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OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
P.S.R No. **723**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON PROTECTING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND  
TRANSGENDER FILIPINOS FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND ABUSE  
BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF A STUDY FUNDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 1 states: "The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good";

WHEREAS, according to a news article from Agence France Presse posted in different websites on 12 May 2014, the Philippines is increasingly tolerant of its LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community despite persistent discrimination and its members' vulnerability to hate crimes, based on a study funded by the United Nations Development Programme and the United States Agency for International Development;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Michael Tan, the author of the study, told a news conference that a recent informal survey of 700 Filipino LGBT respondents found one in 10 had been a victim of violence and abuse, mostly committed at home by their parents;

WHEREAS, according to the report, LGBT Filipinos generally suffer discrimination, harassment, and abuse at work, and are routinely assigned to night shifts and passed over for promotion allegedly because they don't have families to feed;

WHEREAS, the report also said that transgender people in the country are not allowed legally to change their identity, first name and sex, while gays can be discharged from the military, and cross-dressers are barred from nightclubs;

WHEREAS, the report added that LGBT youths suffer from discrimination, bullying, and abuse in school;

WHEREAS, the study reportedly showed that cultural and social attitudes towards LGBT people are complex, with signs of acceptance, particularly among the young;

WHEREAS, according to various members of the resource panel in the news conference about the study, it was reported that social and legal environments remain far from inclusive for the LGBT community in many parts of Asia, that the Filipino LGBT community do not enjoy as much rights as those enjoyed by their counterparts in many Western countries, and that what we have in the Philippines is tolerance rather than acceptance;

WHEREAS, while the study finds that cultural and social attitudes towards LGBT people are complex and has signs of acceptance particularly among the Filipino youth, Congress should formulate appropriate legislation and amend existing laws regarding gender equality to address the findings of the study and take a proactive stance in advocating LGBT rights;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Filipinos from discrimination, harassment, and abuse based on the findings of a study funded by the United Nations Development Programme and the United States Agency for International Development.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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