



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6155

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BY REPRESENTATIVES AMANTE-MATBA, CLIMACO, ECLEO, RODRIGUEZ (R.),  
RODRIGUEZ (M.), FERRIOL, ILAGAN, OBILLO, CASTELO, HERRERA-DY,  
TEODORO AND MERCADO-REVILLA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2169

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE CENTERS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY OF THE COUNTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8505, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "RAPE VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1998"

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1           SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 8505 shall be amended to  
2 read as follows:

3                   "SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the  
4                   ["Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act of 1998"]  
5                   **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE FOR**  
6                   **WOMEN AND CHILDREN ACT OF 2012."**

7           SEC. 2. Section 2 of the same Act is hereby also amended to read as  
8 follows:

1           “SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared  
2     the policy of the State to [provide necessary assistance and  
3     protection for rape victims] **VALUE THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN**  
4     **AND CHILDREN, DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS, AND RECOGNIZE**  
5     **THEIR ROLE IN NATION-BUILDING AND ALL OTHER IMMEDIATE**  
6     **ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEM.**  
7     Towards this end, the [government shall coordinate its various  
8     agencies and non-government organizations to work hand in  
9     hand for the establishment and operation of a rape crisis center in  
10    every province and city that shall assist and protect rape victims  
11    in the litigation of their cases and their recovery.] **STATE SHALL**  
12    **ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**  
13    **AND SHALL PROVIDE THEM WITH FACILITIES AND**  
14    **OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL ENHANCE THEIR WELFARE AND**  
15    **ENABLE THEM TO REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIALS IN THE**  
16    **SERVICE OF THE NATION. THE STATE SHALL ALSO ENDEAVOR**  
17    **TO PROVIDE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITH UTMOST SUPPORT**  
18    **AND ASSISTANCE WHICH SHALL INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS,**  
19    **LEGAL SERVICES, LIVELIHOOD AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT,**  
20    **PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING AND ALL OTHER ASSISTANCE**  
21    **NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEM AGAINST ALL FORMS OF**  
22    **NEGLECT, ABUSE, CRUELTY, EXPLOITATION AND OTHER ACTS**  
23    **PREJUDICIAL TO THEIR WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT.”**

24           SEC. 3. Section 3 of the same Act is likewise amended to read as  
25    follows:

26           “SEC. 3. [*Rape*] **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND Crisis**  
27    **ASSISTANCE Centers.** – [The Department of Social Welfare and  
28    Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the

1 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the  
2 Department of Justice (DOJ), and a lead non-government  
3 organization (NGO) with proven track record or experience in  
4 handling sexual abuse cases, shall establish in every province  
5 and city a rape crisis center located in a government hospital or  
6 health clinic or in any other suitable place for the purpose of:

7 “(a) Providing rape victims with psychological  
8 counselling, medical and health services, including their  
9 medico-legal examination;

10 “(b) Securing free legal assistance or service, when  
11 necessary, for rape victims;

12 “(c) Assisting rape victims in the investigation to hasten  
13 the arrest of offenders and the filing of cases in court;

14 “(d) Ensuring the privacy and safety of rape victims;

15 “(e) Providing psychological counselling and medical  
16 services whenever necessary for the family of rape victims;

17 “(f) Developing and undertaking a training program for  
18 law enforcement officers, public prosecutors, lawyers,  
19 medico-legal officers, social workers, and barangay officials on  
20 human rights and responsibilities; gender sensitivity and legal  
21 management of rape cases; and

22 “(g) Adopting and implementing programs for the  
23 recovery of rape victims.

24 “The DSWD shall be the lead agency in the establishment  
25 and operation of the Rape Crisis Center.]

26 **“THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED RESOURCE**  
27 **DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE CENTERS FOR WOMEN**  
28 **AND CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY OF THE**

1 COUNTRY, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "CENTERS".  
2 THESE CENTERS SHALL BE UNDER THE MANAGEMENT AND  
3 SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND  
4 DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) IN CONSULTATION WITH CONCERNED  
5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs).

6 "(A) COMPOSITION OF THE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL  
7 TO BE KNOWN AS THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. - AN  
8 INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL SHALL BE CONVENED TO SET THE  
9 CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF THE SITES OF THE CENTERS  
10 ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE  
11 EXISTING FACILITIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND  
12 LGUs, NONGOVERNMENT AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN  
13 PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE COUNCIL SHALL  
14 BE COMPOSED OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE  
15 DSWD, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL  
16 GOVERNMENT (DILG), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
17 (DOH), THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), THE  
18 DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), THE  
19 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), THE DEPARTMENT OF  
20 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), THE NATIONAL  
21 ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA), THE  
22 PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON WOMEN (PCW), THE NATIONAL  
23 YOUTH COMMISSION (NYC), THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
24 AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE  
25 WOMEN AND CHILDREN CONCERNS DIVISION OF THE  
26 PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (WCCD/PNP), THE  
27 COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND  
28 NONGOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS DULY  
29 ACCREDITED BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SHALL

1 BE INCLUDED AS MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. THE  
2 INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL, DULY CHAIRED BY THE DSWD,  
3 SHALL ALSO ACT AS AN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO OVERSEE THE  
4 EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CENTERS' PROGRAMS.

5 "(B) FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTERS. – THE CENTERS  
6 SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS TO ENSURE  
7 COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SERVICES:

8 "(1) TO SERVE AS THE VENUE FOR CONSCIOUSNESS-  
9 RAISING, CAPABILITY-BUILDING AND FUNCTIONAL LITERACY  
10 ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS, AMONG OTHERS, THAT WILL  
11 ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ISSUES AND PROMOTE  
12 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION;

13 "(2) TO UNDERTAKE PROGRAMS GEARED TOWARDS  
14 THE DEVELOPMENT OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE,  
15 SELF-ENHANCEMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS FOR  
16 LIVELIHOOD GENERATION, SOCIAL COMMUNICATION, AND  
17 OTHER RELATED SKILLS WHICH WILL HELP WOMEN AND  
18 CHILDREN TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY;

19 "(3) TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL SERVICES, MEDICAL  
20 ASSISTANCE INCLUDING MEDICO-LEGAL EXAMINATIONS AND  
21 PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING TO VICTIMS OF RAPE AND  
22 OTHER CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
23 ENSURING THEIR PRIVACY AND SAFETY;

24 "(4) TO UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MORAL  
25 RECOVERY AND GENDER-SENSITIVE VALUES FORMATION,  
26 COUNSELLING, REHABILITATION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL  
27 PROGRAMS;

28 "(5) TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY SHELTER TO ABUSED  
29 WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN;

1           “(6) TO ASSIST RAPE VICTIMS OR VICTIMS OF OTHER  
2 FORMS OF ABUSES IN THE INVESTIGATION TO HASTEN THE  
3 ARREST OF OFFENDERS AND THE FILING OF CASES IN COURT;

4           “(7) TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING AND  
5 MEDICAL SERVICES WHEN NECESSARY FOR THE FAMILY OF  
6 RAPE VICTIMS OR VICTIMS OF OTHER FORMS OF ABUSES;

7           “(8) TO PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING OR LIVELIHOOD  
8 ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE;

9           “(9) TO STRENGTHEN AND FACILITATE LINKAGES OF  
10 WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS  
11 WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LGUs TO  
12 MAXIMIZE THE DELIVERY OF BASIC AND SUPPORT SERVICES  
13 FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND ADVOCATE FOR THE  
14 PROTECTION AND ADVANCEMENT OF THEIR RIGHTS;

15           “(10) TO DEVELOP AND UNDERTAKE A CONTINUING  
16 CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR  
17 FRONTLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS INCLUDING, BUT NOT  
18 LIMITED TO, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, PUBLIC  
19 PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS, MEDICO-LEGAL OFFICERS,  
20 PSYCHOLOGISTS, DEVELOPMENT WORKERS, SOCIAL  
21 WORKERS, HEALTH WORKERS, THERAPISTS AND BARANGAY  
22 OFFICIALS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES; GENDER  
23 SENSITIVITY AND LEGAL/CASE MANAGEMENT OF  
24 SITUATIONS/CASES INVOLVING WOMEN AND CHILDREN; AND

25           “(11) TO PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AS MAY  
26 BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT.

27           “(c) CLIENTS OF THE CENTERS. – ALL WOMEN AND  
28 CHILREN UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL BE  
29 ENTITLED TO PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE BY THE CENTERS:

1                   **“(1) VICTIMS OF PROSTITUTION AND SEXUAL**  
2                   **EXPLOITATION;**

3                   **“(2) VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND**  
4                   **BATTERY;**

5                   **“(3) VICTIMS OF RAPE, INCEST, SEXUAL ABUSE,**  
6                   **HARASSMENT OR MOLESTATION;**

7                   **“(4) VICTIMS OF ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT,**  
8                   **TRAFFICKING AND/OR LABOR EXPLOITATION;**

9                   **“(5) VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT, NATURAL OR**  
10                   **ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM**  
11                   **TRAUMA DUE TO THE TRAGIC DEATH OR DISPLACEMENT OF**  
12                   **FAMILY MEMBERS, DISLOCATION OR LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD;**

13                   **“(6) ABANDONED AND RUN-AWAY WOMEN AND**  
14                   **CHILDREN;**

15                   **“(7) WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN DETENTION;**

16                   **“(8) VICTIMS OF ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE AND**  
17                   **SUFFERING FROM ANY CRISIS SITUATION;**

18                   **“(9) VICTIMS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL,**  
19                   **EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**  
20                   **NEEDING SPECIAL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE; AND**

21                   **“(10) VICTIMS OF OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AS MAY BE**  
22                   **DETERMINED BY THE DSWD.**

23                   **“(D) PERSONNEL/STAFF COMPLEMENT OF THE**  
24                   **CENTERS. – EACH CENTER SHALL BE HEADED BY A FEMALE**  
25                   **DIRECTOR WHO HOLDS A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN SOCIAL**  
26                   **WORK OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OR SIMILAR COURSES,**  
27                   **HAS A MINIMUM EXPERIENCE OF FIVE (5) YEARS IN**  
28                   **COUNSELLING, SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AND**  
29                   **OTHER RELATED FIELD OR EXPERIENCE, AND POSSESSES A**

1           **PROVEN TRACK RECORD AS AN ADVOCATE OF WOMEN'S ISSUES**  
2           **AND EXPERTISE IN GENDER-RESPONSIVE TRAININGS AND**  
3           **PROGRAMS FOR CAPABILITY-BUILDING AND IS OF GOOD**  
4           **MORAL CHARACTER.**

5           **"THE SECRETARY OF THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION**  
6           **WITH THE HEADS OF THE CONCERNED LGU SHALL APPOINT**  
7           **THE DIRECTOR AND OTHER NECESSARY PERSONNEL OF THE**  
8           **CENTERS. THE STAFF COMPLEMENT OF THE CENTERS SHALL**  
9           **BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
10          **BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM).**

11          **"VOLUNTEERS FROM THE VARIOUS NONGOVERNMENT**  
12          **ORGANIZATIONS MAY EXTEND PROFESSIONAL, HOUSEHOLD,**  
13          **RECREATIONAL AND TRAINING EXPERTISE TO THE CENTERS.**  
14          **STUDENTS OF SOCIAL WORK AND WOMEN STUDIES AND OTHER**  
15          **RELATED PROGRAMS WHO ARE IN PRACTICUM COURSES MAY**  
16          **RENDER VOLUNTARY SERVICES TO THE CENTERS. THE**  
17          **PERSONNEL AND STAFF AS WELL AS VOLUNTEER WORKERS**  
18          **SHALL UNDERGO REGULAR TRAININGS ON HOW BEST TO**  
19          **HANDLE THE DIFFERENT SITUATIONS OF THE BENEFICIARIES**  
20          **OF THE CENTERS."**

21          SEC. 4. Republic Act No. 8505 is hereby further amended by inserting  
22          the following new Sections after Section 3 thereof:

23          **"SEC. 4. REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT**  
24          **PROGRAM. - THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE**  
25          **INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL CONVENED UNDER SECTION 3(A)**  
26          **HEREOF, SHALL WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS FROM THE APPROVAL**  
27          **OF THIS ACT, FORMULATE A PROGRAM FOR THE**  
28          **REHABILITATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF**  
29          **WOMEN AND CHILDREN, MENTIONED IN SECTION 3(B) HEREOF.**



1 THE COUNCIL SHALL ALSO OVERSEE THE EFFECTIVE  
2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMS OF THE CENTERS AND  
3 MONITOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PARTICIPATING  
4 AGENCIES. IT SHALL ALSO ACT AS AN ADVISORY BOARD.

5 "THE DSWD MAY CALL ON NATIONAL AGENCIES AND  
6 LGUS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL  
7 ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS  
8 ACT BY WAY OF PROGRAM COLLABORATION AND FUNDING  
9 AUGMENTATION, AMONG OTHERS.

10 "SEC. 5. *AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS.* - THE  
11 DSWD, THROUGH THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, MAY  
12 ACCEPT DONATIONS AND GRANTS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND  
13 FOREIGN, FOR PURPOSES RELEVANT TO THE FUNCTIONS OF  
14 THE CENTERS. THE DONATIONS AND GRANTS SHALL BE  
15 ALLOTTED TO THE VARIOUS CENTERS IN SUCH AMOUNT AS  
16 MAY BE DEEMED BEST BY THE DSWD OR FOR THE PURPOSES  
17 SPECIFIED BY THE DONOR. SUCH DONATIONS AND GRANTS  
18 SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PERTINENT ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING  
19 RULES AND REGULATIONS."

20 SEC. 5. Sections 4, 5 and 6 of Republic Act No. 8505 are hereby  
21 renumbered accordingly as Sections 6, 7 and 8.

22 SEC. 6. Sections 7 and 8 are hereby deleted.

23 SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the  
24 implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DSWD under  
25 the annual General Appropriations Act.

26 SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90)  
27 days upon the approval of this Act, the DSWD and all concerned agencies  
28 shall formulate rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper  
29 implementation thereof.

1           SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section or provision of this  
2 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts thereof not affected  
3 thereby shall remain valid.

4           SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, presidential decrees,  
5 executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with  
6 or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or  
7 repealed accordingly.

8           SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
9 the completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
10 circulation.

Approved,

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