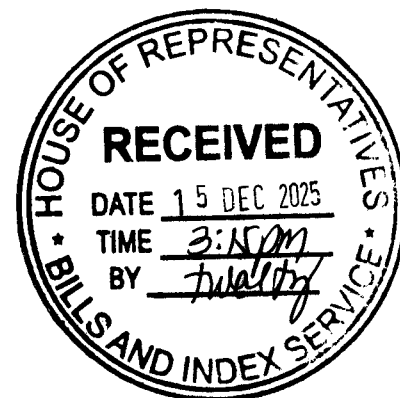


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6876



Introduced by: Kababaihan Kabalikatan para sa Kapakanan at Kaunlaran ng Bayan (4K) Party-list
Representative Iris Marie D. Montes

AN ACT
REMOVING AS ABSOLUTORY CAUSE THE SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE OF THE OFFENDED PARTY TO THE OFFENDER IN CASES OF RAPE, THEREBY EXTINGUISHING CRIMINAL LIABILITY, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 344 AND REPEALING ARTICLE 266-C OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men."

While there are several laws seeking to protect the rights of women like Republic Act No. 9710 or the "Magna Carta of Women", many women still become targets of gender-related crimes.

According to the Philippine National Police (PNP), rape remains to be a prevalent crime in the country.¹ The 2022 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority reveals that as of 2021, there were 1,791 reported cases of rape.

Worse, under our existing laws, marriage of the offended party to the offender, in cases of rape, is considered as an absolute cause. This means that the criminal liability shall be extinguished and there shall be no penalty to be imposed against the offender if the perpetrator manages to marry the victim -- a provision that is not in consonance with our commitment to uphold the rights of women.

It serves as a convenient means for offenders to evade prosecution and indirectly reinforce forced marriages. In order to uphold a woman's dignity, they should be allowed to solely decide on matters pertaining to their body, life, and future.

As such, this bill seeks to finally rectify this error by amending the provision of the Revised Penal Code and, in effect, deletes as absolute cause

¹ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1715756/rape-declines-but-numbers-dont-tell-the-story-sexual-violence-still-pervasive> Accessed on 02 December 2025

the marriage of the offended party to the offender in cases of rape, as well as crimes against chastity, seduction, abduction, and acts of lasciviousness.



IRIS MARIE D. MONTES

Kababaihan Kabalikatan para sa Kapakanan
at Kaunlaran ng Bayan (4K) Party-list

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

SECTION. 1. Article 266-C of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, as amended, extinguishing the crime of rape by subsequent valid marriage between the offender and the offended party, is hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. Article 344 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Article 344. Prosecution of the crimes of adultery, concubinage, seduction, abduction, rape and acts of lasciviousness. - The crimes of adultery and concubinage shall not be prosecuted except upon a complaint filed by the offended spouse.

The offended party cannot institute criminal prosecution without including both the guilty parties, if they are both alive, nor, in any case, if he shall have consented or pardoned the offenders.

The offenses of seduction, abduction, rape or acts of lasciviousness, shall not be prosecuted except upon a complaint filed by the offended party or her parents, grandparents, or guardian, nor, in any case, if the offender has been expressly pardoned by the above named persons, as the case may be.

~~[In cases of seduction, abduction, acts of lasciviousness and rape, the marriage of the offender with the offended party shall extinguish the criminal action or remit the penalty already imposed upon him. The provisions of this paragraph shall also be applicable to the co-principals, accomplices and accessories after the fact of the above mentioned crimes.]"~~

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,