

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 237

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PERSISTENCE OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND PROSTITUTION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE APPARENT NEED TO AMEND EXISTING LAWS AND MAKE THEM MORE RESPONSIVE IN DETERRING AND PENALIZING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND PROSTITUTION

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution reads: “The State values *the dignity of every human person* and guarantees full respect for human rights” (emphasis supplied);

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the same Article further provides: “The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being”;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as the "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act" declares it a State policy to “provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty exploitation and discrimination and other conditions, prejudicial their development; provide sanctions for their commission and carry out a program for prevention and deterrence of and crisis intervention in situations of child abuse, exploitation and discrimination”

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9775, otherwise known as the “Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009” was enacted to “Guarantee the fundamental rights of every child from all forms of neglect, cruelty and other conditions prejudicial to his/her development”;

WHEREAS, the unlawful or prohibited acts defined and punishable by Republic Act No. 9775 if committed through a computer system are also considered an offense under Chapter II, Section 4 (2) of Republic Act No. 10175, otherwise known as the “Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012”

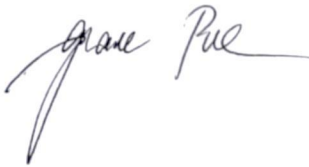
WHEREAS, child pornography, in all forms, persists in the country despite the enactment of the laws mentioned above;

WHEREAS, Thomson Reuters London reported last 6 June 2016 that according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), child pornography and prostitution is a gross and cruel billion-dollar business that persists in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, UNICEF also reportedly said that the Philippines is the number one global source of child pornography and the epicenter of the live-stream sexual abuse trade;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the proper Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported persistence of child pornography and prostitution in the Philippines, and the apparent need to amend existing laws and make them more responsive in deterring and penalizing child pornography and prostitution.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Pua", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.