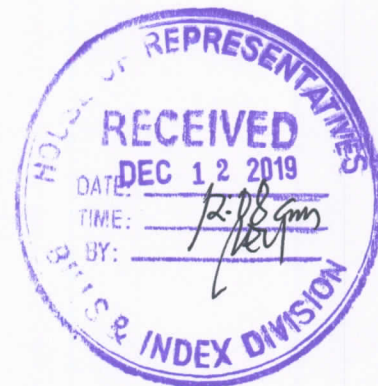


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 604**



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Introduced by Honorable Representatives  
**ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);**  
**CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT and FERDINAND R. GAITE (Bayan Muna);**  
**FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers); and SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan)**

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**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY TO  
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF  
PROSTITUTION RINGS VICTIMIZING WOMEN FOR PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATORS  
(POGO) WORKERS WITH THE END VIEW OF STRENGTHENING LAWS PROTECTING WOMEN  
FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL ABUSE**

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 9208 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act penalizes the promotion of human trafficking and the engagement of services of trafficked persons, and recognizes trafficked persons as victims who will not be penalized for the unlawful acts in relation to human trafficking;

**WHEREAS**, authorities have subsequently busted prostitution rings in Metro Manila exclusively catering to Chinese workers in the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operator (POGO) sector;

**WHEREAS**, the National Bureau of Investigation rescued 91 Chinese and four Filipino women in October from a karaoke bar in Makati City that served as sex ring for Chinese clients;

**WHEREAS**, the prostitution rings are usually disguised as karaoke bars and wellness centers, or operating within hotels and condominiums in Metro Manila, with transactions facilitated through social media;

**WHEREAS**, the raids have revealed that Chinese, Vietnamese, Malaysian and Filipino women are victimized for escort services in the prostitution rings, with the foreign nationals also victimized in human trafficking schemes;

**WHEREAS**, the Chinese sex dens usually charge P15,000 for Filipina escort services and P20,000-P30,000 for Chinese escorts;

**WHEREAS**, such proliferation of Chinese prostitution rings demonstrates the social implications of the expanding POGO sector in the country on top of the economic losses incurred by the national government due to non-payment of taxes by illegal Chinese POGO workers;

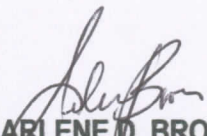
**WHEREAS**, there are 58 accredited POGOs in the country employing some 138,000 workers and primarily catering to mainland Chinese gamblers;

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to address the rising cases of prostitution and human trafficking alongside the growth of POGOs in the country, and the need to enforce and strengthen laws against sexual violence and human trafficking victimizing women;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines cannot just take pride in being top 1 in gender equality ranking in Asia while turning a blind eye in the abuse and victimization of Asian women in the illicit operations of POGOs within the country;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House Committee on Women and Gender Equality conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the proliferation of prostitution rings catering to POGO workers with the end view of strengthening laws that provide protection for women against human trafficking and sexual abuse.

Adopted,


  
**ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
Gabriela Women's Party

  
**CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
Bayan Muna Partylist

**FERDINAND R. GAITE**  
Bayan Muna Partylist

  
**EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**  
Bayan Muna Partylist

**FRANCE L. CASTRO**  
Act Teachers Partylist

  
**SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**  
Kabataan Partylist