



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL

Quezon City
19th City Council

PR19CC-1098

85th Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. SP- **6704**, S-2016

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2892, ENTITLED, "AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE POLICIES TO ELIMINATE THE MATCHING OF FILIPINO MEN AND WOMEN THROUGH MAIL ORDER AND OTHER SIMILAR PRACTICES FOR PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE OR COMMON LAW PARTNERSHIP WITH FOREIGN NATIONALS, REVISING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6955, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE ANTI-MAIL ORDER BRIDE LAW", FILED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFREDO D. VARGAS.

Introduced by Councilor LENA MARIE P. JUICO.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Victor V. Ferrer, Jr., Alexis R. Herrera, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Voltaire Godofredo L. Liban III, Roderick M. Paulate, Ramulfo Z. Ludovica, Ramon P. Medalla, Estrella C. Valmocina, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Gian Carlo G. Sotto, Franz S. Pumuren, Eufemio C. Lagumbay, Jose Mario Don S. De Leon, Jaime F. Borres, Jesus Manuel C. Suntay, Bayani V. Hipol, Jose A. Visaya, Julianne Alyson Rae V. Medalla, Godofredo T. Liban II, Allan Butch T. Francisco, Karl Edgar C. Castelo, Candy A. Medina, Marivic Co-Pilar, Rogelio "Roger" P. Juan, Melencio "Bobby" T. Castelo, Jr., Donato C. Matias and Ricardo B. Corpuz.

WHEREAS, the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees the respect of individual rights. In pursuit of this policy, the State shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures and development of programs that will promote human dignity, protect the people from any threat of violence and exploitation, eliminate trafficking in persons, and mitigate pressures for involuntary migration and servitude of persons, not only to support trafficked persons, but more importantly to ensure their recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into the mainstream society;

WHEREAS, it is also the policy of the State to recognize the equal rights and inherent dignity of men and women as enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights, United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child, United Nations Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families, United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime including its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and all other relevant and universally accepted human rights instruments and international conventions to which the Philippines is a signatory;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9208, otherwise known as the "Anti-trafficking in Persons Act of 2003" defines Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer or harboring, or receipt of persons with or without the victim's consent or knowledge, within or across national borders by means of threat or use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception abuse of power or position, taking advantage of the vulnerability of persons, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation which includes at a minimum, the exploitation or prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery, servitude or the removal or sale of organs;

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation is also considered as "trafficking in persons" even if it does not involve any of the means set forth in the preceding paragraph.

WHEREAS, Section 4 (c) of Republic Act No. 9208, the offer or to contract marriage, real or simulated for the purpose of acquiring, buying, offering, selling, or trading them to engage in prostitution, pornography, sexual exploitation, forced labor, is unlawful;

WHEREAS, Section 2 (a) of House Bill No. 2892 defines a Mail-Order Spouse or Partner as "any person whose identity is advertised either by personal introduction, publication, or through internet websites for purposes of marriage or partnership to a foreign national." Traditionally, the term Mail-Order Bride refers to women from poor families in developing nations who usually under the supervision of syndicates publish their intention to marry male citizens of economically-advantaged countries;

WHEREAS, while the opportunity to marry citizens from economically-advantaged countries have been one of the options of those coming from the poor families to escape poverty, the mail-order bride phenomenon is being exploited by syndicates, preying on the unsuspecting groom-seeker;

WHEREAS, mail-order bride as a phenomenon results in the exploitation of women, creation of immigration problems, and the tendency to create conditions in which domestic violence thrives;



WHEREAS, while the Philippines has enacted Republic Act No. 6955, otherwise known as the Anti-Mail-Order Bride Law in 1990, the law has been unsuccessful in curbing the perils of trafficking in persons in failing to anticipate the proliferation of the mail-order industry through the internet and in protecting Filipino men from also falling prey to exploitation;

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 2892 seeks to address the limitations of Republic Act No. 6955 by including the following salient features:

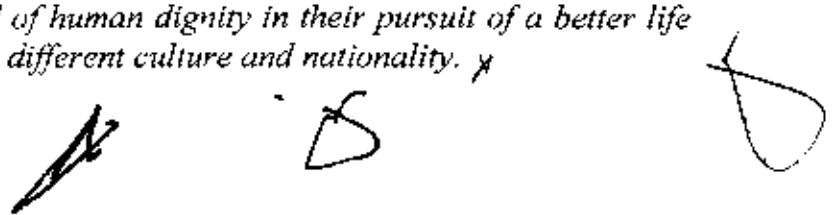
- 1. Prohibiting the matching of both Filipino men and women for marriage or common law partnership to foreign nationals by a third party entity engaged in the business of mail-order spouse;*
- 2. Declaring the operation of the mail-order spouse industry in the World Wide Web as unlawful;*
- 3. Confiscation and forfeiture of proceeds and instruments derived from committing the prohibited acts in favor of the government; and*
- 4. Mandatory services to victims of the mail order spouse scheme to ensure their recovery and rehabilitation.*

WHEREAS, the term of imprisonment has also been proposed to be raised to fifteen (15) years and the fine to not be less than Five Hundred Thousand (P500,000.00) but not more than One Million (P1,000,000.00).

NOW, THEREFORE,


BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, to express, as it does hereby express its support for the enactment of House Bill No. 2892, entitled, "An Act to Strengthen the Policies to Eliminate the Matching of Filipino Men and Women through Mail-Order and other Similar Practices for Purposes of Marriage or Common Law Partnership with Foreign Nationals, Revising for this Purpose Republic Act No. 6955, otherwise known as the Anti-Mail-Order Bride Law" .

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the City Council of Quezon City upholds its mandate to ensure and guarantee the enjoyment of the people of a decent standard of living with a person with whom they freely choose to be their lifetime partner. Towards this end, it shall take measures to protect Filipino men and women from being exploited in utter disregard of human dignity in their pursuit of a better life in the company of someone with a different culture and nationality. x

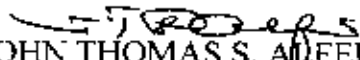


RESOLVED, FINALLY, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to Congressman Alfredo D. Vargas, the Committee on Youth, Women, and Family Relations in the House of Representatives and concerned organizations, for their information.

ADOPTED: February 9, 2016.



MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:


Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Gov't. Asst. Dept. Head III

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Resolution was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on February 9, 2016 and was CONFIRMED on February 15, 2016.


Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
✓ City Gov't. Asst. Dept. Head III 