



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8794

---

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROCAMORA, VILLARIN, ANTONIO, FORTUN,  
SUANSING (E.), SILVERIO, NIETO, BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN, KHO,  
BOLLIA, UY (J.), TAN (S.), PANGANIBAN, OLIVAREZ, CHAVEZ,  
AGGABAO, ARENAS, COLLANTES, PALMA, NAVA, ACOSTA, CATAMCO,  
SAGARBARRIA, HERRERA-DY, SALCEDA, SARMIENTO (C.), ROMAN,  
ALONTE, SAHALI, YU, UMALI, LANETE, CAGAS, MENDING,  
TOLENTINO, SY-ALVARADO, REVILLA, LIMKAICHONG, DURANO,  
DALIPE, CELESTE, RAMIREZ-SATO, BELMONTE (R.), VELOSO,  
PLAZA, BRAVO (M.V.), MONTORO, TEJADA, PANOTES, CORTES, UNGAB,  
MARIÑO, ADVINCULA, DEL MAR, ARAGONES, ROBES, SALIMBANGON,  
BORDADO, BAG-AO, BRAVO (A.), DIMAPORO (A.), RAMOS, ALCALA,  
ANGARA-CASTILLO, SACDALAN, LOBREGAT, HERNANDEZ (F.), CUARESMA,  
ACOSTA-ALBA, PAPANDAYAN, GORRICETA, BIAZON, SIAO, CALIXTO-RUBIANO,  
VILLARICA, TAMBUNTING, BULUT-BEGTANG, ANDAYA, BROSAS, ROMUALDEZ,  
VERGARA, SANDOVAL, MENDOZA, VIOLAGO, BERTIZ, ELAGO,  
VILLARAZA-SUAREZ, BARZAGA, ROQUE (H.), CASTELO, GARIN (S.), BAGATSING,  
AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY, DE JESUS, BATOCABE, ZARATE, LAGMAN AND  
MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 1030

---

**AN ACT**  
**DEFINING GENDER-BASED STREET, PUBLIC SPACES AND ONLINE SEXUAL HARASSMENT,**  
**PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR**

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

1 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Safe Street, Public and Online Spaces  
2 Act.”  
3

4 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policies.** – It is the policy of the State to value the dignity of every human  
5 person and guarantee full respect for human rights. It is likewise the policy of the State to  
6 recognize the role of women in nation-building and ensure the fundamental equality before  
7 the law of women and men. The State also recognizes that both men and women must have  
8 equality, security and safety not only in private, but also on the streets, public spaces and  
9 online.  
10

11 SEC. 3. **Definitions.** As used in this Act:  
12

- 13 a. *Gender* refers to a set of socially ascribed characteristics, norms, roles, attitudes,  
14 values and expectations identifying the social behavior of men and women, and the  
15 relations between them;
- 16 b. *Gender identity* refers to the personal sense of identity as characterized, among others,  
17 by manner of clothing, inclinations, and behavior in relation to masculine or feminine  
18 conventions. A person may have a male or female identity with physiological  
19 characteristics of the opposite sex, in which case this person is considered transgender;
- 20 c. *Public spaces* refer to streets and alleys, public parks, schools, buildings, malls, bars,  
21 restaurants, transportation terminals, public markets, public utility vehicles as well as  
22 private vehicles covered by app-based transport network services and other  
23 recreational spaces such as cinema halls, theaters and spas;
- 24 d. *Online sexual harassment* refers to an online conduct targeted at a particular person  
25 that causes or likely to cause another mental, emotional or psychological distress, and  
26 fear of personal safety, sexual harassment acts including unwanted sexual remarks and  
27 comments, threats, uploading or sharing of one’s photos without consent, video and  
28 audio recordings, cyber-stalking and online identity theft;
- 29 e. *Stalking* refers to conduct directed at a person involving the repeated visual or physical  
30 proximity, non-consensual communication, or a combination thereof that cause or will  
31 likely cause a person to fear for one’s own safety or the safety of others, or to suffer  
32 emotional distress;
- 33 f. *Catcalling* refers to unwanted remarks directed towards a person, commonly done in  
34 the form of wolf-whistling and misogynistic and sexist slurs which result to or will likely  
35 result to invasion of any person’s personal space and, to fears of one’s personal safety;
- 36 g. *Harasser* refers to the perpetrator of the acts of harassment regardless of sex, gender,  
37 age, or race who commits the prohibited acts; and
- 38 h. *Victim* refers to the person at the receiving end of the acts of harassment.  
39  
40

1 **SEC. 4. Acts Constituting Gender-Based Street, Public Spaces and Online Sexual Harassment.**

2 – The crimes of gender-based street, public spaces and online sexual harassment are  
3 committed through any unwanted and uninvited sexual actions or remarks against any  
4 person that result or will likely result an invasion of the victim’s sense of personal safety,  
5 regardless of the motive for committing such action or remarks.  
6

7 Gender-based street and public spaces harassment includes catcalling, wolf-whistling,  
8 unwanted invitations, misogynistic and sexist slurs, persistent uninvited comments or  
9 gestures on a person’s appearance, relentless requests for personal details, statement of  
10 sexual comments and suggestions, public masturbation or flashing of private parts, groping,  
11 or any advances, whether verbal or physical, that is unwanted and has threatened one’s sense  
12 of personal space and physical safety, and committed in public spaces such as alleys, roads,  
13 sidewalks and parks. Acts constitutive of street harassment are those performed in buildings,  
14 schools, churches, restaurants, malls, public washrooms, bars, internet shops, public markets,  
15 transportation terminals or public utility vehicles.  
16

17 Online sexual harassment includes acts that use information and communications  
18 technology in terrorizing and intimidating victims through physical, psychological, and  
19 emotional threats, unwanted sexual and sexist remarks and comments online whether  
20 publicly or through direct and private messages, invasion of victim’s privacy through cyber  
21 stalking and incessant messaging, uploading and sharing without the consent of the victim,  
22 any form of media that contains photos, voice, or video with sexual content, any  
23 unauthorized recording and sharing of any of the victim’s photos, videos, or any information  
24 online, impersonating identities of victims online or posting lies about victims to harm their  
25 reputation, or filing false abuse reports to online platforms to silence victims.  
26

27 **SEC. 5. Penalties.** – The following acts are unlawful and shall be penalized as follows:  
28

29 **A. GENDER-BASED STREET AND PUBLIC SPACES HARASSMENT**  
30

31 a. For acts such as cursing, wolf-whistling, cat-calling, leering and intrusive gazing,  
32 taunting, cursing, unwanted invitations, misogynistic and sexist slurs, persistent  
33 unwanted comments on one’s appearance, relentless requests for one’s personal  
34 details such as name, contact and social media details or destination, the use of words,  
35 gestures or actions that ridicule on the basis of sex, gender or sexual orientation,  
36 identity and expression including sexist, homophobic, and transphobic statements and  
37 slurs, the persistent telling of sexual jokes, use of sexual names, comments and  
38 demands, and any statement that has made an invasion on a person’s personal space  
39 or threatens the person’s sense of personal safety -  
40

- 41 1. The first offense shall be punished by a fine of Ten thousand pesos  
42 (Php10,000.00) or community service of twelve (12) hours inclusive

1 of attendance to a Gender Sensitivity Seminar to be conducted by the  
2 Philippine National Police (PNP) in coordination with the local  
3 government unit and the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW);  
4

5 2. The second offense shall be punished by *arresto menor* in its  
6 minimum period or a fine of Twenty thousand pesos (Php20,000.00);  
7

8 3. The third offense shall be punished by *arresto menor* in its medium  
9 period or a fine of Thirty thousand pesos (Php30, 000.00).  
10

11 b. For acts such as making offensive body gestures at someone, and exposing private  
12 parts for the sexual gratification of the perpetrator with the effect of demeaning,  
13 harassing, threatening or intimidating the offended party including flashing of private  
14 parts, public masturbation, groping, and similar lewd sexual actions -  
15

16 1. The first offense shall be punished by a fine of Thirty thousand pesos  
17 (Php30,000.00) and community service of twelve (12) hours inclusive  
18 of attendance to a Gender Sensitivity Seminar, to be conducted by the  
19 PNP in coordination with the local government unit and the PCW;

20 2. The second offense shall be punished by *arresto menor* in its medium  
21 period or a fine of Forty thousand pesos (Php40,000.00);

22 3. The third offense shall be punished by *arresto mayor* in its maximum  
23 period or a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (Php50, 000.00).  
24

25 c. For acts such as stalking, and any of the acts mentioned in Section 5, paragraphs a and  
26 b, when accompanied by touching, pinching or brushing against the body of the  
27 offended person; or any touching, pinching, or brushing against the genitalia, face,  
28 arms, anus, groin, breasts, inner thighs, face, buttocks or any part of the victim's body  
29 even when not accompanied by acts mentioned in Section 5 paragraphs a and b -  
30

31 1. The first offense shall be punished by *arresto menor* in its medium  
32 period or a fine of One hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00),  
33 provided that it includes attendance in a Gender Sensitivity Seminar, to  
34 be conducted by the PNP in coordination with the local government  
35 unit and the PCW;

36 2. The second offense shall be punished by *arresto mayor* in its medium  
37 period or a fine of One hundred fifty thousand pesos (Php150,000.00),

38 3. The third offense shall be punished by *arresto mayor* in its maximum  
39 period or a fine of Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00).  
40

#### 41 B. GENDER-BASED ONLINE SEXUAL HARASSMENT 42

43 1. The penalty for imprisonment of *prision correccional* in its medium  
44 period or a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (Php  
45 100,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (Php  
46 500,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court shall be imposed



1 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Bodies for Gender-based Street, Public Spaces and Online Sexual***  
2 ***Harassment Offenses.*** The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for Metro Manila,  
3 the local units of the PNP for other provinces, and the Women and Children's Protection Desk  
4 (WCPD) of the PNP shall have the authority to apprehend harassers and enforce the law  
5 provided that they have undergone prior Gender Sensitivity Training (GST). The PCW,  
6 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Department of Information and  
7 Communications Technology (DICT) shall be the national bodies responsible for overseeing  
8 the implementation of this Act and formulating policies that will ensure the strict  
9 implementation of this Act.

10  
11 For gender-based street and public spaces sexual harassment, the Metro Manila  
12 Development Authority (MMDA) for Metro Manila and the local units of the PNP for other  
13 provinces shall deputize its enforcers to be Anti-Sexual Harassment Enforcers (ASHE). They  
14 shall be deputized to receive complaints on the street and immediately apprehend a harasser  
15 if caught in *flagrante delicto*. The harasser shall be immediately brought to the nearest PNP  
16 station to face charges of the offense committed. The ASHE unit together with the Women's  
17 and Children's Desk of PNP stations will keep a ledger of harassers who have committed acts  
18 prohibited under this Act for purposes of determining if a harasser is a first-time, second-time  
19 or third-time offender. The DILG shall also ensure that all local government bodies expedite  
20 the receipt and processing of complaints by setting up an Anti-Sexual Harassment Desk in all  
21 barangay and city halls and to ensure the set-up of CCTVs in major roads, alleys and sidewalks  
22 in their respective areas to aid in the filing of cases and gathering of evidence. The DILG, the  
23 DSWD in coordination with the DOH and the PCW shall coordinate if necessary to ensure that  
24 victims are provided the proper psychological counseling support services.

25  
26 For online sexual harassment, the PNP Anti-Cyber Crime Group (PNPACG) as the National  
27 Operational Support Unit of the PNP primarily responsible for the implementation of  
28 pertinent Philippine laws on cybercrime, shall receive complaints of online sexual harassment  
29 and develop an online mechanism for reporting real-time online sexual harassment acts and  
30 apprehend harassers. The Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) of the  
31 DICT shall also coordinate with the PNPACG to prepare appropriate and effective measures to  
32 monitor and penalize online sexual harassment.

33 **SEC. 7. *Qualified Gender-based Street, Public Spaces Harassment and Online Sexual***  
34 ***Harassment.*** - The penalty next higher in degree shall be applied in the following cases:

- 35 a. If the violation is committed in a common carrier or public utility vehicle including  
36 jeepneys, taxis, tricycles, or transport network vehicle services, where the harasser is  
37 the driver of the vehicle and the offended party is a passenger;  
38 b. If the offended party is a minor, a senior citizen or a person with disability (PWD);  
39 c. If the harasser is a member of the uniformed services, such as the PNP and the Armed  
40 Forces of the Philippines (AFP);

1 d. If the violation takes place in the premises of a government agency or the harasser is  
2 a government employee or a government official whether appointed or elected as  
3 well those working in a government institution under any mode of employment and  
4 engagement.

5  
6 SEC. 8. **Street Harassment Committed by Minors.** – In case the offense is committed by a  
7 minor, the DSWD shall take necessary disciplinary measures as provided for under Republic  
8 Act No. 9344, otherwise known as the “Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006”.

9 SEC. 9. **Gender-based Harassment in Restaurants and Cafes, Bars and Clubs, Resorts and**  
10 **Water Parks, Hotels and Casinos, Cinemas, Malls, Buildings and other Privately-owned**  
11 **Places Open to the Public.** - Restaurants, bars, cinemas, malls, buildings and other privately-  
12 owned places open to the public shall adopt a zero-tolerance policy against gender-based  
13 street and public spaces sexual harassment. These establishments are obliged to provide  
14 assistance to victims of harassment by coordinating with local police authorities immediately  
15 after harassment is reported, making CCTV footage available when ordered by the Court, and  
16 providing a safe gender-sensitive environment to encourage victims to report harassment at  
17 the first instance.

18 The PCW shall develop a mandatory seminar against public spaces harassment, attendance  
19 in which shall be made a prerequisite for any business permit renewal.

20 All restaurants, bars, cinemas and other places of recreation shall install in their business  
21 establishments clearly-visible warning signs against public spaces harassment, including the  
22 anti-harassment hotline number in bold letters, and shall designate at least one anti-sexual  
23 harassment officer to receive gender-based harassment complaints. Security guards in these  
24 places may be deputized to apprehend harassers caught in *flagrante delicto* and are required  
25 to immediately coordinate with local authorities.

26 SEC. 10. **Gender-based harassment and Online Sexual Harassment in Educational**  
27 **Institutions.** All schools, whether public or private, shall designate an officer in charge for  
28 receiving complaints regarding violations of this Act, and shall ensure that the victims are  
29 provided with a gender-sensitive environment that is both respectful of victims’ needs and  
30 conducive to truth-telling.

31 Every school must adopt and publish grievance procedures to facilitate the filing of  
32 complaints by students and faculty members. Even if an individual does not want to file a  
33 complaint or does not request that the school take any action on behalf of a student or faculty  
34 member and school authorities have knowledge or reasonably know about a possible or  
35 impending act of sexual harassment or sexual violence, the school should promptly  
36 investigate to determine the veracity of such information or knowledge, the circumstances  
37 under which the act/s of sexual harassment or sexual violence were committed, and then take  
38 appropriate steps to resolve the situation. If a school knows or reasonably should know about  
39 acts of sexual harassment or sexual violence being committed that creates a hostile  
40 environment, the school must take immediate action to eliminate the same acts, prevent  
41 their recurrence, and address their effects.

1  
2 Once a harasser is found guilty, the educational institution may reserve the right to strip  
3 the diploma from the harasser or issue an expulsion order.  
4

5 The Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) of all educational institutions shall  
6 address gender-based harassment and online sexual harassment in accordance with the rules  
7 and procedures contained in their CODI manual.

8 **SEC. 11. Gender-based Sexual Harassment in Public Utility Vehicles.** In addition to the  
9 penalties in this Act, the Land Transportation Office (LTO) may also cancel the license of  
10 harassers found to have committed acts constituting sexual harassment in public utility  
11 vehicles, and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) may suspend  
12 or revoke the franchise of transportation operators who commit gender-based street and  
13 public spaces sexual harassment acts. Gender-based harassment in Public Utility Vehicles  
14 (PUVs) where the harasser is the driver of the vehicle shall also constitute a breach of contract  
15 of carriage, for the purpose of creating a presumption of negligence on the part of the  
16 owner/operator of the vehicle in the selection and supervision of employees and rendering  
17 the former solidarily liable for the offenses of the latter.

18 **SEC. 12. PNP Women and Children's Desks.** The Women and Children's desks in all police  
19 stations shall act on and attend to all complaints covered under this Act, and shall coordinate  
20 with A-SHE officers on the street, security guards in privately-owned spaces open to the  
21 public, and anti-sexual harassment officers in government and private offices or schools in  
22 the enforcement of the provisions of this Act.  
23

24 **SEC. 13. Educational Modules and Awareness Campaigns.** The PCW shall take the lead in a  
25 national campaign for the awareness of the law. The PCW shall work hand-in-hand with the  
26 DILG and duly accredited women's groups to ensure all LGUs participate in a sustained  
27 information campaign and the DICT to ensure an online campaign that reaches a wide  
28 audience of Filipino internet-users. Campaign materials may include posters condemning  
29 different forms of street harassment, informing the public of penalties for committing street  
30 harassment, and infographics of hotline numbers of authorities.  
31

32 All schools shall educate students from the elementary to tertiary level about the  
33 provisions of this Act and how they can report cases of gender-based street, public spaces  
34 and online sexual harassment committed against them. School courses shall include age-  
35 appropriate educational modules against street, public and online harassment which shall be  
36 developed by the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education  
37 (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the PCW.

38 **SEC. 14. Safety Audits and Research.** Local government units are required to conduct safety  
39 audits every three (3) years to assess the efficiency and effectivity of the implementation of  
40 this Act within their jurisdictions. Such audits shall be multi-sectoral and participatory, with  
41 consultations undertaken with schools, police officers, and civil society organizations.



- 1  
2 SEC. 15. **Prescriptive Period** – Any action arising from the violation of any of the provisions of  
3 this Act shall be imprescriptible.  
4
- 5 SEC. 16. **Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.** - There is hereby created a Joint  
6 Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the implementation of this Act and to review  
7 the implementing rules and regulations promulgated. The Committee shall be composed of  
8 five (5) Senators and five (5) Representatives to be appointed by the Senate President and the  
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The Oversight Committee shall be co-  
10 chaired by the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations  
11 and Gender Equality and the House Committee on Women and Gender Equality.  
12
- 13 SEC. 17. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from effectivity of  
14 this Act, the PCW as the lead agency, in coordination with the DILG, the DSWD, the PNP, the  
15 Commission on Human Rights (CHR), the DOH, the DepEd, the CHED, the DICT, the TESDA, the  
16 MMDA, the LTO, and at least three (3) women’s organizations active on the issues of gender-  
17 based violence, shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act.
- 18 SEC. 18. **Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
19 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and  
20 subsisting.
- 21 SEC. 19. **Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter  
22 of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the  
23 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.  
24
- 25 SEC. 20. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
26 Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.  
27
- 28 Approved,