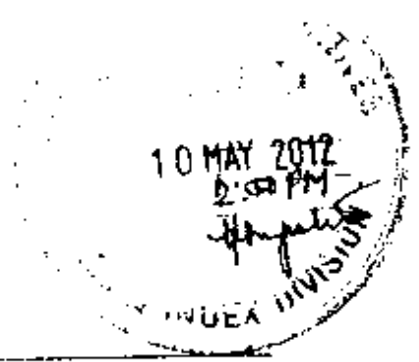


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2169

10 MAY 2012

Submitted by the Committee on Women & Gender Equality on 10 MAY 2012
Re: House Bill No. 3155
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill Nos. 3447, 3148, 3151, 3333 & 3950
Sponsors: Representatives Ma. Angelica M. Amante-Matba, Maria Isabelle G. Climaco, Josephine Veronique Lacson-Noel, Luzviminda C. Ilagan and Lani Mercado-Revilla

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Women & Gender Equality to which were referred House Bill No. 3148 introduced by Representative Ruben B. Ecleo, Jr., entitled:

"AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A
WOMEN'S CENTER IN THE PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES."

House Bill No. 3151 introduced by Representative Ruben B. Ecleo, Jr., entitled:

"AN ACT
ESTABLISHING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE CENTERS FOR
WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY OF THE PHILIPPINES,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND OTHER PURPOSES."

House Bill No. 3333 introduced by Representatives Rufus B. Rodriguez & Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr., entitled:

"AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A BARANGAY DAY CARE AND WOMEN'S SUPPORT CENTER IN EVERY
BARANGAY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

House Bill No. 3447 introduced by Representatives Ma. Angelica M. Amante-Matba, Maria Isabelle G. Climaco, Luzviminda C. Ilagan & Reena Concepcion G. Obillo entitled:

"AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8505, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'RAPE VICTIM
ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1998' AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

and

House Bill No. 3950 introduced by Representative Abigail Faye C. Ferriol, entitled:

"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,"

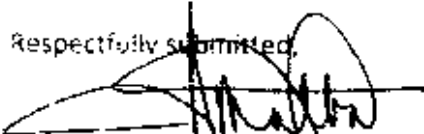
has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. **6155**, entitled:

An Act

Establishing Resource Development and Crisis Assistance Centers for Women and Children In Every Province and City of the Country, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 8505, Otherwise Known as the "Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act of 1998"

be approved in substitution of House Bill Nos. 3148, 3333, 3151, 3447 & 3950 with Representatives Ma. Angelica M. Amante-Matba, Maria Isabel G. Climaco, Ruben B. Ecleo, Jr., Rufus B. Rodriguez, Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr., Abigail Faye C. Ferriol, Luzviminda C. Ilagan, Reena Concepcion G. Obillo, and Winnie T. Castelo as authors thereof

Respectfully submitted,


MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE-MATBA

Chairperson, Committee on Women & Gender Equality

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

15th Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **3155**

(In substitution of House Bill Nos. 3447, 3148, 3151, 3333 & 3950)

Introduced by Representatives Ma. Angelica M. Amante-Matba, Maria Isabelle G. Clmaco, Ruben B. Ecleo, Jr., Rufus B. Rodriguez, Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr., Abigail Faye G. Ferriol, Luzviminda C. Liagan, Reena Concepcion G. Obillo, and Winnie T. Castelo

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE CENTERS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY OF THE COUNTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8505, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "RAPE VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1998"

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 8505 shall be amended to read as follows:

2
3 "SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the [Rape Victim Assistance and Protection
4 Act of 1998] RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE FOR WOMEN AND
5 CHILDREN ACT OF 2012"

6
7 SEC. 2. Section 2 of the same Act is hereby also amended to read as follows:

8 "SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to [provide
9 necessary assistance and protection for rape victims] TO VALUE THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN
10 AND CHILDREN, DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS, AND RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE IN NATION-BUILDING
11 AND ALL OTHER IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEM.
12 Towards this end, the [government shall coordinate its various agencies and non-
13 government organizations to work hand in hand for the establishment and operation of a
14 rape crisis center in every province and city that shall assist and protect rape victims in the
15 litigation of their cases and their recovery.] STATE SHALL ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THEIR
16 FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND SHALL PROVIDE THEM WITH FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

1 THAT WILL ENHANCE THEIR WELFARE AND ENABLE THEM TO REALIZE THEIR FULL
2 POTENTIALS IN THE SERVICE OF THE NATION. THE STATE SHALL ALSO ENDEAVOR TO
3 PROVIDE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITH UTMOST SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE WHICH SHALL
4 INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS, LEGAL SERVICES, LIVELIHOOD AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT,
5 PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING AND ALL OTHER ASSISTANCE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEM
6 AGAINST ALL FORMS OF NEGLECT, ABUSE, CRUELTY, EXPLOITATION AND OTHER ACTS
7 PREJUDICIAL TO THEIR WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT.
8

9 SEC. 3. Section 3 of the same Act is likewise amended to read as follows:

10 SEC. 3. [*Rape*] RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND *Crisis* ASSISTANCE Centers. — [The
11 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH),
12 the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Justice
13 (DOJ), and a lead non-government organization (NGO) with proven track record or
14 experience in handling sexual abuse cases, shall establish in every province and city a rape
15 crisis center located in a government hospital or health clinic or in any other suitable place
16 for the purpose of:

17
18 (a) Providing rape victims with psychological counseling, medical and health services,
19 including their medico-legal examination;

20
21 (b) Securing free legal assistance or service, when necessary, for rape victims;

22
23 (c) Assisting rape victims in the investigation to hasten the arrest of offenders and the filing
24 of cases in court;

25
26 (d) Ensuring the privacy and safety of rape victims;

27
28 (e) Providing psychological counseling and medical services when necessary for the family of
29 rape victims;

30
31 (f) Developing and undertaking a training program for law enforcement officers, public
32 prosecutors, lawyers, medico-legal officers, social workers, and barangay officials on human
33 rights and responsibilities; gender sensitivity and legal management of rape cases; and

34
35 (g) Adopting and implementing programs for the recovery of rape victims.

36
37 The DSWD shall be the lead agency in the establishment and operation of the Rape Crisis
38 Center.]
39

1 THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE
2 CENTERS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY OF THE COUNTRY,
3 HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "CENTERS." THESE CENTERS SHALL BE UNDER THE
4 MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
5 DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) IN CONSULTATION WITH CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS
6 (LGUs).

7
8 A. COMPOSITION OF THE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL TO BE KNOWN AS THE ADVISORY
9 COUNCIL –

10 AN INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL SHALL BE CONVENED TO SET THE CRITERIA FOR THE
11 SELECTION OF THE SITES OF THE CENTERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TAKING INTO
12 CONSIDERATION THE EXISTING FACILITIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND LGUs,
13 NON-GOVERNMENT AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
14 GOVERNMENT. THE COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES
15 FROM THE DSWD, DILG, DOH, DOJ, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI),
16 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE),
17 NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA), PHILIPPINE COMMISSION
18 ON WOMEN (PCW), NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION (NYC), TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND
19 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY (TESDA), WOMEN AND CHILDREN CONCERNS DIVISION OF
20 THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP/WCCD), THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
21 (CHED) AND NON-GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS DULY ACCREDITED BY
22 NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SHALL BE INCLUDED AS MEMBERS OF ADVISORY
23 COUNCIL. THE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL, DULY CHAIRED BY THE DSWD, SHALL ALSO ACT AS
24 AN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO OVERSEE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CENTERS'
25 PROGRAMS.

26
27 B. *FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTERS.* –

28 THE CENTERS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS TO ENSURE
29 COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SERVICES:

- 30 1. TO SERVE AS THE VENUE FOR CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING, CAPABILITY-BUILDING
31 AND FUNCTIONAL LITERACY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS, AMONG OTHERS, THAT
32 WILL ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ISSUES AND PROMOTE COMMUNITY
33 PARTICIPATION;
34 2. TO UNDERTAKE PROGRAMS GEARED TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF
35 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE, SELF-ENHANCEMENT AND THE

1 DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS FOR LIVELIHOOD GENERATION, SOCIAL
2 COMMUNICATION, AND OTHER RELATED SKILLS WHICH WILL HELP WOMEN AND
3 CHILDREN TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY;

- 4 3. TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL SERVICES, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE INCLUDING MEDICO-
5 LEGAL EXAMINATIONS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING TO VICTIMS OF RAPE
6 AND OTHER CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN ENSURING
7 THEIR PRIVACY AND SAFETY;
- 8 4. TO UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MORAL RECOVERY AND GENDER-
9 SENSITIVE VALUE FORMATION, COUNSELING, REHABILITATION AND PSYCHO-
10 SOCIAL PROGRAMS;
- 11 5. TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY SHELTER TO ABUSED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN;
- 12 6. TO ASSIST RAPE VICTIMS OR VICTIMS OF OTHER FORMS OF ABUSES IN THE
13 INVESTIGATION TO HASTEN THE ARREST OF OFFENDERS AND THE FILING OF
14 CASES IN COURT;
- 15 7. TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING AND MEDICAL SERVICES WHEN
16 NECESSARY FOR THE FAMILY OF RAPE VICTIMS OR VICTIMS OF OTHER FORMS OF
17 ABUSES;
- 18 8. TO PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING OR LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVORS OF
19 VIOLENCE;
- 20 9. TO STRENGTHEN AND FACILITATE LINKAGES OF WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S
21 GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND
22 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO MAXIMIZE THE DELIVERY OF BASIC AND
23 SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND ADVOCATE FOR THE
24 PROTECTION AND ADVANCEMENT OF THEIR RIGHTS;
- 25 10. TO DEVELOP AND UNDERTAKE A CONTINUING CAPACITY-BUILDING AND
26 TRAINING PROGRAM FOR FRONTLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS INCLUDING BUT NOT
27 LIMITED TO, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, PUBLIC PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS,
28 MEDICO-LEGAL OFFICERS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, DEVELOPMENT WORKERS, SOCIAL
29 WORKERS, HEALTH WORKERS, THERAPISTS AND BARANGAY OFFICIALS ON
30 HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES; GENDER SENSITIVITY AND LEGAL/CASE
31 MANAGEMENT OF SITUATIONS/CASES INVOLVING WOMEN AND CHILDREN; AND
32 11. TO PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT
33 THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT.

34
35 C. *CLIENTS OF THE CENTERS –*

36 ALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL BE
37 ENTITLED TO PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE BY THE CENTER:

- 38 1. VICTIMS OF PROSTITUTION AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION;
- 39 2. VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND BATTERY;
- 40 3. VICTIMS OF RAPE, INCEST, SEXUAL ABUSE, HARASSMENT OR MOLESTATION;
- 41

- 4 VICTIMS OF ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT, TRAFFICKING AND/OR LABOR EXPLOITATION;
- 5 VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT, NATURAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS WHO ARE
- 6 SUFFERING FROM TRAUMA DUE TO THE TRAGIC DEATH OR DISPLACEMENT OF
- 7 FAMILY MEMBERS, DISLOCATION OR LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD;
- 8 ABANDONED AND RUN-AWAY WOMEN AND CHILDREN;
- 9 WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN DETENTION;
- 10 VICTIMS OF ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE AND SUFFERING FROM ANY CRISIS SITUATION;
- 11 VICTIMS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL
- 12 DISABILITIES NEEDING SPECIAL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE; AND
- 13 VICTIMS OF OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE DSWD.

D. PERSONNEL/STAFF COMPLEMENT OF THE CENTERS –

EACH CENTER SHALL BE HEADED BY A FEMALE DIRECTOR WHO HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OR SIMILAR COURSES, HAS A MINIMUM EXPERIENCE OF FIVE (5) YEARS IN COUNSELLING, SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AND OTHER RELATED FIELD OR EXPERIENCE, AND POSSESSES A PROVEN TRACK RECORD AS AN ADVOCATE OF WOMEN'S ISSUES AND EXPERTISE IN GENDER-RESPONSIVE TRAININGS AND PROGRAMS FOR CAPABILITY-BUILDING AND IS OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER

THE SECRETARY OF THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE HEADS OF THE CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT SHALL APPOINT THE DIRECTOR AND OTHER NECESSARY PERSONNEL OF THE CENTER. THE STAFF COMPLEMENT OF THE CENTER SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT.

VOLUNTEERS FROM THE VARIOUS NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS MAY EXTEND PROFESSIONAL, HOUSEHOLD, RECREATIONAL, AND TRAINING EXPERTISE TO THE CENTER. STUDENTS OF SOCIAL WORK AND WOMEN STUDIES AND OTHER RELATED PROGRAMS WHO ARE IN PRACTICUM COURSES MAY RENDER VOLUNTARY SERVICES TO THE CENTER. THE PERSONNEL AND STAFF AS WELL AS VOLUNTEER WORKERS SHALL UNDERGO REGULAR TRAININGS ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE THE DIFFERENT SITUATIONS OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE CENTERS.

1 SEC 4. RA 8505 is hereby further amended by inserting the following new Sections after Sec. 3
2 thereof:

3
4 SEC. 4. *REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.* -- THE DSWD IN CONSULTATION
5 WITH THE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL CONVENED UNDER SECTION 3 (A) HEREOF, SHALL
6 WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT, FORMULATE A PROGRAM FOR
7 THE REHABILITATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN,
8 MENTIONED IN SECTION 3(B) HEREOF. THE COUNCIL SHALL ALSO OVERSEE THE EFFECTIVE
9 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMS OF THE CENTER AND MONITOR THE
10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES. IT SHALL ALSO ACT AS AN ADVISORY
11 BOARD.

12
13 THE DSWD MAY CALL ON NATIONAL AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS,
14 ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST IN THE
15 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT BY WAY OF PROGRAM COLLABORATION AND FUNDING
16 AUGMENTATION, AMONG OTHERS

17
18 SEC. 5. *AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS.* -- THE DSWD, THROUGH THE PRESIDENT OF
19 THE PHILIPPINES, MAY ACCEPT DONATIONS AND GRANTS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN
20 FOR PURPOSES RELEVANT TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTERS. THE DONATIONS AND
21 GRANTS SHALL BE ALLOTTED TO THE VARIOUS CENTERS IN SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE
22 DEEMED BEST BY THE DSWD OR FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED BY THE DONOR. SUCH
23 DONATIONS AND GRANTS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PERTINENT ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING
24 RULES AND REGULATIONS.

25
26 SEC. 5 Sections 4, 5 and 6 of RA 8505 are hereby renumbered accordingly as Sections 6, 7 and 8.

27
28 SEC. 6 Sections 7 and 8 of RA 8505 are hereby deleted

29
30 SEC. 7. *APPROPRIATIONS.* -- The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be
31 included in the budget of the DSWD under the Annual General Appropriations Act.

32
33 SEC. 8. *IMPLMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.* -- Within ninety (90) days upon the approval of
34 this Act, the DSWD and all concerned agencies shall formulate rules and regulations as may
35 be necessary for the proper implementation thereof.

36
37 SEC. 9. *SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.* -- If any part, section or provision of this act is declared invalid or
38 unconstitutional, the other parts thereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.
39

1 SEC. 10. *REPEALING CLAUSE*. — All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative
2 orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are
3 deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

4
5 SEC. 11. *EFFECTIVITY*. — This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its
6 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

7
8 *Approved,*

9

10

11

12 b sañga

13 250212

14

FACT SHEET
HOUSE BILL NO. 6155

(In Substitution of House Bill Nos. 3447, 3148, 3149, 3151 & 3333)

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8505, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE 'RAPE VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION
ACT OF 1998' AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE-MATBA, MARIA
ISABELLE G. CLIMACO, RUBEN BURAY ECLEO, JR., RUFUS BAUTISTA
RODRIGUEZ, MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR., LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN & REENA
CONCEPCION G. OBILLO*

*Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON WOMEN & GENDER EQUALITY
Committee Chairperson: REP. MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE-MATBA*

OBJECTIVE:

- To provide assistance to women in crisis not merely to rape victims, but to other victims of unfortunate circumstances as well.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Establishes in every province and city of the country resource development and crisis assistance centers for women and children under the management and supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in consultation with concerned local government units;
- Convenes an inter-agency council, chaired by the DSWD, to set the criteria for the selection of the sites of the centers all over the country. The Council shall be composed of authorized representatives from the DILG, DOH, DTI, DepED, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, DOJ, NEDA, Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), NYC, PNP Women & Children Protection Desk and non-government and people's organizations duly accredited by national government agencies;
- Entitles all women and children under the following to protection and assistance by the center:
 1. victims of prostitution and sexual exploitation;
 2. victims of domestic violence, abuse and battery;
 3. victims of rape, incest, sexual abuse, harassment or molestation;
 4. victims of illegal recruitment, trafficking and/or labor exploitation;
 5. victims of armed conflict, natural or environmental disasters who are suffering from trauma due to the tragic death or displacement of family members, dislocation or loss of livelihood;
 6. abandoned and run-away women and children;
 7. women and children in detention;
 8. victims of any form of violence and suffering from any crisis situation;
 9. victims suffering from mental, emotional, psychological and physical disabilities needing special support and assistance; and
 10. victims of other circumstances as may be determined by the DSWD;
- Ensures comprehensive and integrated services offered by the Centers which shall have the following functions:

1. to serve as the venue for consciousness-raising, capability-building and functional literacy enhancement programs, among others, that will enhance public awareness of issues and promote community participation;
 2. to undertake programs geared towards the development of maternal and child health care, self-enhancement and the development of skills for livelihood generation, social communication, and other related skills which will help women and children to become productive members of society;
 3. to provide free legal services, medical assistance including medico-legal examinations and psychological counseling to victims of rape and other cases of violence against women and children ensuring their privacy and safety;
 4. to undertake activities related to moral recovery and gender-sensitive value formation, counseling, rehabilitation and psychosocial programs;
 5. to provide temporary shelter to abused women and their children;
 6. to assist rape victims or victims of other forms of abuses in the investigation to hasten the arrest of offenders and the filing of cases in court;
 7. to provide psychological counseling and medical services when necessary for the family of rape victims or victims of other forms of abuses;
 8. to provide skills training or livelihood assistance to survivors of violence;
 9. to strengthen and facilitate linkages of women's and children's groups and organizations with relevant 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;
 10. to develop and undertake a continuing capacity-building and training program for frontline service providers including but not limited to; law enforcement officers, public prosecutors, lawyers, medico-legal officers, psychologists, development workers, social workers, health workers, therapists and barangay officials on human rights and responsibilities; gender sensitivity and legal/case management of situations/cases involving women and children; and
 11. to perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this act;
- Authorizes the DSWD, through the President of the Philippines, to accept donations and grants, both domestic and foreign for purposes relevant to the functions of the centers.

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 8505 (Rape Victim Assistance And Protection Act Of 1998)
- Republic Act 9710 (Magna Carta of Women)