

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*



HOUSE BILL NO. 7803

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Introduced by  
**REPRESENTATIVES AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI, MA. GEORGINA DE VENECIA,  
LINABELLE RUTH VILLARICA and ANNA VICTORIA VELOSO-TUAZON**

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CRISIS ASSISTANCE CENTER (NCAC), AND  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS CENTERS, FOR WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This measure seeks to establish Resource Development and Crisis Centers in each province and city in the country, ensuring access of women and children to immediate protection and holistic support services, including temporary shelter, medical and medico-legal services, psychological counseling, legal assistance, and referral services. Furthermore, it mandates the creation of a National Crisis Assistance Center (NCAC) in Alabang, Muntinlupa, which shall serve as the primary national hub and model facility for the protection and rehabilitation of abused women and children.

Section 14, Article II of the 1987 Constitution recognizes the role of women in nation-building while Section 3 (2), Article XV provides that the State shall defend the right of children to assistance, and protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty and exploitation. Despite these State policies together with other existing protective laws for women and children, access to immediate and comprehensive assistance remains uneven, and in many areas in the country, inadequate.

Violence, neglect, exploitation, and abuse against women and children remain among the most urgent and persistent social concerns in the country. In many provinces and cities,

victims of abuse still face significant barriers in obtaining protection and support. Women and children who escape situations of violence often have nowhere to go. Police stations and hospitals are not designed nor are they sufficiently equipped to provide psychosocial care, temporary shelter, livelihood assistance, or rehabilitation services to victims. As a result, victims are frequently forced to return to unsafe environments, placing them at continued risk of abuse and re-victimization.

According to the report of the World Health Organization in 2025, 7.2% of every married women aged 15 to 49 in the Philippines, have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse from their partners<sup>1</sup>. Meanwhile, around 8,000 cases of domestic violence or VAWC cases were reported to the Philippine National Police in 2023<sup>2</sup>.

At present, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) operates several residential and protective facilities, including shelters and crisis intervention units. However, these facilities are limited in number, unevenly distributed, and insufficient to meet the growing demand for services, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. Many local government units likewise lack the technical and financial capacity to provide integrated services for women and children in crisis.

Through this proposed measure we seek to address this gap by institutionalizing the establishment of Resource Development and Crisis Assistance Centers for Women and Children in every province and city nationwide. These Centers shall serve as safe spaces where women and children may immediately obtain protection and holistic support services. Beyond crisis intervention, the Centers shall also provide skills training, livelihood support, and community education programs aimed at empowering survivors and preventing future abuse. Moreover, the NCAC shall be governed by an expanded Inter-Agency Oversight Body. This body integrates the clinical expertise of the DOH, the social protection of the DSWD, the legal weight of the DOJ, and the gender-responsive policy leadership of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW). Furthermore, to ensure sustained legislative support and advocacy, the Association of Women Legislators Foundation, Inc. (AWLFI) is included in this governance structure.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2145080/study-7-2-of-filipino-women-suffer-abuse-from-husbands-or-partners>

<sup>2</sup> <https://tribune.net.ph/2025/03/07/1-in-3-women-experience-abuse-group>

This measure further promotes a coordinated, whole-of-government approach by mandating collaboration among the DSWD, Department of Health, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Education, TESDA, the Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection Center, and accredited civil society organizations. It further integrates existing DSWD shelters and strengthens referral systems, to ensure that assistance becomes accessible, responsive, and survivor-centered.

The State has the constitutional duty to protect the family and uphold the dignity of every human person. It is imperative for the government to ensure that women and children have immediate access to protection, care, and recovery services to fulfill this duty.

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

  
**REP. AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**  
*Representative, 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Bukidnon*

  
**REP. MA. GEORGINA DE VENECIA**  
*Representative, 4<sup>th</sup> District of Pangasinan*

  
**REP. LINABELLE RUTH VILLARICA**  
*Representative, 4th District of Bulacan*

  
**REP. ANNA VICTORIA VELOSO-TUAZON**  
*Representative, 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Leyte*

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APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1           **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the “National and Local  
2 Resource Development and Crisis Centers Act.”

3

4           **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to value  
5 the dignity of women and defend the rights of children and to recognize their roles in nation-  
6 building. Towards this end, the State shall ensure the protection of their fundamental rights and  
7 shall provide them with facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable  
8 them to realize their full potential in the service of the nation. The State shall also endeavor to  
9 provide women and children with utmost support and assistance which shall include among  
10 others, free legal and medical services, livelihood and skills development training,  
11 psychological counselling and other assistance necessary to protect them against all forms of  
12 neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other acts prejudicial to their welfare and development.

13

14           **SEC. 3. *Establishment of the National Crisis Assistance Center.*** – There is hereby  
15 established a National Crisis Assistance Center (NCAC) to be located in Alabang, Muntinlupa  
16 City. The NCAC shall serve as the primary national hub and model facility for the protection,

1 recovery, and rehabilitation of abused women and children. It shall provide specialized  
2 oversight, technical assistance to regional centers, and serve as the main sanctuary for high-  
3 risk cases requiring intensive intervention.

4  
5 **SEC. 4. *The National Crisis Assistance Center (NCAC) Charter.*** – The NCAC shall  
6 operate under a Charter formulated by the DSWD and the Oversight Body within six (6)  
7 months of this Act’s effectivity. The Charter shall:

- 8 a. Define the NCAC as the national model for integrated crisis intervention;
- 9 b. Establish protocols for high-risk case management and specialized trauma-  
10 informed rehabilitation;
- 11 c. Set standards for training and capacity-building for all provincial and city centers.

12  
13 **SEC. 5. *Governance and Oversight Body.*** – The NCAC and all regional centers shall  
14 be under the management of the DSWD, with policy oversight provided by an expanded Inter-  
15 Agency Council composed of:

- 16 1. Secretary of Social Welfare and Development (Chair);
- 17 2. Secretary of Health;
- 18 3. Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;
- 19 4. Secretary of Justice;
- 20 5. Chairperson of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW);
- 21 6. Representatives from the Department of Education (DepEd) and TESDA;
- 22 7. Chief of the PNP-WCPC;
- 23 8. President of the Association of Women Legislators Foundation, Inc. (AWLFI);

24  
25 **SEC. 6. *Establishment of Resource Development and Crisis Assistance Centers.*** –  
26 There shall be established in every province and city in the country a Resource Development  
27 and Crisis Assistance Center for women and children (hereinafter referred to as “Centers”).  
28 These Centers shall be under the management and supervision of the Department of Social  
29 Welfare and Development (DSWD) and shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed  
30 by the President of the Philippines. The Director shall hold a Master’s or Doctorate Degree in  
31 Social Work or Community Development or similar courses and shall have a minimum  
32 experience of five (5) years in counseling, social and psychological services and other related  
33 field or experience.

1           The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in coordination with the DSWD,  
2 shall formulate a cohesive organizational structure with corresponding *plantilla* positions  
3 responsive to fulfill the functions of the Centers under this Act.  
4

5           **SEC. 7. *Criteria for the Selection of the Sites for the Centers.*** – An Inter-Agency  
6 Council shall be convened to set the criteria for the selection of the sites of the Centers all over  
7 the country. The Council shall be composed of authorized representatives from the DSWD,  
8 Department of Health (DOH), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG),  
9 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Education (DepEd), Technical  
10 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Philippine National Police Women  
11 and Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC) and non-government and people’s organizations  
12 duly-accredited by national government agencies.  
13

14           **SEC. 8 *Functions of the Centers.*** – The Centers shall have the following functions:  
15

- 16           a. To serve as the venue of consciousness raising, capacity-building, and functional  
17 literacy enhancement programs, among others, that will enhance public awareness of  
18 issues and promote community participation;  
19
- 20           b. To undertake programs geared towards the development of maternal and child health  
21 care, self-enhancement and the development of skills for livelihood generation, social  
22 communication, and other related skills which will help women and children to become  
23 productive members of society;  
24
- 25           c. To provide free legal services and undertake activities related to moral recovery and  
26 gender sensitive value formation, counseling and psycho-social programs;  
27
- 28           d. To provide free medical assistance, including medico-legal examinations and  
29 psychological counseling to victims of rape and other cases of violence or abuse against  
30 women and children, ensuring the security and privacy of the women and children  
31 concerned at all times;  
32
- 33           e. To provide temporary shelter or emergency refuge to women and children;  
34

- 1 f. To serve as half-way houses for children awaiting transfer to foster homes, DSWD  
2 shelters, hospitals, and those separated from their respective homes;  
3  
4 g. To provide skills training or livelihood assistance to survivors of violence or abuse;  
5  
6 h. To strengthen and facilitate linkages of women's and children's groups and  
7 organization with relevant government agencies and local government units to  
8 maximize the delivery of basic and support services for women and children and  
9 advocate for their protection and advancement of their rights; and  
10  
11 i. To perform such other function as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this  
12 Act.  
13

14 **SEC. 9. Beneficiaries.** – All women and children under the following circumstances  
15 shall be entitled to protection and assistance by the Center:  
16

- 17 a. Victims of involuntary or forced prostitution;  
18 b. Victims of sexual abuse, harassment or molestation;  
19 c. Victims of prostitution;  
20 d. Victims of physical abuse;  
21 e. Victims of illegal recruitment, human trafficking, and/or labor exploitations;  
22 f. Victims of armed conflict, natural or environmental disasters who are suffering from  
23 trauma or mental distress due to the tragic death or displacement of family members,  
24 dislocation, loss of livelihood or similar circumstances as determined by the DSWD;  
25 g. Detained, abandoned or run-away women and children;  
26 h. Victims suffering from mental, emotional, psychological and physical disability  
27 needing special support and assistance; and  
28 i. Victims of other circumstances as may be determined by the DSWD.  
29

30 **SEC. 10. Rehabilitation and Development Program.** – The DSWD in coordination  
31 with the Inter-Agency Council convened under Section 7 hereof shall within six (6) months  
32 from the approval of this Act, formulate a program for the rehabilitation, development, and  
33 protection of women and children mentioned in Section 9 hereof. The Council shall also

1 oversee the effective implementation of the programs of the Center and monitor the  
2 accomplishments of participating agencies. It shall also act as an advisory board.

3  
4 The DSWD may call on national agencies and local government units, academic institutions  
5 and international organizations to assist in the implementation of this Act by way of program  
6 collaboration and funding augmentation, among others,

7  
8 **SEC. 11. *Coordination with the Philippines National Police.*** – The PNP-WCPC shall  
9 work in close coordination with the Inter-Agency Council constituted herein for the purpose of  
10 referring women and children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse to the nearest  
11 Crisis Assistance Center.

12  
13 **SEC. 12. *Authority to Accept Donations.*** – The DSWD through the Secretary, may  
14 accept donations and grants, both domestic and foreign for purposes relevant to the functions  
15 of the Centers. The donations and grants shall be allotted to various Centers in such amount as  
16 may be deemed best by the DSWD or for the purposes specified by the donor. Such donations  
17 and grants shall be subject to pertinent government accounting and auditing rules and  
18 regulations.

19  
20 **SEC. 13. *Integration of Existing Women and Children Centers.*** – All existing  
21 shelters, crisis intervention or residential care facilities of the DSWD for women and children,  
22 except those specifically created and governed by existing laws, shall be deemed integrated  
23 and covered by this Act.

24  
25 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of  
26 this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the DSWD under the current General  
27 Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation and  
28 maintenance of the Centers shall be included in the regular appropriations for the DSWD in  
29 the annual General Appropriations Act.

30  
31 **SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other  
32 issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
33 modified accordingly.

34

1           **SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or declared  
2 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

3

4           **SEC. 17. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
5 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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7           *Approved,*