

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7664



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure aims to institutionalize human rights education in basic and higher education institutions.

The United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) has defined Human Rights Education as "training, dissemination, and information efforts aimed at the building of a universal culture of human rights through the imparting of knowledge and skills and the molding of attitudes which are directed to:

- (a) The strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (b) The full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity;
- (c) The promotion of understanding, respect, gender equality, and friendship among all nations, indigenous peoples and racial, national, ethnic, religious and linguistic groups; and
- (d) The enabling of all persons to participate effectively in a free society.

Institutionalizing human rights education would ensure that our people will come to understand and fully appreciate human rights and instill in them a sense of responsibility to respect, defend, and promote such rights. The State shall ensure that the people are working hand-in-hand to bring about human rights, justice, and dignity for all.

Considering the current political climate: the indiscriminate killing of alleged drug suspects without due process, the repression of free speech and expression, and the seemingly passive, if not dreadfully supportive citizens desensitized to such horrendous violations of basic human rights, it is timely that this proposed measure be enacted so as to correct the seemingly wayward track that our shared values are currently traversing.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


GARY C. ALEJANO
Representative
Magdalo Parsa sa Pilipino Party-List

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1 **AN ACT**
2 **INSTITUTIONALIZING HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN BOTH BASIC AND**
3 **HIGHER EDUCATION**
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
6 *assembled,*
7

8 **SECTION 1. Short Title.**—This Act shall be known as the Human Rights Education Act of
9 2018.
10

11 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.**—Article XIV, Section 3 of the Constitution provides that all
12 educational institutions shall include the study of the Constitution as part of the curricula. As an
13 integral part of our Constitution, human rights is a concept that all Filipinos must learn if we are to
14 survive as a modern democracy. As such, it is the duty of our learning institutions to ensure that our
15 citizens are properly educated of the principles of human rights in both formal and non-formal
16 settings. In furtherance thereof, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to require all educational
17 institutions to teach human rights as a specialized subject taught separately and progressively
18 throughout the basic and higher education programs.
19

20 **SEC. 3. Curriculum.**—The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on
21 Higher Education (CHED) shall identify international human rights education standards or best
22 practices for basic and higher education, respectively, and adopt those that they determine to be
23 aligned with existing State policies and domestic conditions. Consistent with such standards or best
24 practices, the DepEd and CHED, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR),
25 shall formulate the respective curricula and course programmes for human rights studies for basic
26 and higher education that shall, at the minimum:
27

- 28 a. Consist of teaching modules or course syllabi that cover an introduction to basic
29 human rights principles, such as equality, non-discrimination, human dignity, inclusion,

1 empowerment, environmental awareness, and respect for the rights of women, children,
2 indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and other marginalized or vulnerable
3 sectors;

4
5 b. Focus on personal values, attitudes, and behaviors that promote personal
6 responsibility for respecting, upholding, and protecting human rights; and

7 c. Provide practical information for protecting oneself from gender-based violence,
8 child abuse, and exploitation.

9
10 **SEC. 4. *Implementation Period.***—The DepEd and CHED shall formulate and finalize their
11 respective curricula within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act; and implement the same
12 within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act.

13
14 **SEC. 5. *Reporting.***—Every four (4) years, the DepEd and CHED shall conduct a mandatory
15 review of the implementation of this Act and submit a report of its findings to Congress..

16
17 **SEC. 6. *Appropriations.***—The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
18 shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the implementing agencies. Thereafter,
19 such amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
20 General Appropriations Act.

21
22 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.***—Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional,
23 the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

24
25 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.***—All laws, executive orders, or administrative orders, rules and
26 regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or
27 modified accordingly.

28
29 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.***—This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
30 Official Gazette in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,