

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session**

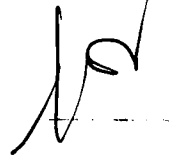
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SENATE

P.S. R. No. 1304

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF GREGORIA DE JESUS AND HONORING HER LIFE AND LEGACY AS A HEROINE OF THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION AND A SYMBOL OF FILIPINO WOMEN'S STRENGTH, RESILIENCE AND LEADERSHIP, AND RECOGNIZING HER INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATION'S HISTORY

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations";

WHEREAS, Section 7 of Republic Act No. 10086, otherwise known as the "Strengthening People's Nationalism through Philippine History Act," the National Historical Commission of the Philippines is empowered to prescribe the manner of commemoration of significant events pertaining to Philippine history;

WHEREAS, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines had launched last 09 May 2024 the countdown for the sesquicentennial birth anniversary of revolutionary heroine Gregoria "Oriang" de Jesus on May 9, 2025;

WHEREAS, the City of San Pedro, Laguna, through Resolution No. 2024-103, expressed its intent to participate in the commemoration of the sesquicentennial birth anniversary of Gregoria "Oriang" de Jesus, while the City of Caloocan, through Ordinance No. 0445 s. 2008, has mandated the construction of a life-size bronze/brass monument to honor her significant contributions to the Philippine Revolution, promoting the preservation of cultural heritage, and instilling pride and respect for her legacy, encouraging Quezon City to adopt similar resolutions and ordinances in support of this national initiative;

WHEREAS, Gregoria de Jesus, as the spouse of Filipino hero and Katipunan founder Andres Bonifacio¹, actively participated in the activities of the Katipunan by serving as one of the leaders of its Women's Chapter, acting as a courier of the revolutionary movement, and custodian of its important documents²;

WHEREAS, the significant regression on Gender Equality in the Philippines in achieving United Nations (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Target 5.5, specifically on indicators 5.5.1, "Seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments," and 5.5.2, "Women in managerial positions," as reflected in the "Preliminary 2023 SDG Pace of Progress using the Updated 2030 Numerical Target and Data" of the Philippine Statistics Authority, highlights the urgent need to address barriers to women's leadership and participation in governance and management³;

WHEREAS, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), women currently hold only 30% of elected positions in the Philippine government, reflecting the ongoing gender imbalance in political representation, which underscores the importance of promoting greater female leadership in the country's governance ⁴ ;

WHEREAS, the sectoral priority areas identified by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Technical Working Group (TWG) on Peace, Security, and Governance (PSG) include the goal of increasing women's participation in governance and community engagement as part of its flagship programs, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Target 5.5, which ensures women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making, and Target 16.7, which emphasizes responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels⁵;

WHEREAS, according to the Philippine Commission on Women's policy brief on Women's Political Participation and Representation, from 1998 to 2016, the percentage of women elected into public office in the Philippines ranged from 16.1% to 21.44%, peaking in the 2016 elections; this indicates that women's representation

¹ De Jesus, Gregoria. "Autobiography of Gregoria de Jesus." Translated by Leandro H. Fernandez. Philippine Magazine 27, no. 1 (June 1930): 16–18, 65–68.

² Bahay Nakpil-Bautista Foundation. "The Revolution." Available at <https://bahaynakpil.org/therevolution/>

³ Philippine Statistics Authority. "Preliminary 2023 SDG Pace of Progress Using the Updated 2030 Numerical Target and Data." (2023).

⁴ Inter-Parliamentary Union, Data on Women in the Philippine House of Representatives, available at <https://data.ipu.org/parliament/PH/PH-LC01/data-on-women> (last accessed Jan. 30, 2025).

⁵ Reyes, M. G. S. "Sectoral Priority Areas of the Technical Working Group: Second Semester 2024 Meeting of the Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs." Quezon City: PRRM Office, October 18, 2024.

in elected positions has yet to meet the 30% "critical mass" identified by scholars as the minimum necessary for a minority group to influence decision-making⁶;

WHEREAS, the objectives of this flagship program aim to broaden women's representation in policymaking, create support networks among women, and promote gender equality and development, addressing the current gender gap in governance and decision-making processes;

WHEREAS, these efforts were further reflected in the Second Semester 2024 Meeting of the Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs, held on October 18, 2024, at the PRRM Office, Quezon City, which explored strategies to advance these priority areas and ensure effective implementation of SDG targets related to gender equality and women's empowerment;

WHEREAS, the life and works of Gregoria de Jesus, known as the "Lakanbini of the Katipunan," exemplify the critical role of women in leadership and nation-building, demonstrating that gender equality in leadership is not only a matter of social justice but also essential for national progress and sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular 2023-181 emphasizes the strengthening of local committees against trafficking and violence against women and children, with the goal of eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse⁷;

WHEREAS, the harrowing experiences of Gregoria de Jesus during the Philippine Revolution, particularly her near encounters with sexual violence at the hands of Colonel Agapito Bonzón, underscore the pervasive vulnerability of women to gender-based violence, even within movements aimed at national liberation, as chronicled by historian Ambeth R. Ocampo in *Bones of Contention*⁸;

WHEREAS, these historical accounts of Gregoria de Jesus highlight the enduring relevance of safeguarding women's rights and dignity, serving as a poignant reminder of the importance of initiatives like those outlined in the DILG Memorandum Circular to address and prevent violence against women and children in all forms;

⁶ Philippine Commission on Women, Policy Brief on Women's Political Participation and Representation (1998–2016), available at <https://pcw.gov.ph/assets/files/2019/10/PCW-WPLA-PB-07-Womens-Political-Participation-and-Representation.pdf> (last accessed Jan. 30, 2025).

⁷ Department of the Interior and Local Government. Memorandum Circular 2023-181: Strengthening of the Local Committee Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children. Available at https://www.dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/issuances/memo_circulars/dilg-memocircular-20231123_d5effb476d.pdf

⁸ Ocampo, Ambeth R. *Bones of Contention: The Bonifacio Lectures*. Mandaluyong City: Anvil Publishing, Inc., 2014.

WHEREAS, commemorating the life, writings, poetry, autobiography and admonitions of Gregoria de Jesus not only honors her pivotal role in Philippine history but also strengthens advocacy for gender equality and the elimination of violence against women and children, reinforcing the nation's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and national development objectives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines is one in the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Gregoria de Jesus and honors her life as a heroine of the Philippine Revolution, recognizing her invaluable contributions to the nation's history and her enduring legacy as a symbol of Filipino women's strength, resilience, and leadership.

Adopted.


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator