



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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27 February 2017

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 No. 2664 or An Act Amending Republic Act No. 9262, Defining Electronic Violence against Women or E-VAW, Providing Protective Measures and Prescribing Penalties Therefore, and for Other Purposes filed by Representatives Emmi A. De Jesus and Arlene D. Brosas of Gabriela Women's Party.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports the intention of this bill to address emerging forms of violence against women and their children resulting from the use of information and communications technology.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, may we share with you the following comments and recommendations:

1. The title of the bill should be changed into "The Expanded Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act" to cover other forms of violence committed against these sectors.
2. The term "Electronic Violence against Women and their Children" (E-VAWC) should be used all throughout the bill and should also cover abuses committed over social media.
3. The Inter-Agency Council on Violence against Women and their Children (IAC-VAWC) may now consider inviting the Department of Information and Communications (DICT) as a member agency for VAWC discussions related to technology or communications.

Related to this, the bill should also specify whether DICT will be the agency responsible for the immediate blocking, blacklisting or removal of any E-VAWC related data.

4. There is merit in looking into the gaps of existing laws that protect women and children from various forms of abuse and exploitation i.e. *the Anti-Child Pornography Act, the Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act, the Cybercrime Act and the Anti-Mail Order Spouse Act* to avoid possible duplication. Responses to these gaps may be comprehensively addressed and integrated in the proposal to amend Republic Act No. 9262.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary