

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 1237

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTS THAT RAPE AND ACTS OF
LASCIVIOUSNESS WERE THE TOP VIOLATIONS COMMITTED AGAINST
FILIPINO CHILDREN IN 2023**

WHEREAS, according to Article XV, Section 3 (2) of the Philippine Constitution, the State shall defend the right of children to special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development;

WHEREAS, according to Republic Act 7610 or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act, it is the policy of the State to provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination and other conditions, prejudicial to their development; provide sanctions for their commission and carry out a program for prevention and deterrence of and crisis intervention in situations of child abuse, exploitation and discrimination. The State shall intervene on behalf of the child when the parent, guardian, teacher or person having care or custody of the child fails or is unable to protect the child against abuse, exploitation and discrimination or when such acts against the child are committed by the said parent, guardian, teacher or person having care and custody of the same;

WHEREAS, in an online news article published by Philstar on November 2, 2024, entitled "*18,756 children's rights violations recorded in 2023*", the records of the Philippine National Police-Women and Children Protection Center, a total of 18,756

reports of child violation were logged for the year 2023. Of this number, 17,304 were rape and acts of lasciviousness;

WHEREAS, it was likewise reported that since 2016, rape and acts of lasciviousness are the top violations committed against children according to Council for the Welfare of Children Executive Director Angelo Tapales;

WHEREAS, during the Senate committee hearing of the Committee on Finance on the 2025 budget of the Department of Justice, Justice Secretary Remulla said that there are more than 500,000 victims of incestuous rape and online sexual abuse or exploitation of children in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Secretary Remulla added that it is of epidemic proportions and people just keep silent about the fact;

WHEREAS, according to news reports, a French court recently sentenced Bouhalem Bouchiba, a graphic artist who worked on beloved animated feature films for Pixar and Disney, guilty of paying women in the Philippines between 2012 and 2021 to rape and sexually assault of girls aged between 5 and 10 in front of camera while he watched via livestream and issued instructions;

WHEREAS, in an online article published by Inquirer.net on October 30, 2024 entitled "Mother arrested for forcing daughters to do "liveshow", the National Bureau of Investigation arrested last week a woman who allegedly offered explicit "live shows" of minors, including her two daughters, from their home in Taguig City;

WHEREAS, these alarming statistics point to possible gaps in the implementation of existing laws, such as RA 7610 and RA 11930 or the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act, among others;

WHEREAS, there is a need to assess and determine the effectiveness of current government programs and policies aimed at preventing child abuse, prosecuting offenders, and providing support services for child victims;

WHEREAS, an inquiry into this matter will provide a basis for the strengthening of existing child protection laws, implementing additional measures, and enhancing support systems for the effective prevention of child abuse and exploitation;

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the proper Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reports that rape and acts of lasciviousness were the top violations committed against Filipino children in 2023.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ML Binay', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY