

## WHERE TO CALL FOR HELP?

### **Philippine National Police**

Women and Children's Concern Division (WCCD)  
Tel. Nos.: (02) 723-0401 loc. 3480  
Call or text 117 (PATROL 117)

### **National Bureau of Investigation**

Violence Against Women and Children's Desk (VAWCD)  
Tel. Nos.: (02) 523-8231 loc. 3403; 525-6098

### **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)**

NCR Ugnayang Pag-asa  
Legarda, Manila  
Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU)  
Tel. Nos.: (02) 734-8617 to 18

Rehabilitation Unit  
Tel. No.: (02) 734-8635

### **Bureau of Immigration**

Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila  
Tel. Nos.: (02) 527-3260; 527-3248

### **DOJ Action Center**

Tel. No.: (02) 536-0450

### **Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)**

Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch  
3rd Floor POEA Bldg. EDSA cor Ortigas Ave.  
Mandaluyong City  
Tel. Nos.: (02) 722-1189 to 90; 721-0619

# Republic Act 9208 THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT OF 2003

## *A Briefer*

## WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR TRAFFICKED PERSONS?

To ensure their recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration to mainstream society, trafficked persons should be provided with the following:

1. emergency shelter or appropriate housing
2. counseling and referral services
3. free legal services
4. medical and psychological services
5. livelihood and skills training; and
6. educational assistance (if the victim is a trafficked child)

## WHAT TO DO TO AVOID TRAFFICKING?

- ❖ Ensure that the recruiter is legally registered at the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA).
- ❖ Make sure that all documents necessary for working abroad are legal. These documents include the passport, visa, overseas contract and the salary.
- ❖ Secure relevant information from non-government organizations (NGOs) about the country of destination.
- ❖ Inform one's relatives, friends and NGOs about the country of destination and the recruiter's contact details like address and telephone numbers to monitor one's situation abroad.
- ❖ Know your rights and stand up for them.

*For more information, please contact the  
Information Resource Division (IRD)*

**National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW)**  
1145 J. P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila, 1005, Philippines  
Trunkline: (02) 735-4767 loc. 122 Fax: (02) 736-4449  
E-mail: edo@ncrfw.gov.ph; ird@ncrfw.gov.ph  
Website: <http://www.ncrfw.gov.ph>



**NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
THE ROLE OF FILIPINO WOMEN**

## SOME QUICK INFORMATION

- ❖ RA 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 was signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on May 23, 2006.
- ❖ Consonant with the state's obligation to protect the dignity of the individual, this law criminalizes the act of trafficking in persons especially of women and children for prostitution, sexual exploitation and slavery, among others.

## WHY DOES TRAFFICKING HAPPEN?

A study done in 2001 by Coalition Against Trafficking in Women in Asia and the Pacific (CATW-AP) revealed the following as the most common reasons for trafficking:

1. poverty
2. low educational attainment and the lack of information on the recruitment process
3. sexual abuse
4. familial pressure
5. the need to earn
6. influenced by good tales and earning huge sums of money overseas

## HOW IS TRAFFICKING ACCOMPLISHED?

Trafficking is accomplished through bride trade, illegal recruitment and/or sex tourism. This is often a clandestine activity which makes it difficult for the authorities to find out the perpetrators. Trafficking may happen in and out of the country.

- ❖ Bride trade occurs when foreigners marry the victims that they find or get acquainted to via regular mail, magazines and the Internet.
- ❖ Illegal recruitment is the manner in which workers were illegally sent abroad to work. Oftentimes, they end up being prostituted.
- ❖ Sex tourism happens when foreign tourists are encouraged to visit a country so that they may enjoy the sexual services offered by sex workers.

## WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES IMPOSED UPON VIOLATORS?

Any person found guilty of qualified trafficking shall be meted-out with life imprisonment and a fine of up to P5 million if:

- ❖ victim is a child
- ❖ victim died or incurred Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV-AIDS)
- ❖ the offender was related to the victim or any of the law enforcement units of the government

The law also penalizes any person who patronizes, use, buy, or engage the services of the trafficked person with six (6) months of community service and a fine of P50, 000 for the first offense and a fine of P100, 000 on the second and succeeding offenses.

## WHO MAY FILE A COMPLAINT?

- ❖ the trafficked person or the offended party
- ❖ spouse
- ❖ parents or legal guardians
- ❖ siblings
- ❖ children
- ❖ Any person who has personal knowledge of the offense

Complainants might seek the assistance of the Inter Agency Council against Trafficking (IACAT) in the filing of the complaint.

The IACAT is chaired by the DOJ Secretary and co-chaired by the DSWD Secretary. The Council also includes DFA, DOLE, POEA, Bureau of Immigration, PNP, NCRFW and sectoral representatives of women, overseas workers and children.

Trafficked persons are considered victims of the act or acts of trafficking; hence they shall not be penalized for crimes related to acts of trafficking

## WHAT IS TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS?

The law 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 of position, taking advantage of the vulnerability of the person, or, the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation which includes at a minimum, the exploitation or the 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 shall also be considered as "trafficking in persons" even if it does not involve any of the means set forth in the preceding paragraph".