



Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City

<http://www.dilg.gov.ph>



STANDARDS IN BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT PROTECT CHILDREN FROM TRAFFICKING

Memorandum Circular No. 2018-53

April 18, 2018

1.0. LEGAL BASES

1.1. International Instruments

- 1.1.1. **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** establishes that all persons are entitled to enjoy all basic human rights.
- 1.1.2. **The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children** recognizes the effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.
- 1.1.3. **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** outlines the fundamental rights of the child, including the right to be protected from economic exploitation and harmful work, , from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse and from physical and mental violence.

1.2. National Laws

- 1.2.1. **Republic Act 9208, as amended by Republic Act 10364** states that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees the respect of individual rights, and gives highest priority to the enactment of measures and development of programs that will promote human dignity, including the elimination of trafficking in persons.
 - **Section 140 of the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA 9208, as amended by RA 10364**, mandates the Department of the Interior and Local Government to institute a systematic information and prevention campaign with other pertinent government agencies on anti-trafficking.
 - **Section 144 of the IRR of RA 9208, as amended by RA 10364** provides for the roles and responsibilities of all Local Government Units (LGUs) with regard to combatting Trafficking in Persons.

2.0. PURPOSE

This Circular is issued to:

- Enjoin Local Chief Executives to comply with the provisions of RA 10364 and other related issuances; and
- Ensure the widest dissemination of IACAT Resolution 03-2017 on the adoption of the Standards in Building Communities that Protect Children from Trafficking.

3.0. COVERAGE/INTENDED USER

- This Circular shall cover All Provincial Governors, ARMM Regional Governor, City and Municipal Mayors, Punong Barangays, DILG Regional Directors and Field Officers, ARMM Regional Secretary, Local Councils Against Trafficking – Violence

Against Women and their Children (LCAT-VAWC), Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC), and all others concerned.

4.0. POLICY CONTENT

4.1. Standards in Building Communities that Protect Children from Trafficking

The following standards are enlisted in the Handbook on Standards in Building Communities that Protect Children from Trafficking, which may be downloaded through this link: bit.ly/PACTStandards.

4.1.1. Standard 1 – Laws and Policies on the Protection of Children from Trafficking

Ordinances, issuances and other policies against child trafficking are enacted/adopted embodying the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); translated in local language/dialect, written/published, and promoted and distributed to all stakeholders in the community, including the children.

4.1.2. Standard 2 – Community Participation in the Protection of Children from Trafficking

Measures to minimize the occurrence of abuse and exploitation of children, particularly trafficking of children, are undertaken by the community and stakeholders, including the children.

4.1.3. Standard 3 – Implementation of Plans, Programs, and Activities for Trafficked Children

A comprehensive program for the protection and promotion of the best interest of trafficked children in all phases of rescue, recovery and reintegration in the community are implemented by trained service providers of the local government units (LGUs), accredited non-government organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders.

4.1.4. Standard 4 – Provision of Legal Assistance to Child Victims of Trafficking

Arrangements are made to provide legal information, advice, representation and protection to child victims of trafficking.

4.1.5. Standard 5 – Child Participation to Matters Concerning Them

Opportunities are available for trafficked children and other children to express their views and to participate in matters relative to their lives and the community, considering their evolving capacities and emotional maturity.

4.1.6. Standard 6 – Training of Service Providers

Capacity building and support for service providers are implemented to ensure provision of quality services to trafficked children.

4.1.7. Standard 7 – Organization of Local Structures and Mechanisms

Mechanisms and structures in the community are established and functional to support the protection of trafficked children

4.2. Responsibilities of the DILG Regional Offices

4.2.1. Ensure the widest dissemination of the Standards.

4.2.2. Ensure the widest dissemination of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking in Persons Resolution 03-2017 entitled “Resolution to Adopt the Standards in Building Communities that Protect Children from Trafficking”

4.3. Responsibilities of Local Chief Executives, thru the Local Councils Against Trafficking – Violence Against Women and their Children (LCAT VAWC) and Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC)

4.3.1. On Standard 1 – Laws and Policies on the Protection of Children from Trafficking

4.3.1.1. Conduct research to determine the baseline data and statistics on children involved in trafficking, to be used as basis in the development of effective policies, plans, and programs.

4.3.1.2. Issue policies and ordinances on anti-trafficking with specific provisions on the protection of children against trafficking.

4.3.1.3. Develop a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of policies and ordinances.

4.3.2. On Standard 2 – Community Participation in the Protection of Children from Trafficking

4.3.2.1. Conduct advocacy campaigns against child trafficking.

4.3.2.2. Implement developmental and preventive programs for vulnerable children and their families.

4.3.3. On Standard 3 – Implementation of Plans, Programs, and Activities for Trafficked Children

4.3.3.1. Adopt and implement protocols, mechanisms, and programs, including centers and community-based services in the reporting, rescue, referral, recovery, and reintegration, of trafficked children.

4.3.3.2. Establish an effective case-management system and document its corresponding processes and outcomes.

4.3.3.3. Provide facilities, complete with proper licenses and accreditations, for trafficked children.

4.3.3.4. Provide adequate resources for provision of services and implementation of programs for vulnerable children.

4.3.4. On Standard 4 – Provision of Legal Assistance to Child Victims of Trafficking

4.3.4.1. Establish a legal assistance mechanism to ensure the child's access to justice.

4.3.4.2. Provide legal services, as well as psycho-social services to trafficked children while the legal proceedings is ongoing.

- 4.3.4.3. Ensure that the trafficked children are fully informed of their rights and benefit due them.
- 4.3.4.4. Establish a monitoring mechanism and support system in the prosecution of cases of trafficked children.

4.3.5. On Standard 5 – Child Participation to Matters Concerning Them

- 4.3.5.1. Implement measures where the trafficked children will be prepared to participate in matters concerning them.
- 4.3.5.2. Encourage children’s participation in children’s associations and organizations.
- 4.3.5.3. Encourage the representation of children in local bodies.
- 4.3.5.4. Empower child trafficking survivors and support groups to protect and promote the rights of trafficked children and children at risk.

4.3.6. On Standard 6 – Training of Service Providers

- 4.3.6.1. Develop training programs for child right’s advocates and other groups involved in anti-trafficking work.
- 4.3.6.2. Implement training programs for policy makers and agency heads on policy and program development.
- 4.3.6.3. Conduct training programs for service providers for efficient and effective provision of services to trafficked children.
- 4.3.6.4. Establish protection and support systems for service providers.


4.3.7. On Standard 7 – Organization of Local Structures and Mechanisms

- 4.3.7.1. Ensure the organization and functionality of the Local Committee Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children (LCAT-VAWC).
- 4.3.7.2. Ensure the organization and functionality of the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC).
- 4.3.7.3. Implement monitoring and evaluation systems for the institutions concerning children at the local level.
- 4.3.7.4. Support measures for the protection, recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration of trafficked children.

5.0. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

6.0. APPROVING AUTHORITY


USEC. EDUARDO M. AÑO
Officer-in-Charge, DILG



7.0. FEEDBACK

For queries, you may contact IACAT Secretariat at telephone number (02) 527 5363, PACT, Inc. at telephone number (02) 929 0347 or 355 4773, or the National Barangay Operations Office at (02) 925 0328.

INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL AGAINST TRAFFICKING

Resolution No. 003

Series of 2017

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE
"STANDARDS IN BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT PROTECT
CHILDREN FROM TRAFFICKING"**

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9208, otherwise known as the "Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003," as amended by Republic Act No. 10364, otherwise known as the "Expanded Anti-Trafficking Act of 2012" (collectively the "Expanded Act") established the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (Council) to formulate a comprehensive and integrated program to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons, coordinate the programs and projects of the various member-agencies to effectively address the issues and problems attendant to trafficking-in-persons, and ensure recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration of trafficked victims into the mainstream society;

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Council developed the "Philippine Guidelines for the Protection of Trafficked Children" ("Guidelines") to ensure the protection of the rights of trafficked children by providing the minimum requirements to be considered at all stages of handling and care of children who are victims of trafficking;

WHEREAS, the said Guidelines is the only Council documents that provides guiding principles or standards in the management of trafficked children;

WHEREAS, the Council recognized the necessity of developing complementary guidelines or standards to guide duty-bearers, advocates, and stakeholders in strengthening the capacities of communities, from the barangay, municipal, city, and provincial levels to effectively formulate programs in the prevention of child trafficking, and implementation of interventions against trafficking in persons;

WHEREAS, the Council, in partnership with the Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT), a non-government organization advocating the welfare and protection of children against trafficking in persons, with the assistance of various non-government organizations, developed the "Standards in Building Communities that Protect Children from Trafficking" to meet the said necessity and further provides a safe environment for children;

WHEREAS, the Council, after several consultations with the member agencies and partners, hereby agrees on the following standards in building communities that will protect children from trafficking in persons:

Standard 1. Ordinances, issuances and other policies against child trafficking are enacted/adopted embodying the principles of the

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); translated in local language/dialect, written/published, and promoted and distributed to all stakeholders in the community, including the children.

Indicator 1.1. Baseline data and statistics on children, including child trafficking, are available, accessible and utilized for policy development, planning and programming for children.

Indicator 1.2. Policies on the protection of children, including against child trafficking, are enacted/adopted and implemented.

Indicator 1.3. An ordinance on anti-trafficking with specific provision on protection of trafficked children is enacted.

Indicator 1.4. Mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of policies is established and functional.

Standard 2. Measures to minimize the occurrence of abuse and exploitation of children, particularly trafficking of children, are undertaken by the community and stakeholders, including the children.

Indicator 2.1. Information, education, and advocacy campaigns against child trafficking are actively promoted and managed.

Indicator 2.2 Developmental and preventive programs for vulnerable children and their families are implemented.

Standard 3. A comprehensive program for the protection and promotion of the best interest of trafficked children in all phases of rescue, recovery and reintegration in the community are implemented by trained service providers of the local government units (LGUs), accredited non-government organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders.

Indicator 3.1. Child-sensitive protocols and mechanisms observed in reporting, rescue, referral, recovery and reintegration of trafficked children, and an effective case management system is established and implemented, with processes and outcomes properly documented.

Indicator 3.2. A comprehensive child and gender-sensitive program, including centers and community-based services for the recovery and reintegration of trafficked children, are implemented.

Indicator 3.3. Facilities for trafficked children are available, with proper licenses and/or accreditations.

Indicator 3.4. Adequate and competent human resources for service provision are available and utilized.

Indicator 3.5. Sufficient resources for program implementation are allotted and utilized.

Standard 4. Arrangements are made to provide legal information, advice, representation and protection to child victims of trafficking.

Indicator 4.1. Psycho-social support for trafficked children before and throughout the legal proceedings is provided.

Indicator 4.2. Free legal assistance mechanism to ensure the child's access to justice is established.

Indicator 4.3. Free legal assistance/services by legal practitioners to trafficked children is provided.

Indicator 4.4. Trafficked children are well-informed of the benefits due them and the process to avail the same.

Indicator 4.5. Pro-active monitoring mechanisms and support systems in the prosecution of cases of trafficked children are established.

Standard 5. Opportunities are available for trafficked children and other children to express their views and to participate in matters relative to their lives and the community, considering their evolving capacities and emotional maturity.

Indicator 5.1. Preparation of children, including trafficked children, to participate in matters affecting their lives is carried out.

Indicator 5.2. Children's participation in children's associations and organizations is encouraged.

Indicator 5.3. Representation of children in local bodies is established and implemented.

Indicator 5.4. Child trafficking survivors and support groups are empowered as partners in protecting and promoting the rights of trafficked children and children-at-risk.

Standard 6. Capacity building and support for service providers are implemented to ensure provision of quality services to trafficked children.

Indicator 6.1. Training programs for those involved in anti-trafficking work are developed.

Indicator 6.2. Training programs for children's rights advocates on anti-trafficking are conducted.

Indicator 6.3. Training programs for policy-makers and agency heads on policy and program development are implemented.

Indicator 6.4. Training programs for service providers for efficient and effective provision of services to trafficked children are conducted.

Indicator 6.5. Protection and support to service providers are established.

Standard 7. Mechanisms and structures in the community are established and functional to support the protection of trafficked children.

Indicator 7.1. Local communities against trafficking (LCAT) and violence against women and children (VAWC) within the respective local government units (LGUs) are organized and functional.

Indicator 7.2. Local councils for the protection of children (LCPC) are organized and functional.


Indicator 7.3. Monitoring and evaluation systems are implemented.

Indicator 7.4. Other measures for the protection, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked children are pro-actively supported by their respective LGUs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Council to ADOPT and implement this Standards in Building Communities that Protect Children from Trafficking In Persons, for strict compliance by all concerned agencies.

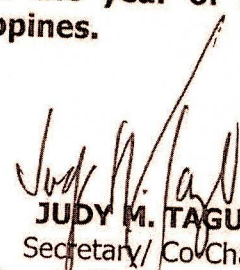
RESOLVED FURTHER, that the said Guidelines shall take effect immediately after the signing of this Resolution by all Council representatives.

Adopted this _____ day of March, in the year of the Lord, two thousand and seventeen in Manila City, Philippines.

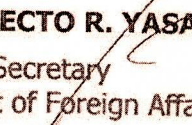

VITALIANO N. AGUIRRE II
Secretary/ Chairperson *e.*
Department of Justice

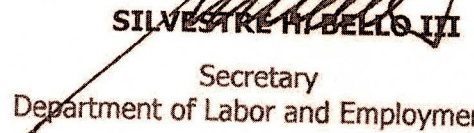
Department of Justice
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JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
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Department of Social Welfare & Development

MEMBERS:

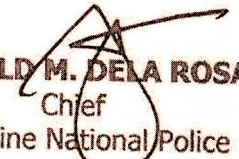

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