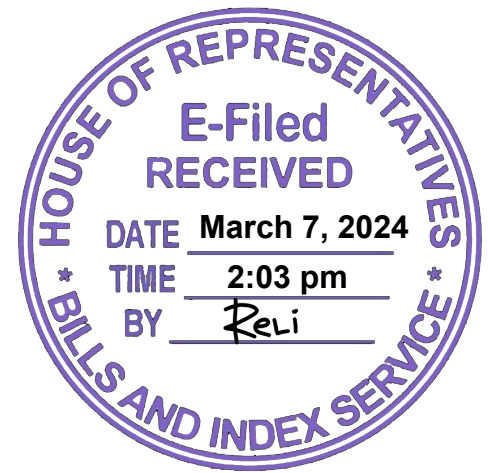


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1632

Introduced by Honorable Representative
ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party)

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT TRENDS IN
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN LIGHT OF ADVANCEMENTS IN
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND THE URGENT NEED FOR
REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THESE EMERGING CHALLENGES**

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that “the Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good”;

WHEREAS, there have been recent reports of alarming cases of gender-based violence (GBV) and online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC) in the wake of technological advancements and the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI);

WHEREAS, according to the records of the Philippine National Police Crime Incident Reporting and Analysis System (PNP-CIRAS), there were 19,635 cases of violence against women and children from January to August 2023, which translates to ninety-two (92) female victims of violence per day in the first eight (8) months of 2023;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), rape is the top crime in some areas of the country: Davao Region, Ilocos Region, Negros Occidental, and Cebu;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DepEd) also received two hundred and thirteen (213) complaints of abuse, of which seventy (70) were related to sexual harassment in schools;

WHEREAS, the Gabriela Women's Party's services team have received reports that there are mobile applications advertised on Facebook and other social media platforms which blatantly promote sexual innuendos and objectify women;

WHEREAS, women and children become even more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, as mobile applications that create simulations of seemingly real women, including replicating their facial and body structures, have become rampant in social media;

WHEREAS, these simulations not only contribute to the normalization of harmful attitudes towards women but also perpetuate a culture that fosters GBV and exploitation;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is still a global hot spot for financially motivated development of live-streamed child sexual exploitation, with foreign sex offenders paying Philippine-based traffickers as little as twenty-five dollars (25USD) to participate in online sexual abuse of children;¹

WHEREAS, the proliferation of AI-driven applications and ease of access to digital devices have made women and children increasingly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse;

WHEREAS, there is a lack of current legislation to address the technological advancements used in exploiting and abusing women and children;

WHEREAS, it's been two years since the Anti-OSAEC and Anti-CSAEM Act (Republic Act 11930) and the law that raised the age for statutory rape (Republic Act No. 11648) were passed, but the proposed law to expand the scope of the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act (Republic Act 9262) to cover the use of technology in harming women and children is still pending;

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to review, amend, and create legislation in response to recent technological advancements, thereby enhancing the capacity of government agencies and ensuring justice for victims of online sexual exploitation and abuse;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Women and Gender Equality conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the recent trends in violence against women and children in light of advancements in information and communications technology and the urgent need for a review of legislative measures to address these emerging challenges.

Adopted,


ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party

¹<https://www.ijm.org/news/1-in-100-children-sexually-exploited-livestreams-new-abuse-images-videos-philippines-last-year-driven-by-foreign-demand>