

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6330



Introduced by SWERTE Party-list Representative
ARLYN P. AYON

AN ACT
PENALIZING ANY FORM OF MISOGYNISTIC OR DEROGATORY
REMARKS AGAINST SOLO PARENTS BY REASON OF THEIR SOCIAL
STATUS AS SUCH

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the vital role of solo parents in raising and nurturing their children amidst the challenges posed by the absence of a partner in child-rearing.

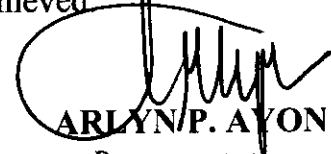
R.A No. 8972, as amended by R.A 11861 (Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act), R.A No. 9710 (Magna Carta for women) and R.A No. 11313 (Safe Spaces Act) underscore the rights and welfare of solo parents by providing comprehensive benefits and protections. Despite all this, the solo parents, especially women, continue to face stigma, prejudice, and discrimination in their communities, workplaces, and even within their family circle. This includes the use of derogatory and or misogynistic remarks that demean their status and undermine their dignity as human beings. Thus, it is imperative to establish legal safeguards to protect solo parents from verbal abuse and societal discrimination. These harmful behaviors not only violate their rights but also perpetuate a culture of disrespect and marginalization that affects their mental health self-esteem, and ability to become productive members of society.

This act seeks to penalize any form of misogynistic or derogatory remark directed at solo parents by reason of their civil status or personal circumstances in life. It aims to foster a culture of understanding and inclusiveness, wherein solo parents are treated with dignity, free from ridicule, harassment, or verbal abuse.

There may be existing laws already that may be made applicable to the acts sought to be punished under this Act. However, there is an urgent and compelling need to enact a law that specifically applies solely for the protection of the growing members of solo

parents nationwide, in order that the same law will serve as an effective deterrent measure.

This Act is a *malum prohibitum* because it specifically forbids the commission of misogynistic or derogatory acts against solo parents, and is therefore, a special law that is applicable only for said cases against the solo parents where intent or malice is not required to establish the guilt of the offender. He is hoped that with the enactment of this Act, the primary purpose of deterrence will be achieved



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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "The Solo Parents' Anti-Discrimination Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the state to uphold at all times the dignity, respect, and equal protection of solo parents by protecting them against all forces of discrimination, including misogynistic and derogatory remarks, arising from their being solo parents.

SECTION 3. *Definition of terms.*

For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) Solo Parent – refers to any individual who falls under the categories enumerated in R.A 8972, as amended by R.A 11861;
- b) Misogynistic Remarks – refers to statements that tend to belittle, humiliate, debase, disrespect, degrade or defame any solo parent by reason of his/her social status as such;
- c) Derogatory Remarks – refers to any verbal or written statement or gesture intended to insult, demean or ridicule a solo parent by reason of his/her being as such;
- d) Discrimination – refers to any act or omission that results in unjust or prejudicial statement of solo parents under any circumstances in workplaces, school, or public places.

SECTION 4. *Prohibited Acts.* It shall be unlawful for any person to commit any of the following acts:

- a) Make, utter, or publish misogynistic or derogatory remarks, whether in public or private places, including through online or digital platforms;
- b) Discriminate against solo parents in workplaces, schools, or public places by reason of their solo parent status;
- c) Engage in harassment, ridicule, or social exclusion of a solo parent based on prejudice or stereotypes.

SECTION 5. *Penalty.* A penalty of a fine not exceeding Fifty Thousand (P50,000.00) Pesos, or imprisonment not exceeding to Two (2) years, or both, at the discretion of the court shall be meted against persons found to have violated the prohibited acts under Section 4 hereof.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by any competent court, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* All laws inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed, amended, supplemented or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect Fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.