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SENATE
P.S. Res 472

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEES ON YOUTH, WOMEN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND
GENDER EQUALITY TO REVIEW IN AID OF LEGISLATION THE
PROLIFERATION OF CYBERSEX DENS THAT FORCE CHILDREN, MINORS
AND WOMEN TO PERFORM SEXUAL AND LASCIVIOUS ACTS BEFORE A
WEBCAM FOR MONEY WITH THE INTENTION OF STRENGTHENING AND
TIGHTENING EXISTING RELEVANT LAWS.

WHEREAS, it is a declared policy that, "the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights."¹

WHEREAS, the protection of children is duly recognized, as the State shall defend "the right of children to assistance including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development."²

WHEREAS, cybersex crime is an emerging threat the Philippines is facing. It is said that having "an already established sex trade, high levels of poverty and a population that speaks at least basic English means there is a ready supply of girls."³

WHEREAS, in the recent months, there had been a crackdown on cybersex dens where girls who have not even reached the age of majority perform sexual and lascivious acts before a webcam upon instructions and requests from a "client" from the other side of the world. Recently, a raid was conducted in Lucena City and Ibabao, Cordova, Cebu where child pornography was video-captured and live-streamed for pedophiles all over the world.⁴ Where poverty is predominant and with insufficient minimum wage, a couple of tens to a hundred dollar per session webcam performance becomes lucrative for easy money.⁵

WHEREAS, children forced into this kind of sex trade are told that performing before a webcam is "harmless" since there is no physical contact with the client.

¹ Article II, Section 11 of 1987 Philippine Constitution.

² Article XV, Section 3(2) of 1987 Philippine Constitution.

³ BBC News Asia-Pacific. Girls lured into Philippine cybersex industry. 03 March 2011. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-12597245> Accessed 28 January 2014.

⁴ CathNews USA. Philippines: Investigation reveals massive on-line child abuse. 20 January 2014. <http://www.cathnewsusa.com/2014/01/philippines-investigation-reveals-massive-line-child-abuse/> Accessed 28 January 2014; and Inquirer.net. Secluded village in Cebu town identified as cybersex hot spot. 27 January 2014.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/569773/secluded-village-in-cebu-town-identified-as-cybersex-hot-spot> Accessed 28 January 2014.

⁵ *Ibid.*

However, despite the absence of physical contact, undoubtedly there are adverse psychological effects on the psyche of the child and their dignity and innocence are violated.

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and has ratified the same since 1990. Articles 34 and 36 of which provide:

Article 34

States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

x x x

Article 36

States Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.

WHEREAS, currently, Philippine laws such as Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004), R.A. No. 9775 (Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009) and R.A. No. 10364 (Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012) apply to child pornography/sex trade cases, but prevalence of these cases that destroy children's lives necessitates review of effectivity of applicable laws in these situations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Committee on Women, Youth and Children is urged to review, in aid of legislation, the proliferation of cybersex dens that force children, minors and women to perform sexual and lascivious acts before a webcam for money with the intention of strengthening and tightening existing laws.

Adopted,


GRACE POE