

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 476



Introduced by Honorable Representative
SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Gabriela Women's Party),
ANTONIO L. TINIO (ACT Teachers Party-list), and
RENEE LOUISE M. CO (Kabataan Party-list)

**RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN TO
INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PROLIFERATION OF
ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE OR EXPLOITATION MATERIALS IN
DIFFERENT SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**

WHEREAS, Section 3 (2), Article 15 of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines states that the state shall defend "...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";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11930 or the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act declares that the State shall "provide special protections to children from all forms of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation especially those committed with the use of information and communications technology (ICT)";

WHEREAS, the Philippines has been hailed as the top global source of child sex abuse materials according to a study conducted by the International Justice Mission that was released in 2020;

WHEREAS, 80% of Filipino children, or 8 out of 10, were victims of online sexual abuse, according to a UNICEF study from 2016;

WHEREAS, in 2021, 2 million Filipino children were estimated to have been sexually exploited online based on a study done by the UNICEF Office of Research, ECPAT International, and Interpol;

WHEREAS, a total of 80% of the children involved were vulnerable to online sexual violence, and some were assisted by their own parents. The remaining 20% were children between the ages of 12 and 17 who were exploited online;

WHEREAS, internet and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are being used to post child sexual abuse material as well as sell photos or videos of minors;

WHEREAS, there are reports from the communities that several Facebook groups are alleged to be selling children's pictures and videos and flaunting minors' photos to attract predators;

WHEREAS, Usapang Diskarte's Facebook page and YouTube channel were found to have published content promoting sexual abuse and the exploitation of children, including how to groom minors and entice them to commit sexual acts. These accounts have been taken down by social media platforms;

WHEREAS, there have also been reports from the communities that Telegram, a messaging and social media application, is being used for online transaction of pornographic materials, most of which involve minors;

WHEREAS, paid chatgroups in Telegram with pornographic materials are being promoted via direct messaging in the X application;

WHEREAS, according to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), 5 minors were rescued in 2 operations in Ormoc, Leyte last August 26 and September 2, 2025, while

only 1 person was arrested for filming and distributing child sexual abuse and exploitation materials (CSAEM);

WHEREAS, on November 11, 2025, the Philippine National Police-Women and Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC) arrested 1 person and rescued 1 minor, and 3 children at risk in a rescue operation involving distribution of CSAEM wherein a child was allegedly used perform or participate in the sale and distribution of CSAEM through information and community technology (ICT);¹

WHEREAS, there were also reports of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children wherein men in uniform were the identified perpetrator;

WHEREAS, underreporting and undetected cases of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children are widespread in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, despite the rise in cases especially during the pandemic, the government had not undertaken stringent measures to ensure the rights and welfare of children;

WHEREAS, Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos Jr. reported in a briefing at the Palace that the number of law enforcement operations involving the sexual exploitation of children in 2017 was 12; 34 in 2018; 48 in 2019; 62 in 2020; 57 in 2021; and 26 from January to July 2022;

WHEREAS, Mama Fatima Singateh (Singateh), the United Nations special rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, visited the Philippines from November 27 to December 9, 2022, to assess progress made in fighting and preventing such exploitation;

WHEREAS, in Ms. Singateh's report², it is hard to assess the real scale of exploitation as many OSAEC cases may be unreported for fear of being shamed, or because of lack of awareness;

¹ <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/osaec-suspect-nabbed4-victims-rescued-in-surigao-del-sur>

² Strengthening International Cooperation to Address Root Causes of Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Material (CSAEM): A View from the Philippines. https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_34/ECN152025_CRP5_e.pdf

WHEREAS, there is also a rise in live-streamed child sexual abuse, usually done through messaging platform, while social media and online platforms serve as an avenue for groomers to approach minors;

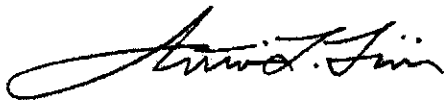
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House Committee on the Welfare of Children investigate, in aid of legislation, the proliferation of child sexual abuse or exploitation material using different social media.

Adopted,



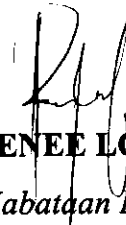
REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

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