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**SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 1229**

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Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

**RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PROLIFERATION OF ONLINE
SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY,
WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING EXISTING MEASURES TO
CREATE A SAFER ONLINE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND HOLD
PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE**

1 WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution recognizes the role of the youth in nation
2 building;

3 WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act No. (RA) 11930 or the "Anti-Online Sexual
4 Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or
5 Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act" sets as the policy of the State the protection of
6 the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, emotional, psychological and social well-
7 being of the youth against all forms of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation;

8 WHEREAS, the Philippines has emerged as a global hotspot for OSAEC due to
9 various factors, including poverty, underdevelopment, digital payment systems,
10 relatively high English proficiency of Filipinos, and high demand from foreign
11 perpetrators exacerbating the issue;

12 WHEREAS, according to the recent Scale of Harm report of the International
13 Justice Mission, nearly half a million Filipino children were trafficked online via live
14 streaming in 2022.¹ Seventy-four percent (74%) of sexual abuse cases against

¹ Philippine News Agency, Filipinos cautioned vs. AI-generated child exploitation materials. Available at <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1218385>. Accessed on Nov. 3, 2024.

1 children were found to be perpetrated by people closest to them or individuals within
2 the victims' "circle of trust", referring to parents, close relatives and those who assert
3 moral influence over the child²;

4 WHEREAS, based on data from the Philippine National Police's (PNP) Women
5 and Children's Protection Center, more than 17,600 reported cases of child rights
6 violations were recorded in 2023. A substantial portion of these reported cases are
7 online sexual abuse and exploitation violations against children. More than 1,000
8 victims have been reported to PNP as of November 2023 and more than 300
9 perpetrators are being prosecuted by the Department of Justice;³

10 WHEREAS, as of February 2024, the Department of Social Welfare and
11 Development (DSWD) has responded and attended to more than 7,000 child abuse
12 cases since 2021 to present⁴;

13 WHEREAS, the Anti-Money Laundering Council flagged over P1.56 billion in
14 suspicious transactions related to online sexual exploitation of children, reaching to a
15 total of 182,729 suspicious transaction reports from 2020 to 2022. The United States,
16 United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Japan, Singapore, France
17 and the Netherlands have been the top sources of OSAEC-related remittances.
18 However, it is equally alarming that domestic sources of OSAEC-related remittances
19 included Cavite, Cebu, Pampanga, Davao del Sur and Davao del Norte, Caloocan City,
20 and Manila.

21 WHEREAS, several telcos have reported to have blocked 902,000 URLs or
22 websites where child sexual abuse and exploitation materials were present in 2023.
23 They have blocked 2.16 million access attempts in these websites, and since 2021,
24 some 1.7 billion access attempts to these websites or child sexual abuse and
25 exploitation materials have been blocked."⁵.

26 WHEREAS, more recently, an increase in arrests and detentions of Filipino
27 cruise ship workers in the United States (U.S.) were reported due to charges related

² Business World. "Government urged to address online child sexual exploitation. (Oct. 29, 2024). Available at <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2024/10/29/631554/govt-urged-to-address-online-child-sexual-exploitation/>. Accessed last Nov. 3, 2024

³ Id, footnote 1.

⁴ Philippine Statistics Authority. 2024 Fact Sheet on Women and Men in the Philippines. Available at <https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/phdsd/Child%20Abuse%202024%20Fact%20Sheet%20on%20Women%20and%20Men.pdf>. Accessed last Nov. 4, 2024.

⁵ Id, footnote 1.

1 to child pornography and other sex-related offenses. U.S. federal and state laws
2 criminalize not only production but also possession, viewing, transport and distribution
3 of child pornography, even if committed within private areas, highlighting the
4 importance of educating our OFWs about these prohibited acts⁶;

5 WHEREAS, the proliferation of OSAEC seriously threatens the safety and
6 welfare of Filipino children. Thus, there is a need for the Senate to ensure that all
7 stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, national and local government, and
8 the private sector, prioritize child protection and support a united front against the
9 exploitation of children in all forms in accordance with RA 11930 and other applicable
10 laws;

11 WHEREAS, it is equally important that we make sure that child protection
12 systems are functional to address the reporting, response, prosecution and
13 rehabilitation of children who have been victims of OSAEC-CSAEM, and that
14 cooperation among local government units, law enforcement agencies and non-
15 government organizations through the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking are
16 strengthened to ensure that policies, programs and services are available and properly
17 implemented;

18 WHEREAS, it is imperative to strengthen international cooperation to improve
19 data-sharing and cross-border prosecution, enhance the accountability of digital
20 platforms, including social media companies, to proactively detect and remove harmful
21 content and implement comprehensive public awareness campaigns educating
22 communities, particularly vulnerable groups, about the dangers of OSAEC;

23 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the
24 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation on the
25 proliferation of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the country with the
26 end view of strengthening existing measures to create a safer online environment for
27 children and hold perpetrators accountable .

Adopted,



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⁶ Chi, Cristina. PhilStar. "DMW alarmed by rise in Filipino seafarers arrested for online child abuse." (Oct. 30, 2024). Available at <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/30/2396409/dmw-alarmed-rise-filipino-seafarers-arrested-online-child-abuse>. Accessed last on Nov. 3, 2024.