

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )**

**SENATE**

**P.S.R. No. 446**



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**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE GENDERED DIMENSIONS OF COVID-19 CRISIS AND THE MEASURES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO INTEGRATE A GENDER LENS AND ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC AND DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**WHEREAS**, according to a study conducted by UN Women, women and girls are facing distinct challenges to their health, safety and well-being as a result of the COVID-pandemic, and existing gender-related inequalities are now exacerbated,

**WHEREAS**, it is crucial to understand how this health crisis affect men and women differently in order to integrate immediate, medium-term and long-term needs of women in the COVID-19 management and recovery efforts of the Philippine government;

**WHEREAS**, one important gendered dimension of this global health crisis is the feminization of labor migration, with female overseas workers comprising 55.8% of Filipinos deployed overseas, as per the Philippine Statistics Authority's (PSA) 2018 Survey on Overseas Filipinos;

**WHEREAS**, considering that the Department of Interior & Local Government (DILG) is expecting around 300,000 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to return to the Philippines this year as a result of the effect of the pandemic on the economies of their host countries, an analysis of the socio-economic impacts of this phenomenon must be studied with a clear gender lens and a view towards addressing the specific needs of women;

**WHEREAS**, according to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), a substantial number of female OFWs are in jobs traditionally relegated to women such as domestic work and caregiving – which

are usually precarious in nature as they fall outside government regulation in most countries;

**WHEREAS**, female OFWs are likewise exposed to abuse and exploitation, illegal recruitment, contract substitution and debt bondage, up to and including violations of their sexual and reproductive health including violations of their sexual and reproductive health and rights which can hardly be said to be fully empowering for women;

**WHEREAS**, a study by UN Women found that return and reintegration programs in the Philippines were generic in design – some government-initiated livelihood programs even reified traditional gender roles, *e.g.* training in manicure, pedicure, and hairdressing, which can hardly be said to be empowering for women;

**WHEREAS**, in a paper entitled *Women, Migration, and Reintegration*, authored by Estrella Dizon-Añonuevo and Augustus T. Añonuevo, it was noted that despite years of hard work, the majority of migrant women did not have substantial savings and had no immediate plans of permanently returning home, and that they had difficulty in adjusting to estranged relations with their families and the lack of economic opportunities in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, considering the unique situation of Filipina migrant workers as well as the influx of returning OFWs caused by the pandemic, it is essential that the government's return and reintegration programs take gender issues into consideration, particularly with respect to, among others, re-training and skills development, emergency employment, placement assistance for both domestic and overseas employment opportunities, financial aid programs for households in distress, mental health and psycho-social assistance, and medical assistance in relation to COVID-19, including mandatory testing;

**WHEREAS**, other issue that need urgent attention is the heightened violence against women and girls, particularly with respect to online sexual exploitation and amidst reports of prostituted women being further exploited at the checkpoints, as well as the impact of mobility restrictions on the safety of women;

**WHEREAS**, at this point, the full breadth of the crisis and its differential effects on the basis of gender still need to be fully studied and analyzed, but it is necessary and urgent to begin conversations on how to craft gender-specific interventions that will address the multiple dimensions of this crisis;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on

the gendered dimensions of COVID-19 crisis and the measures being undertaken by various government agencies to integrate a gender lens and address the specific and disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on women and girls,

Adopted,

  
**RISA HONTIVEROS**  
Senator