

HONORABLE GERALDINE B. ROMAN

Chairperson

Committee on Women and Gender Equality

House of Representatives

Quezon City

Dear **Representative ROMAN**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) supports **House Bill Nos. 86, 403, 1742, 3849 and 4054 Amending Republic Act (RA) No. 9262** or the “**Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004**”, authored by Representatives Marjorie Ann A. Teodoro, Arlene D. Brosas, France L. Castro and Raoul Dannel A. Manuel, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, and Gustavo S. Tambunting, respectively, that seek to deter the commission of online violence against women and children, and penalize violators of the law who manipulate and take advantage of technology to inflict violence.

The DSWD respectfully recommends harmonizing the provisions with those that are already existing under **Republic Act (RA) No. 11930** or the “**Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act.**”, and the existing mechanisms under RA 9262, such as the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IAC-VAWC).

To enhance the Bills further, we recommend the following:

1. To consolidate all the Bills into one.
2. **Sec. 2 – “Sec. 3. Definition of Terms”**
 - 2.1 Under **HBNs 86, 403 and 4054**, to harmonize the definition of terms with RA 11930.
 - 2.2 On **item E.1 under HBNs 86 and 403**, to consider the advent of ASMR or autonomous sensory meridian response that has introduced various symbolisms, including sounds and imagery that brings “thirst traps” or sexual lust to users. Thus, to not limit to specific body parts that which can be subject to violence in the context of technology-initiated abuse
3. **Sec. 2 – National Task Force on Violence Against Women**, under HBN 1742
 - 3.1 To reconsider the creation of a National Task Force given the existence of the IAC-VAWC in order to avoid duplication of functions, and to undertake further studies on establishing a National Task Force; and

3.2 To include as one of the duties of the Task Force, the establishment of a harmonized monitoring, reporting and referral mechanism guided by the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

4. Sec. 4 – “Sec. 43. Entitled to Leave”

Under HBN 3849, to consider an aggregate of **thirty (30) or thirty-one (31) days** leave of absence in consideration of solo parents whose child may be a victim of violence.

5. Sec. 6 – “Sec. 8. Protection Orders”

To also use RA 10175 or the “Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012”, as reference under this provision.

This is being submitted for the Chairperson’s consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



EDUARDO M. PUNAY

OIC, Secretary

Date: 31 JAN 2023