



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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REPRESENTATIVE EMMELINE Y. AGLIPAY-VILLAR

Chairperson

Committee on Women and Gender Equality

House of Representatives

Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Aglipay - Villar**:

This refers to the request of your Committee for our Department's official position on House Bill Nos. 1471, 2850 and 3813 which seek to address issues related to violence against women and their children.

In line with this, may we share with you the following comments and recommendations:

1. **House Bill No. 1471:** *An Act to Establish the Address Confidentiality Program for Victims of Violence Against Women and their Children, Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof, Appropriating Funds Therefore, and For Other Purposes*

A new law may no longer be necessary since Section 44 of Republic Act No. 9262 and Section 63 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations already provided for the protection of all information pertaining to victim-survivors (including their addresses) by the concerned service providers i.e. law enforcers, court personnel, medical practitioners, social workers and parties to the case. DSWD, for its part, also upholds confidentiality as a core principle of the social case management process.

2. **House Bill No. 2850:** *An Act Establishing a Task Force to Recommend a Uniform Strategy to Protect Women Against Violent Crime*

Thorough review of this proposal is recommended given the government's policy to streamline the bureaucracy and the fact that the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children (IAC-VAWC) already exists to formulate programs and projects to eliminate violence against these sectors,

develop capacity building programs for service providers and monitor the anti-VAWC initiatives of the government.

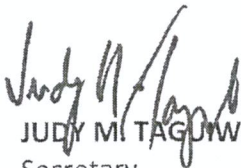
3. **House Bill No. 3813:** An Act Penalizing All Advertising Agencies that Exploit Women and Glorify Sexual Violence in their Advertisements

The Gender Equality Committee (GEC) created under Section 16 of Republic Act No. 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women already launched three (3) documents in 2013 to uphold the positive portrayal of women in all forms of media, communication, information dissemination and advertising. These documents include Book 1 (Code of Ethics for Media), Book 2 (Guidelines to Protect Women from Discrimination in Media and Film) and Book 3 (Gender Equality Guide). Instead of a new law, focus should be on how government offices involved in media, national media federations and associations, and schools of journalism and communication are able to appreciate and translate these documents into actual materials.

Related to this, it is also worth noting that RA 9710 already provided for the corresponding penalties for the violators of the Act including those concerned with Section 16.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUINALO
Secretary