

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

House Bill No. 4047



---

**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO  
AND JOCELYN P. TULFO**

---

**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ACT OF 2004", EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE PROTECTION TO ALL FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REGARDLESS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, PROVIDING FOR THE SAME PROTECTIVE MEASURES, PRESCRIBING THE SAME PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article II, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights. Despite this constitutional protection, domestic and family violence continues to be a pervasive issue that transcends all types of relationships—whether heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or otherwise. Different forms of domestic and family violence may include emotional or psychological abuse, social abuse, stalking and harassment, financial abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and even cyberbullying.<sup>1</sup>

In response, the 12<sup>th</sup> Congress enacted Republic Act No. 9262, otherwise known as the "Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004". This landmark legislation recognizes the need to protect the family and its members from violence and threats to their personal safety and security. However, its scope is limited, as the law only specifically covers women and children, leaving out individuals of other gender identities and sexual orientations.

The pursuit of gender equality in the Philippines remains unfinished. At present, no special law protects men in same-sex relationships or members of the LGBTQIA+ community who are victims of domestic violence. This gap in the law creates a troubling reality: even if an abused man submits medical evidence of injuries

---

<sup>1</sup> "I'm LGBTQIA+ and experiencing domestic violence" NSW GOVERNMENT, <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/my-situation-is---/i-m-lgbtqi-and-experiencing-domestic-violence.html>.

to authorities, his complaint may be dismissed in favor of the woman under the current framework of RA 9262.<sup>2</sup>

Moreover, a common misconception persists – that domestic violence is always perpetrated by men in heterosexual relationships. A nationwide study conducted by the College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) of the University of Mindanao-Institute of Popular Opinion (UM-IPO) revealed that around three in every ten Filipino men have experienced some form of domestic violence from their wives.<sup>3</sup> This reality underscore the urgent need to break away from gender-specific notions of domestic violence. Violence knows no gender, and protection under the law should be equally accessible to all.

Moreover, members of the LGBTQIA+ community also face significant risks of abuse. However, they are considerably less likely to seek domestic violence support and shelter compared to their counterparts. This reluctance is often rooted in the compounded effects of violence and discrimination, which place barriers for LGBTQIA+ victims or survivors seeking help.<sup>4</sup>

Another critical issue lies in the gender-specific language of domestic violence laws in the country. By defining “victims” solely as women within family or intimate relationships, RA 9262 highlights the vulnerability of women, but fail to consider other intersecting factors, such as gender identity and sexual orientation, that also contribute to risk and vulnerability.<sup>5</sup>

This proposed measure seeks to address these gaps by amending RA 9262 to expand its coverage. Under the amendment, protection against domestic violence shall extend to any individual, regardless of sexual orientation or gender, in line with the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, as well as international human rights instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

True justice and equality demand that every victim – whether man, woman, or a member of the LGBTQIA+ community – be afforded the same recognition, protection, and support. Only then can we fulfill the constitutional mandate to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights.

In view of the foregoing, the urgent passing of this bill is earnestly sought.

---

<sup>2</sup> “The continuing quest for gender equality”, *PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER*, 3 Apr 2024, <https://opinion.inquirer.net/172627/the-continuing-quest-for-gender-equality>.

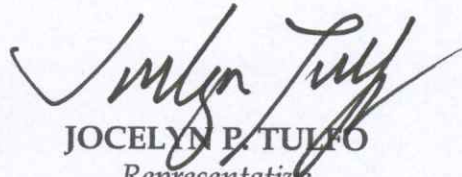
<sup>3</sup> Patumbon, Rojean Grace G., “Study: 3 in 10 husband abused”, *SUNSTAR*, 7 May 2024, <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/study-3-in-10-husband-abused>.

<sup>4</sup> “Domestic Violence in LGBTQIA+ Relationships”, *WOMEN’S ADVOCATES*, <https://wadvocates.org/find-help/about-domestic-violence/lgbtqiarelationships/>.

<sup>5</sup> “Locating LGBTQ People in Domestic Violence Laws in Asia”, *OUTRIGHT INTERNATIONAL*, Sep 2022, [https://outrightinternational.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/AsiaLegalMapping2022\\_Revised\\_OutrightInternational\\_2.pdf](https://outrightinternational.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/AsiaLegalMapping2022_Revised_OutrightInternational_2.pdf).



**RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO**  
*Representative*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> District of Quezon City*



**JOCELYN P. TULFO**  
*Representative*  
*ACT-CIS Partylist*

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

House Bill No. 4047

---

**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO  
AND JOCELYN P. TULFO**

---

**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ACT OF 2004", EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE PROTECTION TO ALL FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REGARDLESS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, PROVIDING FOR THE SAME PROTECTIVE MEASURES, PRESCRIBING THE SAME PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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. 9262 (RA 9262), otherwise known  
2 as "Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004" is hereby  
3 amended to read as follows:  
4

5                   "SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the ["Anti-  
6 Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004"] "**ANTI-  
7 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT OF 2025**".  
8

9           **SEC. 2.** Section 2 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
10

11                   "SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared that the  
12 State values the dignity of [women and children] **EVERY PERSON** and  
13 guarantees full respect for human rights. The State also recognizes the  
14 need to protect the family and its members [particularly women and  
15 children,] from violence and threats to their personal safety and security.  
16

17                   Towards this end, the State shall exert efforts to address  
18 **DOMESTIC** violence, [committed against women and children]  
19 **REGARDLESS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER** in keeping  
20 with the fundamental freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution and

1 the Provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the  
2 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against  
3 Women, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other international  
4 human rights instruments of which the Philippines is a party.”  
5

6 **SEC. 3.** Section 3 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
7

8 “SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act,  
9

10 (a) “[Violence against women and their children] **DOMESTIC**  
11 **VIOLENCE**” refers to any act or a series of acts committed by any person  
12 against [a woman who is his wife, former wife, or against a woman]  
13 **THEIR SPOUSE, FORMER SPOUSE, OR A PARTNER** with whom the  
14 person has or had a sexual or dating relationship, or with whom [he]  
15 **THE FORMER** has a common child, **ADOPTED CHILD, OR CHILD**  
16 **IN THEIR COMMON CARE, CUSTODY, OR SUPPORT**, or against  
17 [her] **THE PARTNER’S** child, whether legitimate or illegitimate, within  
18 or without the family abode, which result in or is likely to result in  
19 physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering, or economic abuse  
20 including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or  
21 arbitrary deprivation of liberty. It includes, but is not limited to, the  
22 following acts:  
23

24 A. “*Physical Violence*” refers to acts that include bodily or physical  
25 harm;  
26

27 B. “*Sexual violence*” refers to an act which is sexual in nature,  
28 committed against [a woman or her child] **ANY OF THOSE**  
29 **MENTIONED IN (A) OF THIS SECTION.** It includes, but is not  
30 limited to:  
31

32 a) rape, sexual harassment, acts of lasciviousness, treating [a  
33 woman or her child] **ANOTHER** as a sex object, making  
34 demeaning and sexually suggestive remarks, physically  
35 attacking the sexual parts of the victim's body, forcing  
36 [her/him] **ANOTHER** to watch obscene publications and  
37 indecent shows, or forcing the [woman or her child] **VICTIM**  
38 to do indecent acts and/or make films thereof, forcing the  
39 [wife and mistress/lover] **VICTIM AND ANOTHER**  
40 **LOVER** to live in the conjugal home or sleep together in the  
41 same room with the abuser;  
42

43 b) acts causing or attempting to cause the [victim] **ABUSER’S**  
44 **SPOUSE, INTIMATE PARTNER OR THEIR COMMON**  
45 **CHILD, OR THE CHILD OF THE INTIMATE PARTNER**

1 to engage in any sexual activity by force, threat of force,  
2 physical or other harm or threat of physical or other harm or  
3 coercion;  
4

5 c) Prostituting [the woman or child] **A SPOUSE OR**  
6 **PARTNER OR HIS/HER/THEIR CHILD.**  
7

8 x x x  
9

10 D. "*Economic abuse*" refers to acts that make or attempt to make a  
11 [woman] **SPOUSE OR PARTNER** financially dependent which  
12 includes, but is not limited to the following:  
13

14 1. withdrawal of financial support or preventing the victim  
15 from engaging in any legitimate profession, occupation,  
16 business or activity, except in cases wherein the other  
17 spouse/partner objects on valid, serious and moral grounds  
18 as defined in Article 73 of the Family Code;  
19

20 2. deprivation or threat of deprivation of financial resources  
21 and the right to the use and enjoyment of the conjugal,  
22 community or property owned in common;  
23

24 3. destroying household property; **AND**  
25

26 4. controlling the victims' own money or properties or solely  
27 controlling the conjugal money or properties.  
28

29 (b) "*Battery*" refers to an act of inflicting physical harm upon [the woman  
30 or her] **ANOTHER OR HIS/HER/THEIR** child resulting to the physical  
31 and psychological or emotional distress.  
32

33 x x x  
34

35 (d) "*Stalking*" refers to an intentional act committed by a person who,  
36 knowingly and without lawful justification follows [the woman or her]  
37 **A SPOUSE/PARTNER OR HIS/HER/THEIR** child or places the  
38 [woman or her] **SPOUSE/PARTNER OR HIS/HER/THEIR** child under  
39 surveillance directly or indirectly or a combination thereof.  
40

41 x x x"  
42  
43  
44  
45

1           **SEC. 4.** Section 4 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2

3           “SECTION 4. *Construction.*- This Act shall be liberally construed to  
4           promote the protection and safety of victims of **DOMESTIC** violence  
5           [against women and their children].”  
6

7           **SEC. 5.** Section 5 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
8

9           “SECTION 5. *Acts of DOMESTIC Violence [Against Women and Their*  
10           *Children].* - The crime of **DOMESTIC** violence [against women and their  
11           children] is committed through any of the following acts:  
12

13           (a) Causing physical harm [to] **TOWARD** the [woman]  
14           **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or [her] **HIS/HER/THEIR** child;

15  
16           (b) Threatening to cause the [woman] **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or [her]  
17           **HIS/HER/THEIR** child physical harm;

18  
19           (c) Attempting to cause the [woman] **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or [her]  
20           **HIS/HER/THEIR** child physical harm;

21  
22           (d) Placing the [woman] **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or [her]  
23           **HIS/HER/THEIR** child in fear of imminent physical harm;

24  
25           (e) Attempting to compel or compelling the [woman] to engage in  
26           conduct which the [woman or her child] **VICTIM** has the right to  
27           desist from or desist from conduct which the [woman or her child]  
28           **VICTIM** has the right to engage in, or attempting to restrict or  
29           restricting the [woman's or her child's] **VICTIM'S** freedom of  
30           movement or conduct by force or threat of force, physical or other  
31           harm or threat of physical or other harm, or intimidation directed  
32           against the [woman or] **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or [her]  
33           **HIS/HER/THEIR** child. This shall include, but not limited to, the  
34           following acts committed with the purpose or effect of controlling  
35           or restricting the [woman's or her child's] **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or  
36           **HIS/HER/THEIR CHILD'S** movement or conduct:  
37

38           (1) Threatening to deprive or actually depriving the  
39           [woman or] **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or [her] **HIS/HER/THEIR**  
40           child [of] custody **OR ACCESS** to her/his family;

41  
42           (2) Depriving or threatening to deprive the [woman or her  
43           children] **SPOUSE/PARTNER OR HIS/HER/THEIR**  
44           **CHILD** of **LEGALLY DUE** financial support [legally due  
45           her or her family] **FOR THE SPOUSE/PARTNER OR**

1 **HIS/HER FAMILY**, or deliberately providing [the woman's  
2 children] insufficient financial support;

3  
4 (3) Depriving or threatening to deprive the [woman or her  
5 child] **SPOUSE, INTIMATE PARTNER, THEIR**  
6 **COMMON CHILD, OR THE CHILD OF THE INTIMATE**  
7 **PARTNER** of a legal right;

8  
9 (4) Preventing the [woman] **SPOUSE, INTIMATE**  
10 **PARTNER, THEIR COMMON CHILD, OR THE CHILD**  
11 **OF THE INTIMATE PARTNER** in engaging in any  
12 legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity or  
13 controlling the victim's own money or properties, or solely  
14 controlling the conjugal or common money, or properties;

15  
16 (f) Inflicting or threatening to inflict physical harm on oneself for  
17 the purpose of controlling [her] **THE SPOUSE/PARTNER'S**  
18 actions or decisions;

19  
20 (g) Causing or attempting to cause the [woman] **SPOUSE** or [her]  
21 **HIS/HER/THEIR** child to engage in any sexual activity which does  
22 not constitute rape, by force or threat of force, physical harm, or  
23 through intimidation directed against the [woman] **SPOUSE** or  
24 [her] **HIS/HER/THEIR** child or her/his immediate family;

25  
26 (h) Engaging in purposeful, knowing, or reckless conduct,  
27 personally or through another, that alarms or causes substantial  
28 emotional or psychological distress to the [woman] **SPOUSE** or  
29 [her] **HIS/HER/THEIR** child. This shall include, but not be limited  
30 to, the following acts:

31  
32 (1) Stalking or following the [woman] **SPOUSE/PARTNER**  
33 or [her] **HIS/HER/THEIR** child in public or private places;

34  
35 (2) Peering in the window or lingering outside the residence  
36 of the [woman] **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or [her]  
37 **HIS/HER/THEIR** child;

38  
39 (3) Entering or remaining in the dwelling or on the property  
40 of the [woman] **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or [her]  
41 **HIS/HER/THEIR** child against her/his will;

42  
43 (4) Destroying the property and personal belongings or  
44 inflicting harm to animals or pets of the [woman]  
45 **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or [her] **HIS/HER/THEIR** child; and

1  
2 (5) Engaging in any form of harassment or violence;  
3

4 (i) Causing mental or emotional anguish, public ridicule or  
5 humiliation to the [woman] **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or [her]  
6 **HIS/HER/THEIR** child, including, but not limited to, repeated  
7 verbal and emotional abuse, and denial of financial support or  
8 custody of minor children of access to the [woman's]  
9 **SPOUSE/PARTNER'S** child/children.”

10  
11 **SEC. 6.** Section 6 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
12

13 “SECTION 6. *Penalties.* - The crime of **DOMESTIC** violence  
14 [against women and their children], under Section 5 hereof shall be  
15 punished according to the following rules:  
16

17 x x x  
18

19 If the acts are committed while [the] **A** woman or child is pregnant  
20 or committed in the presence of [her] **A** child, the penalty to be applied  
21 shall be the maximum period of penalty prescribed in the section.  
22

23 x x x”  
24

25 **SEC. 7.** Section 7 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
26

27 “SECTION 7. *Venue.* - The Regional Trial Court designated as a  
28 Family Court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over cases of  
29 **DOMESTIC** violence [against women and their children] under this  
30 law. In the absence of such court in the place where the offense was  
31 committed, the case shall be filed in the Regional Trial Court where the  
32 crime or any of its elements was committed at the option of the  
33 compliant.”  
34

35 **SEC. 8.** Section 8 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
36

37 “SECTION 8. *Protection Orders.* - A protection order is an order  
38 issued under this act for the purpose of preventing further acts of  
39 **DOMESTIC** violence [against a woman or her child] specified in Section  
40 5 of this Act and granting other necessary relief. The relief granted under  
41 a protection order [serve] **SERVES** the purpose of safeguarding the  
42 victim from further harm, minimizing any disruption in the victim's  
43 daily life, and facilitating the opportunity and ability of the victim to  
44 independently regain control over [her] **THEIR** life. The provisions of  
45 the protection order shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies. The

1 protection orders that may be issued under this Act are the barangay  
2 protection order (BPO), temporary protection order (TPO) and  
3 permanent protection order (PPO). The protection orders that may be  
4 issued under this Act shall include any, some or all of the following  
5 reliefs:  
6

7 x x x

8  
9 (g) Directing the respondent to provide support to the [woman  
10 and/or her] **SPOUSE/PARTNER OR HIS/HER/THEIR** child if  
11 entitled to legal support. Notwithstanding other laws to the  
12 contrary, the court shall order an appropriate percentage of the  
13 income or salary of the respondent to be withheld regularly by the  
14 respondent's employer for the same to be automatically remitted  
15 directly to the [woman] **SPOUSE/PARTNER OR**  
16 **HIS/HER/THEIR CHILD**. Failure to remit and/or withhold or any  
17 delay in the remittance of support to the [woman and/or her]  
18 **SPOUSE/PARTNER OR HIS/HER/THEIR** child without  
19 justifiable cause shall render the respondent or [his] **THE**  
20 **RESPONDENT'S** employer liable for indirect contempt of court;  
21

22 (h) Prohibition of the respondent from any use or possession of any  
23 firearm or deadly weapon and order [him] **THE RESPONDENT**  
24 to surrender the same to the court for appropriate disposition by  
25 the court, including revocation of license and disqualification to  
26 apply for any license to use or possess a firearm. If the offender is  
27 a law enforcement agent, the court shall order the offender to  
28 surrender his firearm and shall direct the appropriate authority to  
29 investigate on the offender and take appropriate action on matter;  
30

31 x x x "

32  
33 **SEC. 9.** Section 9 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
34

35 "**SECTION 9.** *Who may file Petition for Protection Orders.* - x x x  
36

37 (e) police, officers, preferably those in charge of [women and  
38 children's] **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** desks;  
39

40 x x x  
41

42 (h) At least two (2) concerned responsible citizens of the city or  
43 municipality where the **DOMESTIC** violence [against women  
44 and their children] occurred and who has personal knowledge of  
45 the offense committed."

1  
2 **SEC. 10.** Section 13 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
3

4 “SECTION 13. *Legal Representation of Petitioners for Protection Order.*  
5 - If the [woman] **SPOUSE/PARTNER** or [her] **HIS/HER/THEIR** child  
6 requests in the applications for a protection order for the appointment  
7 of counsel because of lack of economic means to hire a counsel de parte,  
8 the court shall immediately direct the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) to  
9 represent the petitioner in the hearing on the application. If the PAO  
10 determines that the applicant can afford to hire the services of a counsel  
11 de parte, it shall facilitate the legal representation of the petitioner by a  
12 counsel de parte. The lack of access to family or conjugal resources by  
13 the applicant, such as when the same are controlled by the perpetrator,  
14 shall qualify the petitioner to legal representation by the PAO.  
15

16 However, a private counsel offering free legal service is not barred  
17 from representing the petitioner.”  
18

19 **SEC. 11.** Section 14 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
20

21 “SECTION 14. *Barangay Protection Orders (BPOs); Who May Issue*  
22 *and How.* - Barangay Protection Orders (BPOs) refer to the protection  
23 order issued by the Punong Barangay ordering the perpetrator to desist  
24 from committing acts under Section 5 (a) and (b) of this Act. A Punong  
25 Barangay who receives applications for a BPO shall issue the protection  
26 order to the applicant on the date of filing after *ex parte* determination of  
27 the basis of the application. If the Punong Barangay is unavailable to act  
28 on the application for a BPO, the application shall be acted upon by any  
29 available Barangay Kagawad. If the BPO is issued by a Barangay  
30 Kagawad, the order must be accompanied by an attestation by the  
31 Barangay Kagawad that the Punong Barangay was unavailable at the  
32 time for the issuance of the BPO. BPOs shall be effective for [fifteen (15)]  
33 **THIRTY (30)** days. Immediately after the issuance of an *ex parte* BPO,  
34 the Punong Barangay or Barangay Kagawad shall personally serve a  
35 copy of the same on the respondent, or direct any barangay official to  
36 effect is personal service.  
37

38 The parties may be accompanied by a non-lawyer advocate in any  
39 proceeding before the Punong Barangay.”  
40

41 **SEC. 12.** Section 22 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
42

43 “SECTION 22. *Applicability of Protection Orders to Criminal Cases.* -  
44 The foregoing provisions on protection orders shall be applicable in  
45 criminal cases and/or shall be included in the civil actions deemed

1 impliedly instituted with the criminal actions involving **DOMESTIC**  
2 violence [against women and their children].”

3  
4 **SEC. 13.** Section 25 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
5

6 “SECTION 25. *Public Crime.* – [Violence against women and their  
7 children] **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** shall be considered a public offense  
8 which may be prosecuted upon the filing of a complaint by any citizen  
9 having personal knowledge of the circumstances involving the  
10 commission of the crime.”  
11

12 **SEC. 14.** Section 28 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
13

14 “SECTION 28. *Custody of Children.* – The woman victim of violence  
15 shall be entitled to the custody and support of her child/children.  
16 Children below seven (7) years old older but with mental or physical  
17 disabilities shall automatically be given to the mother, with right to  
18 support, unless the court finds compelling reasons to order otherwise.  
19

20 A victim who is suffering from battered woman syndrome shall  
21 not be disqualified from having custody of her children. In no case shall  
22 custody of minor children be given to the perpetrator of a woman who  
23 is suffering from Battered Woman Syndrome.  
24

25 **IF THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS THE FATHER,**  
26 **HE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO CUSTODY AND SUPPORT OF HIS**  
27 **CHILD OR CHILDREN UPON SHOWING THAT THE ABUSER IS**  
28 **INCAPABLE OF ATTENDING TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE**  
29 **CHILD WHOSE CUSTODY IS IN ISSUE, APPLYING THE**  
30 **PROVISIONS OF THE FAMILY CODE.”**  
31

32 **SEC. 15.** Section 29, paragraph (a) of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as  
33 follows:  
34

35 “SECTION 29. *Duties of Prosecutors/Court Personnel.* – Prosecutors  
36 and court personnel should observe the following duties when dealing  
37 with victims under this Act:  
38

39 a) communicate with the victim in a language understood by the  
40 [woman or her child] **VICTIM**; and  
41

42 x x x”  
43  
44  
45

1           **SEC. 16.** Section 32 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2

3           “SECTION 32. *Duties of Other Government Agencies and LGUs.* –  
4           Other government agencies and LGUs shall establish programs such as,  
5           but not limited to, education and information campaign and seminars or  
6           symposia on the nature, causes, incidence and consequences of [such]  
7           **DOMESTIC** violence particularly towards educating the public on its  
8           social impacts.  
9

10           It shall be the duty of the concerned government agencies and  
11           LGUs to ensure the sustained education and training of their officers and  
12           personnel on the prevention of **DOMESTIC** violence [against women  
13           and their children] under the Act.”  
14

15           **SEC. 17.** Section 34 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
16

17           “SECTION 34. *Persons Intervening Exempt from Liability.* – In every  
18           case of **DOMESTIC** violence [against women and their children] as  
19           herein defined, any person, private individual or police authority or  
20           barangay official who, acting in accordance with law, responds or  
21           intervenes without using violence or restraint greater than necessary to  
22           ensure the safety of the victim, shall not be liable for any criminal, civil  
23           or administrative liability resulting therefrom.”  
24

25           **SEC. 18.** Section 35 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
26

27           “SECTION 35. *Rights of Victims.* – In addition to their rights under  
28           existing laws, victims of **DOMESTIC** violence [against women and their  
29           children] shall have the following rights:  
30

31           (a) to be treated with respect and dignity;  
32

33           (b) to avail of legal assistance from the PAO of the Department of  
34           Justice (DOJ) or any public legal assistance office;  
35

36           (c) to be entitled to support services form the DSWD and LGUs;  
37

38           (d) to be entitled to all legal remedies and support as provided for  
39           under the Family Code; and  
40

41           (e) to be informed of their rights and the services available to them  
42           including their right to apply for a protection order.”  
43  
44  
45

1           **SEC. 19.** Section 39 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2

3           “SECTION 39. Inter-Agency Council on **DOMESTIC** Violence  
4 [Against Women and Their Children (IAC-VAWC)] (**IAC-DV**). In  
5 pursuance of the abovementioned policy, there is hereby established an  
6 Inter-Agency Council on **DOMESTIC** Violence [Against Women and  
7 their Children], hereinafter known as the Council, which shall be  
8 composed of the following agencies:  
9

10           (a) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

11  
12           (b) National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women  
13 (NCRFW);

14  
15           (c) Civil Service Commission (CSC);

16  
17           (d) Commission on Human rights (CHR)

18  
19           (e) Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC);

20  
21           (f) Department of Justice (DOJ);

22  
23           (g) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);

24  
25           (h) Philippine National Police (PNP);

26  
27           (i) Department of Health (DOH);

28  
29           (j) Department of Education (DepEd);

30  
31           (k) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); and

32  
33           (l) National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).  
34

35           These agencies are tasked to formulate programs and projects to  
36 eliminate [VAW] **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST ALL GENDERS**  
37 **AND SEXES** based on their mandates as well as develop capability  
38 programs for their employees to become more sensitive to the needs of  
39 their clients. The Council will also serve as the monitoring body as  
40 regards to [VAW] **ANTI-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** initiatives.  
41

42           The Council members may designate their duly authorized  
43 representative who shall have a rank not lower than an assistant  
44 secretary or its equivalent. These representatives shall attend Council  
45 meetings in their behalf, and shall receive emoluments as may be

1 determined by the Council in accordance with existing budget and  
2 accounting rules and regulations.”

3  
4 **SEC. 20.** Section 42 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
5

6 “SECTION 42. *Training of Persons Involved in Responding to Violence*  
7 *Against Women and their Children Cases.* – All agencies involved in  
8 responding to **DOMESTIC** violence [against women and their children  
9 cases] shall be required to undergo education and training to acquaint  
10 them with:

11  
12 a. the nature, extend and causes of **DOMESTIC** violence [against  
13 women and their children];

14  
15 b. the legal rights of, and remedies available to, victims of  
16 **DOMESTIC** violence [against women and their children];

17  
18 c. the services and facilities available to victims or survivors;

19  
20 d. the legal duties imposed on police officers to make arrest and to  
21 offer protection and assistance; and

22  
23 e. techniques for handling incidents of **DOMESTIC** violence  
24 [against women and their children] that minimize the likelihood of  
25 injury to the officer and promote the safety of the victim or survivor.  
26

27 The PNP, in coordination with LGUs shall establish an education  
28 and training program for police officers and barangay officials to enable  
29 them to properly handle cases of violence against women and their  
30 children.”

31  
32 **SEC. 21.** Section 44 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
33

34 “SECTION 44. *Confidentiality.* – All records pertaining to cases of  
35 **DOMESTIC** violence [against women and their children] including  
36 those in the barangay shall be confidential and all public officers and  
37 employees and public or private clinics to hospitals shall respect the  
38 right to privacy of the victim. Whoever publishes or causes to be  
39 published, in any format, the name, address, telephone number, school,  
40 business address, employer, or other identifying information of a victim  
41 or an immediate family member, without the latter's consent, shall be  
42 liable to the contempt power of the court.  
43

1 Any person who violates this provision shall suffer the penalty of  
2 one (1) year imprisonment and a fine of not more than Five Hundred  
3 Thousand pesos (P500,000.00).”  
4

5 **SEC. 22.** Section 45 of RA 9262 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
6

7 “SECTION 45. *Funding.* – The amount necessary to implement the  
8 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General  
9 Appropriations Act (GAA).  
10

11 The Gender and Development (GAD) Budget of the mandated  
12 agencies and LGUs shall be used to implement services for victim of  
13 **DOMESTIC** violence [against women and their children].”  
14

15 **SEC. 23. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Justice, the  
16 Philippine Commission on Women, the Department of Social Welfare and  
17 Development, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of  
18 Health, and the Philippine National Police, and three (3) representatives from non-  
19 governmental organizations to be identified by the PCW, shall promulgate a new set  
20 of Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) within six (6) months from the approval  
21 of this Act.  
22

23 **SEC. 24. *Suppletory Application.*** – For purposes of this Act, the Revised Penal  
24 Code and other applicable laws shall have suppletory application.  
25

26 **SEC. 25. *Separability Clause.*** – If any section or provision of this Act is held  
27 unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions shall not be affected.  
28

29 **SEC. 26. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, and rules and  
30 regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
31 repealed or modified accordingly.  
32

33 **SEC. 27. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date  
34 of its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.  
35

36 *Approved,*