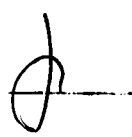


SENATE

P.S. R. No. 1211

RECEIVED



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS, AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED CASES OF WOMEN BEING TRAFFICKED ABROAD TO BECOME SURROGATES AS PART OF AN INFANT-TRAFFICKING SCHEME

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10364 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act states that it shall be unlawful for any person, natural or juridical, to recruit a person under the guise of domestic or overseas employment or training, for the purpose of prostitution, pornography, or sexual exploitation;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10364 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act outlaws any person for providing, adopting or receiving a child for the purpose of exploitation or trading them;

WHEREAS, The Philippines ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on August 21, 1990, which declares that States shall take all measures on national, bilateral, & multilateral levels to prevent the sale of children “for any purpose or in any form”;

WHEREAS, The UN Special Rapporteur Report on the Surrogacy and the Sale of Children highlighted that international commercial surrogacy networks move across different countries as laws on surrogacy change “in response to abusive practices”, to ensure the continuation of their businesses¹;

WHEREAS, a Philippine agency was found to have trafficked Filipinos into Cambodia to become surrogates for an infant-trafficking syndicate²;

WHEREAS, 20 Filipino women who were trafficked into Cambodia to be used as surrogate mothers were rescued by Cambodian police³;

¹ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1473378?ln=en>
² <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501570256/philippines-agency-brings-filipinas-to-cambodia-to-be-surrogate-mums/>
³ https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/09/2391322/baby-trafficking-syndicates-cambodia-recruiting-filipinos?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWQCMTEAR2c5c0yMGuf1S4NmX9eSWsH6M2Ujs05TG8W6172vLP-UjMP8aaP3Gju95g_aem_f5f0V5MsESO0waLDo1wR3A

WHEREAS, out of the 20 Filipino women who were trafficked, 13 of them are pregnant through artificial means and have been indicted with human trafficking-related charges by the Cambodian Kandal Provincial Court, while the remaining 7 women were found to be immigration offenders and were expelled from Cambodia⁴;

WHEREAS, all 20 Filipino women were recruited online, and most were aware of the expectations of their labor abroad⁵;

WHEREAS, the Department of Foreign Affairs alerted the public of this new form of human trafficking scheme targeting Filipino women⁶;

WHEREAS, the outbound human trafficking of these 20 women was facilitated by a Philippine agency, making it of utmost importance to identify lapses in law enforcement to effectively crackdown on human trafficking schemes;

WHEREAS, an investigation is crucial to identify gaps in current legislation including but not limited to reproductive labor and Republic Act No. 10364 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, to prevent the proliferation of this new form of human trafficking scheme in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS, AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED CASES OF WOMEN BEING TRAFFICKED TO BECOME SUROGATES AS PART OF AN INFANT-TRAFFICKING SCHEME.

Adopted,


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/2024/10/9/dfa-warns-filipinos-against-human-trafficking-scheme-in-cambodia-1623>