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

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# SENATE P.S. Res. No. <u>1307</u>

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## Introduced by SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

#### RESOLUTION

#### URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY **RELATIONS, AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF** LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALARMING SPIKE IN CASES OF ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE AND **EXPLOITATION** OF **CHILDREN** (OSAEC) AND THE PROLIFERATION OF OSAEC CRIMINAL **NETWORKS** USING CHAT PLATFORMS AND ELECTRONIC WALLETS

**WHEREAS**, in an alarming new report by Deep Web Konek, a group of cybersecurity experts, thousands of Filipino minors were victimized by or involved in OSAECrelated criminal activities taking place over chat platforms<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the rise of end-to-end encryption, while providing privacy and security to regular conversations, has also led to the impunity of sexual predators, whose illegal activities can fly under the radar and below law enforcement security;

**WHEREAS**, according to the report, "the team identified more than 100 private channels dedicated to illicit digital content, with the largest channel boasting over 100,000 members and accumulating more than 40,000 digital files such as videos and photos. Transactions were primarily conducted through e-wallets, particularly GCash, with mule accounts and disposable digital wallets used to obscure the money trail<sup>2</sup>';

**WHEREAS,** the same report also documented cases of parents being complicit in the trafficking of their own children, with one woman selling over 200 files with OSAEC content of her own child<sup>3</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> https://kukublanph.data.blog/2025/02/02/operation-marya-deep-web-konek-investigates-online-child-exploitation-networks-with-thousands-of-filipino-minors-involved/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

**WHEREAS,** in 2022 alone, nearly half a million Filipino children were trafficked to produce child sexual exploitation material for profits, according to a study entitled "Scale of Harm Prevalence Study" commissioned by the International Justice Mission<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS,** the passage of Republic Act No. 11930 has provided many additional policy tools for law enforcement agents to investigate OSAEC-related offenses, but the advent of emerging technologies, the transnational nature of some OSAEC-related transactions, and the growth of underground digital financial systems, have proven challenging for even the most committed law enforcer;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to urge the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations, and Gender Equality to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the reports of OSAEC crimes and the proliferation of OSAEC criminal networks through the use of digital platforms and electronic wallets.

Adopted,

RISA HONTIVEROS **RISA HONTIVEROS** Senator

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.ijm.org/news/1-in-100-children-sexually-exploited-livestreams-new-abuse-images-videos-philippines-last-year-driven-by-foreign-demand