

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 866



Introduced by Honorable Representatives
ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT and FERDINAND R. GAITE (Bayan Muna);
FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers); and SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan)

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RISING CASES OF STATE-SPONSORED VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE LGBTQ+ SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE, AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO ENSURE THEIR PROTECTION ESPECIALLY DURING THE PERIOD OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that, "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.";

WHEREAS, since the implementation of enhanced community quarantine due to COVID-19 pandemic, several cases of violence and harassment against women, children, and LGBTQI+ were reported;

WHEREAS, on March 17, a homeless 69-year-old woman, Dorothy Espejo, who lives on the streets of Leveriza, Malate was arrested by Manila Police due to the looming curfew and was charged with breach of peace and resistance and disobedience to authority;

WHEREAS, on March 19, 8 minors four boys and four girls, in Binondo, Manila were reportedly arrested for violating the curfew. Aside from the arrest, local officials also forcibly cut the hair of seven of the children while the one who resisted was stripped and ordered to walk home naked;

WHEREAS, on March 20, five young people in Barangay Gatid, Sta. Cruz, Laguna were placed and locked inside a small, mobiledog cage by local officials also for violating curfew rules;

WHEREAS, on March 23, a female resident buying medicine for her sick mother in a subdivision in Bagumbong, Caloocan City was harassed by military personnel stationed in the checkpoint wherein after they asked for her driver's license and quarantine pass, one of the soldiers hinted that he hid a "gift" inside. The victim then discovered that he had given her his number inserted in the driver's license she presented.

Later on, the military personnel even forced the victim to take off her helmet and face mask threatening that if she does not follow, she will be detained;

WHEREAS, on March 24, another woman passing through a quarantine checkpoint in Makati was stopped by a police officer insisting on getting her personal details like where is her destination, what is her usual route, and is the area nearby where she lives. When the victim refused on disclosing such information, the police officer further pressured her to give her name and her number. When she refused again, the police officer threatened that he will confiscate her driver's license. Afterwards, when the victim got home, an unknown number kept calling her until late night;

WHEREAS, on March 26, two children in Barangay MalainenBago, Naic, Cavite were locked in a coffin for violating curfew ruleswhile Barangay Chairman Noel AnotCatibayan took a video of the punishment and posted it on Facebook;

WHEREAS, on March 27, Denice Dinsay, a reporter from the ABS-CBN News Channel, was held-up by 2 AFP-PNP personnel in a checkpoint asking for her work details and making verbal advances;

WHEREAS, on March 29, two police officers, Patrolman Arnold Geroy and Patrolman Sonny Maruzzo, from Marikina City Police Station were arrested for raping two female detainees after conducting custodial debriefing;

WHEREAS, on April 5, Barangay Captain Christopher Bombing Punzalanin Pandacaqui, Pampanga, as documented in his Facebook live video, made LGBTQ+ curfew violators do obscene acts, such as kissing each other and sexy dancing in front of a minor, as punishment;

WHEREAS, on April 11, it was reported by John Tanagho, field office director of the International Justice Mission in the Philippines, that the incidence of livestreams of child sexual abuse and exploitation has increased. Traffickers in the Philippines have even been live streaming on-demand videos to child sex offenders particularly those in Western countries;

WHEREAS, on April 18, entrepreneur and film writer Maria Victoria 'Bambi' Beltran was arrested in Barangay Kamputhaw, Cebu City through the orders of Mayor Edgardo Labella and was taken in custody of the Police Regional Office in Central Visayas. Bambi Beltran is a known critic of the government and a writer of satirical nature, who was later on accused by the mayor of peddling false information;

WHEREAS, on April 25, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) – a foreign office of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in Taichung City, Taiwan call for the deportation of a Filipina caregiver over her online criticism on the Philippine government's response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Fidel Macauyag, staff of POLO, even went to the woman on April 20 to threaten her that her social media posts amounted to a crime, for which she might be prosecuted for;

WHEREAS, on May 1, ten volunteer relief workers, composed of seven jeepney drivers, two pre-school teachers and one volunteer of Gabriela, were arrested by Marikina police while distributing cooked food to their neighbors. They are volunteers of the #BabaeAkoBayanihangMarikenyos at Marikena, Citizen's Urgent Response to End COVID (Cure COVID), and Lingap Gabriela who have been conducting community kitchen feeding program and giving relief packs for the poor since the implementation of enhanced community quarantine. In fact, they have a permit from the LGU for the conduct of relief

operations. As they were arrested, the volunteer from Gabriela said "Bakit, ano bang masamasapagpapakain?" in which the policemen laughed and one of them responded "Eh di sakulungan kayo magkainan";

WHEREAS, women, children, and LGBTQI+ are already at heightened risk of violence and abuse amidst the intensifying containment measures and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and local officials are making the situation worse than it already is;

WHEREAS, all these incidents are clear manifestations that the militarist response of the Duterte administration to the COVID-19 pandemic spawn macho fascism, discrimination, and violence;

WHEREAS, all these incidents also speak of how Duterte's brand of brazen misogyny is being imbibed and exercised by the police and military forces;

WHEREAS, in this crisis situation where everyone must stand against all forms of harassment, discrimination, and violence against women, children, and LGBTQI+, there is no space for public officials who choose to bend the law and disregard human rights;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RISING CASES OF STATE-SPONSORED VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE LGBTQ+ SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE, AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO ENSURE THEIR PROTECTION ESPECIALLY DURING THE PERIOD OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Adopted,



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