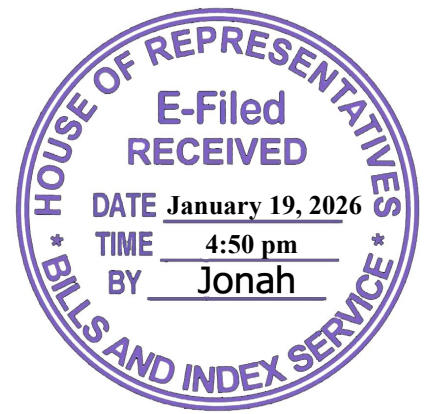


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7204



Introduced by Representative ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to maintain peace and order, protect life, liberty, and property, and promote the general welfare. In fulfilling this duty, the government must address radicalization in its early stages, such as terror grooming, to prevent direct terrorist acts.

Central to this measure is the **constitutional protection of children and the youth**. The 1987 Constitution expressly defends the **"right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development"**.

Furthermore, the State recognizes the **"vital role of the youth in nation-building"** and is mandated to **"promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being"**.

To preclude the endangerment of children, this bill also draws basis from other constitutional provisions:

- **Article II, Section 12**, which mandates the State to protect the family as a basic autonomous social institution and support parents in the **rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character**.
- **Article XIV, Section 1 and Section 2(2)**, which protect the **right of all citizens to quality education** and establish that elementary education is **compulsory for all children of school age**, ensuring they are not diverted from learning toward violent extremism.
- **Article II, Section 11**, which guarantees **full respect for human rights** and the dignity of every person, protecting children from psychological manipulation.

Current anti-terrorism laws primarily focus on recruitment and participation of persons, leaving a gap in addressing the preliminary stages of radicalization, especially on youth and other vulnerable sectors.

The **Terror Grooming Prevention Act** seeks to fill this gap by defining and penalizing grooming while safeguarding constitutional rights. This measure

affirms the State's duty as *parens patriae* and adopts a **whole-of-nation approach** to shield our children from exploitation and ensure a stable future for posterity.


REP. ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 7204

Introduced by Representative ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

**AN ACT PROTECTING VULNERABLE SECTORS AGAINST
RADICALIZATION AND TERROR-GROOMING AND PRESCRIBING
PENALTIES THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "**Terror Grooming Prevention Act of 2025**".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State recognizes that **ideological indoctrination and psychological grooming** are deliberate processes that pose a grave danger to national security and public safety. It is the policy of the State to:

1. Renounce war and adhere to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**.

2. Protect the people from **extremist propaganda and disinformation**.

3. Protect vulnerable sectors, particularly the youth and marginalized, from **manipulation and victimization** without infringing on constitutional freedoms.

4. Uphold the **sanctity of family life** as a primary force against terror grooming.

5. Uphold **basic rights and fundamental liberties** as enshrined in the Constitution.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. - For the purpose of this Act:

- a. **Child** refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age or those unable to fully care for themselves due to disability.
- b. **Terror Grooming** refers to a series of deliberate acts of manipulation intended to build dependency and facilitate a victim's involvement in terrorism.
- c. **Vulnerable sector** includes children, youth, indigenous peoples, farmers, fisherfolks, and laborers.

- d. Definitions are also provided for **Child Recruitment, Exploitation of a child, Radicalization, Violent Extremism, and Internet Intermediaries**.

Section 4. Acts of Terror Grooming. - Terror grooming may be conducted online or in-person. Prohibited acts include:

- a. Using **manipulation to build trust** with the intent of facilitating involvement in terrorism.
- b. **Indoctrinating** persons with violent extremist ideologies.
- c. **Recruiting** persons to join or support terrorism.
- d. Using **physical or online spaces** (schools, religious institutions, digital platforms) for grooming.
- e. **Disseminating materials** intended for grooming that incite violence.
- f. Providing **logistical or financial support** for grooming.
- g. Conducting **tactical or ideological training** under pretense of lawful activity.
- h. Managing **digital platforms** designed for recruiting or grooming.
- i. Assisting the **travel** of a person for the purpose of indoctrination.
- j. **Concealing the true nature** of a group to facilitate grooming.
- k. Employing **manipulative narratives** to justify extremist beliefs.

Section 5. Responsibilities of Institutions/Organizations. -

- a. **Schools** must take appropriate steps to prevent grooming, monitor school-based organizations, and provide intervention for victims.
- b. **School-based organizations** must actively contribute to prevention and report suspected grooming.
- c. **Workers' and People's Organizations** must counter radicalization within their ranks; registration may be cancelled if the organization is found complicit.
- d. **Internet Intermediaries and ISPs** must block/remove grooming content within 24 hours of notice from a competent authority.
- e. **Internet Hotspots/Cafes** must notify authorities of violations and install detection software.

Section 6. Extraterritorial Application. - This Act applies to any Filipino citizen or person who commits these acts **outside the Philippines**, consistent with international law.

Section 7. Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Terror Grooming Prevention (IACCTGP). - An IACCTGP is created to facilitate coordination, formulate a national strategy, and review media content that incites terrorism

while upholding the **right to freedom of expression**. It is chaired by the **Executive Secretary**.

Section 8. The National Secretariat. - The **DSWD** shall serve as the Secretariat of the IACCTGP, headed by an Executive Director.

Section 9. The National Terror Grooming Prevention Program (NTGPP). - This program shall implement resilience-building, deradicalization efforts, capacity-building for frontline providers, and vocational training for vulnerable communities.

Section 10. National Terror-Grooming Prevention Watch Program. - Established at the barangay level to conduct **community risk mapping** and provide anonymous reporting channels.

Section 11. National Centralized Database. - The IACCTGP shall administer a secure database of victims of terror grooming in compliance with the **Data Privacy Act**.

Section 12. Protection of Rights and Due Process. - No act shall be penalized unless intent is established **beyond reasonable doubt**. Radicalized children shall be treated **primarily as victims** in need of rehabilitation.

Section 13. Penalties. -

- a. If the victim is a **child**, the penalty is **forty (40) years imprisonment** and a fine of P10,000,000.00.
- b. If committed by a **Public Official**, the penalty is **twenty (20) years imprisonment**, dismissal from service, and perpetual disqualification from office.
- c. If the offender exercises **moral ascendancy** (teacher, guardian, etc.), the penalty is **twenty (20) years imprisonment** and a P5,000,000.00 fine.
- d. Other violations carry a penalty of **fifteen (15) years imprisonment**.
- e. **School administrators** may be held liable for damages for gross negligence.
- f. **Foreign individuals** shall be deported after serving their sentence.

Section 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The IACCTGP shall issue the IRR within **ninety (90) days** from publication.

Section 15. Separability Clause. - If any provision is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall remain in effect.

Section 16. Repealing Clause. - Inconsistent laws or executive orders are hereby repealed or modified.

Section 17. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect **fifteen (15) days** after publication in the Official Gazette or newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,