



Down to Zero



Why the Anti-Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Bill must be passed into law



1. The bill replaces dated terms like “child pornography” with new and apt terms like “child sexual exploitation and abuse materials.”

Here are some of the new terms included in the bill:

- **Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Materials** – Photos, videos, or any form of representation that show sexual abuse of a child



- **Grooming** – Preparing a child victim to be subjected to sexual abuse or exploitation



- **Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse or OCSEA** – Sexual child abuse or exploitation using the Internet and its various platforms



2. It expands the legal mantle of protection for children by giving law enforcement agencies more power to investigate and gather evidence against perpetrators of child sexual exploitation and abuse.



3. It lays down the responsibilities of Internet intermediaries, including Internet Service Providers, Internet Content Hosts, and Social Networking Sites, banking and financial institutions, and hotels and inns, in combatting child abuse.

Their responsibility includes laying down adequate protection to combat child sex trafficking that may pass through their jurisdiction.



4. The Anti-OCSEA Bill lays down appropriate penalties for online child sexual exploitation and abuse, including the use, dissemination, and possession of child sexual exploitation and abuse materials, and using child exploitation activities to earn income.

Depending on the violation, any offender may be imprisoned from six (6) months to life, and pay a penalty amounting to Php500,000 to Php5,000,000.



5. The bill creates the OCSEA Protection Trust Fund.

The Anti-OCSEA Bill creates a trust fund that pools the funds to be collected from penalty fees. The said fund will be used to protect children against sexual abuse under the leadership of DSWD.



6. A timely law in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Once the Anti-OCSEA Bill becomes law, it will serve as a strong response to the worrying situation where the Philippines has become a “global hotspot for online child abuse and exploitation”.

According to data from many international agencies, the number of OCSEA cases and even financial transactions has worsened in recent years, especially with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



7. Effectively works in tandem with the End Child Rape Law.

In tandem with the Increasing the Age to Determine Statutory Rape or End Child Rape Law, the Anti-OCSEA Bill can help bring justice to victims of child sex trafficking. Under the End Child Rape Law, there is no need to prove that the victim did not consent to the sexual activity that took place.



8. Creation of the OCSEA Offenders Registry.

Under the bill, an “Offenders Registry” will be created that will serve as a database where the names and other data about those convicted of crimes committed as child sexual offenders will be recorded. This is to ensure that children and everyone else will be protected from possible repeat offenses of said sexual offenders.



Everyone has an important role to play in ending online child sexual exploitation and abuse or OCSEA. Once the Anti-OCSEA Bill becomes law, children will be afforded a bigger mantle of protection against OCSEA.

#ShutDownOCSEA #PassAntiOCSEABillNOW