



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10033

Introduced by Representative Ann Matibag

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAY VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN (VAWC) DESKS AND OFFICERS, INSTITUTIONALIZING THEIR MANDATE, NATIONAL STANDARDS, QUALIFICATIONS, COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, PROTECTION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND FUNDING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Violence against women and their children (VAWC) continues to persist in communities across the country, often hidden within homes and underreported due to fear, stigma, economic dependence, and lack of accessible support systems. While landmark laws such as Republic Act No. 9262, otherwise known as the “Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004,” and Republic Act No. 9710, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta of Women,” provide comprehensive legal protections, the effectiveness of these laws largely depends on responsive and functional mechanisms at the barangay level.

Barangay Violence Against Women and Their Children (VAWC) Desks serve as the first point of contact for victim-survivors seeking immediate assistance, protection, referral, and access to justice. However, many barangays continue to face challenges in maintaining fully functional VAWC Desks due to inadequate staffing, lack of training, inconsistent funding, absence of national operational standards, and insufficient institutional support.

In many instances, VAWC Desk Officers are designated without adequate preparation, compensation, or security of tenure, resulting in weak case management, poor continuity of services, and diminished trust from victim-survivors.

This measure seeks to institutionalize and professionalize Barangay VAWC Desks and Officers by establishing mandatory national standards for operations, qualifications, training, compensation, benefits, accountability, and protection mechanisms. It also formally adopts the Barangay VAW Desk Handbook as the official operational standard for barangay-level VAWC response and strengthens monitoring and oversight systems to ensure effective implementation nationwide.

Through this measure, every barangay shall become a safe, accessible, gender-responsive, and survivor-centered space where women and children may seek immediate protection, assistance, and justice.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ann Matibag', is positioned above the printed name.

Rep. Ann Matibag
First District of Laguna



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

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Magna Carta of Barangay Violence Against Women and Their Children (VAWC) Desks and Officers.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- (a) Protect and promote the rights, dignity, safety, and welfare of women and children against all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, and discrimination;
- (b) Ensure that every barangay maintains a permanent, functional, adequately resourced, and accessible frontline mechanism for the prevention of and response to violence against women and their children;

- (c) Recognize Barangay VAWC Desk Officers as essential frontline service providers whose functions require competence, continuity, protection, accountability, and adequate compensation;
- (d) Institutionalize national standards of operation, training, documentation, and case handling while respecting local autonomy under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”;
- (e) Strengthen the implementation of Republic Act No. 9262 and Republic Act No. 9710 through professionalized and sustainable barangay-level mechanisms; and
- (f) Guarantee immediate, survivor-centered, trauma-informed, gender-responsive, confidential, and accessible services for victim-survivors.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- (a) “Barangay VAWC Desk” refers to a facility established in every barangay to receive, respond to, document, assess, manage, and refer cases of violence against women and their children in a gender-responsive and survivor-centered manner;
- (b) “Barangay VAWC Desk Officer” refers to the barangay personnel or functionary designated or appointed by the Punong Barangay to manage and operate the Barangay VAWC Desk and perform duties under this Act;
- (c) “Victim-survivor” refers to a woman or child who has experienced any act of violence, abuse, exploitation, or gender-based violence as defined under Republic Act No. 9262, Republic Act No. 9710, and other related laws;
- (d) “Survivor-centered approach” refers to an approach that prioritizes the rights, needs, safety, dignity, choices, and confidentiality of victim-survivors; and
- (e) “Trauma-informed care” refers to services and interventions that recognize the psychological, emotional, and social effects of trauma and seek to avoid re-traumatization.

SEC. 4. Guiding Principles. – The implementation of this Act shall be guided by the following principles:

- (a) Survivor-centered and trauma-informed response;
- (b) Confidentiality and data privacy;
- (c) Accessibility, inclusivity, and non-discrimination;
- (d) Gender equality and women’s empowerment;
- (e) Local autonomy with nationally mandated minimum standards; and
- (f) Accountability, professionalism, and transparency.

ARTICLE II. BARANGAY VAWC DESKS

SEC. 5. Mandatory Establishment of Barangay VAWC Desks. – All barangays nationwide shall establish and maintain a Barangay Violence Against Women and Their Children (VAWC) Desk, which shall serve as the primary community-level facility for receiving, documenting, responding to, and referring VAWC cases.

The Barangay VAWC Desk shall be located within the barangay hall or in another secure, accessible, and private facility designated by the barangay.

Every Barangay VAWC Desk shall ensure immediate, confidential, gender-responsive, and accessible assistance to victim-survivors.

SEC. 6. Minimum Standards for Barangay VAWC Desks. – Every Barangay VAWC Desk shall, at a minimum, be equipped with:

- (a) A private and secure interview or consultation space;
- (b) Standardized intake, documentation, and reporting tools;
- (c) Secure and confidential record-keeping systems compliant with applicable data privacy laws;
- (d) Updated referral directories for law enforcement agencies, hospitals, social welfare offices, prosecutors, legal aid providers, shelters, and other support services;
- (e) Basic communication facilities necessary for coordination and emergency response; and
- (f) Information materials on VAWC laws, victim rights, referral mechanisms, and available support services.

ARTICLE III. BARANGAY VAWC DESK OFFICERS

SEC. 7. Institutionalization of Barangay VAWC Desk Officers. – Each barangay shall designate at least two (2) Barangay VAWC Desk Officers who shall be responsible for the management and operation of the Barangay VAWC Desk.

Barangays with larger populations or higher incidence of VAWC cases may designate additional officers as necessary.

SEC. 8. Status and Nature of Appointment. –

- (a) A Barangay VAWC Desk Officer may be appointed or designated as:

- (1) A barangay employee occupying a plantilla position; or
- (2) A barangay functionary receiving honoraria.
- (b) The appointment or designation shall be made through a barangay ordinance, resolution, or written order, consistent with Republic Act No. 7160.
- (c) Preference shall be given to qualified women barangay officials, employees, or trained community members with demonstrated commitment to gender-responsive public service.
- (d) No Barangay VAWC Desk Officer shall be removed except for just cause and after due process.

SEC. 9. Qualifications. – No person shall be appointed or designated as a Barangay VAWC Desk Officer unless he or she:

- (a) Is a Filipino citizen and resident of the barangay;
- (b) Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age;
- (c) Has completed at least secondary education;
- (d) Has completed accredited training on gender sensitivity, VAWC laws, trauma-informed care, survivor-centered response, and case handling conducted or recognized by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), or comparable agencies;
- (e) Possesses integrity, discretion, trustworthiness, and commitment to gender-responsive public service; and
- (f) Has no conviction for any crime involving moral turpitude, violence, abuse, or sexual offenses.

SEC. 10. Functions and Duties of Barangay VAWC Desk Officers. – Barangay VAWC Desk Officers shall:

- (a) Receive, assess, document, and manage VAWC complaints and reports;
- (b) Assist victim-survivors in securing Barangay Protection Orders pursuant to Republic Act No. 9262;
- (c) Facilitate referrals to appropriate law enforcement, judicial, health, legal, and social welfare agencies and support organizations;
- (d) Maintain secure, accurate, and confidential case records;
- (e) Conduct barangay-level information, advocacy, education, and prevention activities on VAWC and gender sensitivity;

- (f) Assist in the preparation and implementation of barangay gender-responsive plans and programs related to VAWC prevention and response;
- (g) Coordinate with government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society groups, and community support networks;
- (h) Submit reports required under this Act and other applicable laws; and
- (i) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out this Act and related laws.

ARTICLE IV. NATIONAL STANDARDS AND THE BARANGAY VAW DESK HANDBOOK

SEC. 11. Adoption of the Barangay VAW Desk Handbook. – The Barangay Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk Handbook jointly issued by the Philippine Commission on Women and the Department of the Interior and Local Government is hereby formally adopted as the official national operational and procedural standard for all Barangay VAWC Desks and Officers.

SEC. 12. Mandatory Compliance. – All Barangay VAWC Desk Officers and barangay officials shall strictly comply with the standards, protocols, and procedures provided in the Barangay VAW Desk Handbook, particularly on:

- (a) Case intake, assessment, documentation, and reporting;
- (b) Issuance and enforcement of Barangay Protection Orders;
- (c) Survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and gender-responsive handling of cases;
- (d) Confidentiality and data privacy;
- (e) Referral and coordination mechanisms; and
- (f) Monitoring and reporting procedures.

SEC. 13. Legal Effect and Updating of the Handbook. – The Barangay VAW Desk Handbook shall have suppletory application to this Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Philippine Commission on Women, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Health, the Philippine National Police, and other concerned agencies, shall periodically review and update the Handbook to reflect changes in laws, jurisprudence, policies, and best practices, without diminishing the rights and standards provided under this Act.

ARTICLE V. COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND FUNDING

SEC. 14. Right to Just Compensation. – Barangay VAWC Desk Officers shall be entitled to just, fair, and reasonable compensation in recognition of the nature, sensitivity, and importance of their duties as frontline service providers.

SEC. 15. Salaries and Honoraria. –

- (a) A Barangay VAWC Desk Officer occupying a plantilla position shall receive compensation in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.
- (b) A Barangay VAWC Desk Officer not occupying a plantilla position shall receive a monthly honorarium of not less than Eight Thousand Pesos (₱8,000.00), subject to adjustment by barangay ordinance and availability of funds.
- (c) The honorarium and compensation under this Act shall form part of the barangay's annual budget and personal services allocation, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules.
- (d) Barangays may provide higher compensation, subject to availability of funds and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 16. Allowances and Benefits. – Barangay VAWC Desk Officers may be granted the following, subject to barangay ordinance and budgetary rules:

- (a) Transportation allowance;
- (b) Communication allowance;
- (c) Training, educational, and capability-building support;
- (d) Subsistence allowance during official activities;
- (e) Insurance coverage and social protection benefits under applicable laws and programs; and
- (f) Other lawful allowances and benefits.

SEC. 17. Funding Sources. – Funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, including compensation, benefits, training, and operational expenses, shall be charged against:

- (a) The barangay Gender and Development (GAD) Fund pursuant to Republic Act No. 9710;
- (b) Barangay appropriations for personal services and maintenance and other operating expenses under Republic Act No. 7160; and

(c) Other lawful sources.

The Sanggunian Barangay shall annually appropriate sufficient funds in the barangay budget to support the implementation of this Act.

ARTICLE VI. PROTECTION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND MONITORING

SEC. 18. Protection from Harassment, Threats, and Retaliation. – Barangay VAWC Desk Officers shall be protected from harassment, intimidation, coercion, threats, retaliation, or undue influence arising from the lawful performance of their duties under this Act.

SEC. 19. Audit Compliance and Accountability. – All expenditures, disbursements, and payments under this Act shall comply with existing Commission on Audit (COA) rules and regulations, including requirements on legality, necessity, reasonableness, documentation, and budget limitations.

Disbursements found to be without legal basis or in violation of auditing and budgeting rules shall be subject to audit disallowance, refund, and other administrative, civil, or criminal liabilities under existing laws.

SEC. 20. Monitoring and Oversight. – The Department of the Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Philippine Commission on Women and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, shall monitor compliance with this Act and develop standardized monitoring, reporting, and evaluation mechanisms.

Barangays shall submit quarterly reports on VAWC cases handled, services provided, referrals made, and related activities to the appropriate City or Municipal offices of the DILG and DSWD.

SEC. 21. Penalties for Non-Compliance. – Any barangay official or responsible officer who fails to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be subject to administrative, civil, or criminal liability under applicable laws.

The following acts shall constitute violations of this Act:

- (a) Failure to establish or maintain a functional Barangay VAWC Desk;
- (b) Failure to designate qualified Barangay VAWC Desk Officers;
- (c) Misuse, diversion, or non-allocation of funds intended for the implementation of this Act;
- (d) Breach of confidentiality and unauthorized disclosure of information related to victim-survivors; and
- (e) Neglect, refusal, or unreasonable delay in acting upon VAWC complaints or requests for assistance.

ARTICLE VII. FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 22. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Philippine Commission on Women, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Health, the Philippine National Police, and other concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 23. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 24. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 25. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,