Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development

Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the Philippine Commission on women (PCW), women non-governmental organizations and other non-governmental organizations advocating for women's human rights, shall lead public and private school communities at all levels in organizing consciousness raising activities on the problems of violence against women and the elimination of all forms of violence against women

**SEC. 3.** The National Statistics Office (NSO), Philippine National Police (PNP) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and all Philippine embassies and consulates shall, in coordination with the PCW, undertake data gathering and systematization of its database on all forms of violence against women, including Filipino women working or residing abroad. These agencies shall consolidate their findings and make a report to the public on the statistics and status of violence against women every November 25 of each year.

**SEC. 4.** A compliance and monitoring team headed by a duly designated representative of the PCW shall be created to coordinate and monitor the implementation of this Act. Said team shall be composed of one (1) representative from each of the following agencies:

- (a) PCW;
- (b) DSWD;
- (c) DepEd;
- (d) CHED;
- (e) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- (f) DFA;
- (g) Department of Justice (DOJ);
- (h) Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA);
- (i) Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA);
- (j) Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB); and
- (k) Three (3) representatives of non-governmental organizations from the sectors of women, children and overseas Filipino workers.

The team shall be headed by the duly designated representatives of the PCW. Members of the team shall receive emoluments as may be

determined by the team in accordance with existing budget and accounting rules and regulations.

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**SEC. 5.** Funds for the implementations of the afore-stated activities, programs, and projects shall be taken out of the five percent (5%) Gender and Development budget allotted to all government agencies and local government units.

**SEC. 6.** If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the validity of other sections herein shall not be affected thereby.

**SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

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Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**HON. JOSEPH EMILIO A. ABAYA**

*Congressman, 1st District, Cavite  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations*

March 8, 2011

**HON. MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE-MATBA**

*Chairperson  
Committee on Women and Gender Equality*

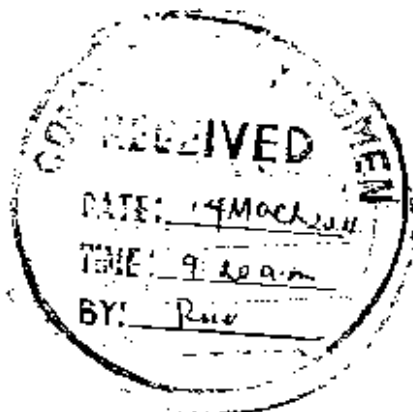
**Dear Chairperson Amante-Matba:**

Please be informed that the Committee on Appropriations in its meeting held today at Conference Rooms 9 & 10, R.V. Mitra Building, approved to report out Substitute Bill to House Bill Nos. 1480 and 3427, entitled "AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE OF EVERY YEAR AS "NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN" without amendment.

Very truly yours,

  
**JOSEPH EMILIO AGUINALDO ABAYA**

Cc: Rep. Luzviminda C. Nagan  
Rep. Emerenciana A. De Jesus  
Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez  
Rep. Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.





Republic of the Philippines  
 House of Representatives  
**Committee on Women & Gender Equality (CWGE)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Ramon V. Mitra Building, Basilio Pambansan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City  
 Telehone: (632) 9315001 Loc. 7148; Telefax: (632) 9326169. E-mail Addresses: women\_congress@yahoo.com / women\_cwge@congress.gov.ph

as 2/16

14 February 2011

THE HONORABLE  
 REP. JOSEPH EMILIO A. ABAYA  
 Chairman, Committee on Appropriations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 Committee on Appropriations  
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By: *[Signature]* Control No. \_\_\_\_\_

Thru : Ms. Cecilia C. de Sahagun  
 Technical Staff Chief  
 Ms. Julieta R. Apostol  
 Service Director  
 Ms. Carolyn Q. Bukuhan  
 Committee Secretary

Your Honor:

The Committee on Women & Gender Equality (CWGE) in its meeting held 23 November 2010, approved the Substitute Bill entitled, "AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE OF EVERY YEAR AS 'NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN'," a consolidation of House Bill Nos. 1480 (Reps. Luzviminda C. Iragan & Emerenciana A. De Jesus/changed referral from the Committee on Revision of Laws to the Committee on Women & Gender Equality) and 3427 (Reps. Rufus B. Rodriguez & Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.)

May we therefore refer for your funding comments Section 5 of the Substitute Bill.

Attached for guidance are the following: Unnumbered Substitute Bill, Minutes of the Meeting dated 23 November 2010, House Bill Nos. 1480 & 3427.

For appropriate action.

Very truly yours,

*[Signature]*  
 MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE-MATBA  
 Chair, Committee on Women & Gender Equality

*[Signature]*  
 Carol Soria

Filed in next Committee

meeting.

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Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
15<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD (3<sup>RD</sup>) MOTHER COMMITTEE MEETING CONDUCTED BY THE  
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY**

November 23, 2010, 1: 30 p.m., Ramon V. Mitra Conference Rooms 7 & 8

**AUTHORS PRESENT:**

1. Rep. Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.  
Partylist Abante Mindanao
2. Rep. Luzviminda C. Ilagan  
Partylist Gabriela

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Ms. Emmeline L. Verzosa  
Executive Director, Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)
2. Ms. Gert A. R. Libang  
Deputy Secretary General, Gabriela Alliance
3. Ms. Betty Lou Peñera  
GAD Focal Person, Philippine Information Agency (PIA)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Rep. Josephine Veronique R. Lacson-Noel (Lone Dist., Malabon City), Acting Chair and Senior Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality called the meeting to order at 1:54 p.m. The calling of the Roll was dispensed with upon motion of Rep. Ilagan duly seconded by Rep. Antonio L. Tinio (Partylist ACT Teachers).

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

On motion of Rep. Ilagan duly seconded by Rep. Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy (Partylist Bagong Henerasyon), the Minutes of the organizational meeting held on September 14, 2010 was approved.

**III. DELIBERATIONS/ACTIONS ON MEASURES:**

Rep. Ilagan manifested that the Gabriela Women's Party refiled a legislative proposal (HB 1480), the contents of which are exactly the same as House Bill No. 3427 referred to the Committee on Revision of Laws last August 2, 2010. After her manifestation, she moved to tackle simultaneously the aforementioned bills awaiting signature of the

Chairperson of the Committee on Revision of Laws for change of referral of House Bill No. 3427 to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality as mentioned earlier by the Acting Chair in her opening remarks. Rep. Ilagan also moved to fastrack the consolidation of the bills as soon as said request is approved by the Committee on Rules and for the immediate submission of the committee report.

At this point, the Committee Secretary, upon the instruction of the Chair, informed the body that the committee has just received information that the Chair of the Committee on Revision of Laws conforms to the request for change of referral of House Bill No. 1480. For information of the body, she also said that technically there is no approval yet as to the change of referral, hence it was not included in the agenda, but with the premise that as soon as it is approved both bills will be consolidated for reporting out. She further said that the Chair of the Committee on Revision of Laws also signified her intention to become a co-author of the bill.

Rep. Rodriguez, co-author of House Bill No. 3427 read the explanatory note of the same bill as his sponsorship speech.

Rep. Ilagan also gave some details on the significance of November 25 as the National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of VAW. She stated that it is a very significant day to all women organizations and movements worldwide because on November 25, 1960, three Mirabal sisters known as "Inolvides Mariposas" or unforgettable butterflies from the Dominican Republic who were involved in some activities against the "Trujillo dictatorship" were persecuted and later assassinated. The three, according to her became a symbol of the victimization of women and ongoing prejudices and stereotyping that women suffer from. Their death created a big uproar not only in their country but also in the whole of Latin America which spread to other parts of the world. Since then, the 16-day campaign celebration of activism against VAW starts on November 25 and ends in December 10 coinciding with the Human Rights Day launched every year by various women organizations and movements all over the world.

She also informed the body that as early as 1999, their women's group has already been commemorating this very significant day with protest actions and consciousness awareness-raising activities so that people would know the manifestations of VAW. She added that efforts are still limited and hindered by lack of resources and for many other reasons, hence they proposed that November 25 each year should be declared as National Day of Consciousness for the Elimination of VAW based on the declaration of the United Nations General Assembly so that appropriate mechanisms should be taken to realize this effort.

Ms. Versoza of PCW expressed their support to the proposed legislative measure. She also echoed the statement of Rep. Ilagan that they have been observing the significance of November 25 and that all efforts must be done to eliminate VAW. She likewise informed the body that the 18-day campaign was materialized by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 1172 in 2006 when the 16-day of activism was increased by two days, ending in December 12 which is the Anti-Trafficking Day that is when the Philippines and other countries signed the Convention on Transnational Crimes which included a Protocol on Anti-Trafficking (known as the Palermo Protocol) which was signed in Palermo, Italy.

She said that since 2002, the Philippines has participated in this worldwide campaign to eliminate VAW which resulted in heightened awareness on VAW issues that led to the passage of landmark legislations addressing violence against women and their children in 2004 and human trafficking in 2003, among others. The previous campaigns also highlighted the popularization of the newly passed laws, including the other Anti-VAWC laws on rape and sexual harassment. She also mentioned that the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) was involved in the Committee on Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee which was convened by the then NCRFW. In the years that followed, they called on better implementation of the law by putting more efforts to disseminate information which is not enough so they asked the National Statistics Office (NSO) for a National Demographic and Health Survey in 2008 that includes a chapter on VAW and in their survey of 14,000 households which includes more than 9,000 women aged 15-49, one out of five experienced physical abuse, and one out ten experienced sexual abuse which can run into like 4 million which is the projected number but comparing it with reported cases of the police for 2009 figures is about 9,500 reported cases while Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) records about 5,000. The barangay officials as collected by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) reported only about 15,000 women reporting VAW cases so there is a big number of women suffering in silence not reporting abuses inflicted on them.

She also mentioned the importance of stepping up the campaign so that women as well as men will be aware that it is wrong to abuse women. She likewise emphasized the significance of the law and further said that globally the UN Secretary General has organized UNite to End VAW and has been collecting signatures from government heads for support. She also took the opportunity to enjoin the Members of the House of Representatives to sign and show to the world that the top level officials in the Philippines are committed to end VAW. Recently, they reiterated the campaign covering the period 2008-2015 with the objective of raising public awareness, increasing political will and resources for preventing and responding to all forms of VAW and girls in all parts of the world. The UN SecGen called also on governments, civil society, women organizations, young people, private sector, artists, media and the entire UN system and individual women and men to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of VAW and girls, she added.

She also made some recommendations, as follows:

1. To further strengthen the provisions outlined in Presidential Proclamation No. 1172, this proposed measure may include the provision mandating the PCW and the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking (IACAT) and Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children (IACA-VAWC) to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the activities outlined in the annual 18-day campaign at the national level and at the Regional Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking and VAWC (RIACAT-VAWC), down to the provincial, city, municipal and in some municipalities they have at the barangay level a specific provision on reportorial functions may also be included in the section;
2. Having noted that the contents of Section 2 of HB 3427 on "Roles and Responsibilities of Government Agencies and other Institutions" are already included in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9208 and RA 9262, she suggested that this section may instead mandate agencies to institutionalize their Anti-VAW efforts as part of their GAD mainstreaming activities so that also to ensure women should have GAD budget that can be used;

3. They also suggested that instead of creating a separate compliance and monitoring team, the bill could instead mention that existing anti-VAW mechanisms at the national level in coordination with PCW and that the regional, provincial, city and municipal IACATVAWC at the regional and local levels shall coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Act; and
4. To ensure the participation of agencies that are non-members of the national Anti-VAW and human trafficking councils, the proposed measure may include a provision mandating the PCW and the IACAT and IACVAWC to coordinate and tap the expertise of other agencies and institutions like for example the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) in the implementation activities for the 18-day campaign and maybe the private sector like the Rotary.

She also cited the limitation of IACAT and IACVAWC because they are focused on the two forms of violence so rape and sexual harassment are not included further stressing that if the call is for the elimination of all forms of VAW then it should be included as well as other forms of VAW. Before ending her presentation, she enjoined legislators to the launching of the 18-day campaign "Magna Carta ni Pinay, Gawing Tunay" and announced the holding of a forum on Women's Priority Legislative Agenda (WPLA) partnering with House of Representatives. She stressed that they are pushing for the amendment of other Anti-VAW laws on Anti-Trafficking and Anti-Prostitution Laws and others.

Ms. Libang of Gabriela Alliance thanked the committee for the invitation to attend the meeting. She said that the campaign against VAW is a flagship program of Gabriela Alliance since 1984 which is also the birth of their organization. Even with numerous anti-VAW laws, VAW still continues stating that based on recorded cases that every hour, one woman falls a VAW victim which is under reported.

She pointed out that they were alarmed with various rape cases last October to November of this year including gang rapes throughout the country specifically mentioning the case of Florence, a volunteer nurse in Upi, Maguindanao. She emphasized that awareness on violence against women should be a daily concern.

Ms. Peñera said that PIA is fully supportive of the bill and she was very pleased to report to the body that PIA Chair Coloma is the chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee composed of Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), Advertising Board (ADBOARD) and the Advertising Council of the Philippines. She further said that they are also supportive of 18-day campaign on VAW. She made a recommendation to include an expanded coverage since the government media is supposed to be under one organization in the leadership of Secretary Coloma with PIA as one component together with the Bureau of Broadcast and the rest of the government media. She added that if there is going to be an amendment on said bills, they are suggesting that the Presidential Communications Operations Office should be included in its key provisions because said office is composed of the then Office of the Press Secretary, PIA, Bureau of Broadcast which has 27 or 31 radio stations, NBN 4, RPN 9, IBC 13, National Information Bureau, Bureau of Communications Services and others. She also suggested to strengthen the law by probably making it an 18-day campaign instead of one day because the mode is raising public awareness. She also suggested for the increase in penalties to be meted for violators as well as involve the educational

system in the advocacy. She stressed the need to look at it as a holistic problem so the advocacy should not be relied on media alone but it should also touch the hearts and minds of parents, teachers, communities, and legislators. She also mentioned that the PCOO has government media as its members, the PIA has a Gender Equality committee and there are a lot of active private sectors. She mentioned that the Kapisanan ng Mga Broadcasters will be producing their own television ad on VAW and the Film Academy of the Philippines was able to put up in the cinema houses three-minute VAW trailers. She also informed the body that the MTRCB will produce a 3-minute infomercial on VAW and following the trend in media technology, the PIA will also be putting up a website to catch the interest of the public who are using the Twitter, Facebook and other media social networking. She also mentioned that with the Radyo ng Bayan having around 31 stations airing VAW awareness campaign and the private sector campaign through KBP which will surely tap Channel 2, DZMM, DZBB and others, there is no reason that the campaign will fail. She also suggested to include in the bill the participation of the private sector and also the Gender Equality Committee of the Secretary. Ms. Peñera stressed further that they are in full support of the bill and would like to be in partnership with the private sector, government sector and the legislative sector.

Rep. Lani Mercado-Revilla (2<sup>nd</sup> Dist., Cavite) asked PIA on their experience regarding the allocation of their GAD fund and as to whether they really allocated or will they be allocating certain amount for the production of VAW materials, etc. which entails a lot of expenses. Ms. Peñera responded that they are allowed to allot 5% of PIA's budget for this kind of activities but since it entails a lot of expenses they do a lot of adjusting/improving of whatever materials they have in the past since it delivers the same message on VAW and she further said that VAW campaign is a never ending advocacy.

Rep. Herrera-Dy expressed her desire to be a co-author of the bill and likewise Rep. Mercado-Revilla mentioned that she has signed the co-authorship on her intention to become also a co-author of the bill. Rep. Mercado-Revilla also suggested that the members of the committee be also made as co-authors of the bill which prompted Rep. Ilagan to say that all members present will be co-authors of the bill.

Rep. Tinio moved for the approval in principle of House Bill No. 3427 in consolidation with House Bill No. 1480 bill which was duly seconded by Rep. Jane Castro (2<sup>nd</sup> Dist., Capiz).

At this juncture, the Acting Chair instructed the committee secretariat to prepare the committee report upon approval by the Committee on Rules the change of referral of House Bill No. 1480 from the Committee on Revision of Laws to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

Rep. Tinio moved to amend his previous amendment that amendments made should be subject to style considerations which was likewise noted by the Chair. Rep. Castro suggested that in Section 4, subparagraph (a) should be deleted as well as the mention of PCW in the second paragraph citing that it is already redundant since it was already mentioned in the first paragraph.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

Rep. Revilla took the opportunity to request the committee to help assist an OFW -the mother of baby George Francis, on the case filed against her by the NBI on the alleged abandonment of her child. The lady solon said that she is privy to the actual facts of the alleged child abandonment case. She said that she will furnish the committee a copy of her privilege speech as requested by the Chair.

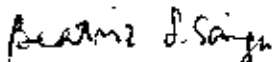
Rep. Lacson-Noel likewise informed the body that there is an on-going exhibit at the North Lobby in the observance of the commemoration of the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW). She likewise expressed her gratitude and appreciation to those who participated in the opening program and ribbon-cutting ceremonies last November 22. She added that the exhibit which started last November 22 will end on November 25, 2010.

She also announced that the Committee on Women & Gender Equality, in collaboration with the Philippine Commission on Women and other concerned committees of the House, will conduct a Forum on Women's Priority Legislative Agenda on December 7, 2010, Tuesday at 1:30 p.m., RVM Conference Room 6. She expressed hope that the committee members will be present on said forum

V. ADJOURNMENT


On the duly seconded motion of Rep. Ilagan, the meeting was adjourned. It was 2:50 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing minutes.



**BEATRIZ L. SAंगा**  
Committee Secretary

Approved by:



**REP. JOSEPHINE VERONIQUE R. LACSON-NOEL**  
Acting Committee Chairperson/Senior Vice Chairperson

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