

**COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS**  
 Inputs to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action +25  
 Philippine Progress Report  
 Under the Overarching Dimension on  
*Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity, and Decent Work*

<b>CFO Policy Inputs on Women/Gender 2013-2018</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Submitted to</b>	<b>Salient Points</b>
2018	CFO'S POSITION AND POLICY INPUTS ON SENATE PS RESOLUTION NO. 636 ON THE RECENT DEATHS OF JOANNA DANIELA DEMA FELIS AND JOSIE LLOREN, AS WELL AS SIMILAR MALTREATMENTS AND DEATHS OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS	Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development, and Foreign Relations Philippine Senate	<p>The CFO supports the Senate Resolution filed by Senator Grace Poe (P.S. Res. No. 636) on the conduct of inquiry and investigation in aid of legislation, on the recent deaths of Joanna Daniela Demafelis and Josie Lloren, as well as similar maltreatments and deaths of overseas Filipino workers through the years.</p> <p>It is therefore important to ensure that the education, training and orientation of migrants, their families and dependents become the key strategy for their empowerment.</p> <p>An institutionalized monitoring mechanism that regularly assesses the implementation of laws related to migrant and welfare protection of OFWs should be developed.</p> <p>Issuance of a temporary or total deployment ban should be immediately carried out in destination countries with high incidence of</p>

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			<p>abused overseas Filipinos with strict monitoring.</p> <p>Existing bilateral labor agreements with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on household service workers could serve as reference in crafting similar agreements on the protection of migrant workers with other destination countries of OFWs to which, welfare issues of OFWs should be the paramount attention. Proper lobbying efforts against some limiting policies in countries where OFWs work and stay should be immediately undertaken.</p> <p>Conduct an exigent legislative review on the responsibilities of the recruitment agencies to their deployed OFWs from pre-employment, on-site and reintegration.</p> <p>To increase the number of Philippine Posts and Overseas Labor Offices and personnel in countries with extremely high number of OFW population.</p>
	<p>CFO'S POSITION AND POLICY INPUTS ON SENATE PS RESOLUTION NO. 634 TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S</p>	<p>Relevant Committee Philippine Senate</p>	<p>The CFO fully supports the Senate Resolution filed by Senator Win Gatchalian (P.S. Res. No. 634) to conduct an inquiry on the economic effects and impact of the Philippine Government's deployment ban to Kuwait as well as of new measures instituted to safeguard the rights and protect the interests and welfare of Filipinos overseas,</p>

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	<p>DEPLOYMENT BAN TO KUWAIT</p>		<p>especially those in vulnerable occupations and situations.</p> <p>CFO calls for the national government and local government units to extend immediate financial assistance to the OFWs and their families whose source of livelihood and income earning ability has been affected.</p> <p>Other forms of services and assistance vis-à-vis gainful local employment and/or opportunities for skills development / retooling for affected OFWs, educational assistance for children of the affected OFWs, emergency medical assistance for families of affected OFWs, etc. shall be extended to affected OFWs and their families by mandated national government agencies and local government units.</p> <p>For national government agencies and recruitment agencies to provide humane assistance to affected OFWs in identifying other employment opportunities locally or overseas that provides the same or even better standards of employment and working conditions through the <a href="http://philjobnet.gov.ph">philjobnet.gov.ph</a> portal (the Philippine government's official web-based labor market information, job search, matching and referral portal) and/or from available active job orders coursed through recruitment agencies.</p>
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			<p>There is an urgent need to strengthen the reintegration pathway for OFs/OFWs throughout the whole cycle of migration, addressing all types of return of Filipino migrants (temporary, permanent, virtual, and distressed).</p>
	<p>CFO'S POSITION AND POLICY INPUTS ON SENATE P.S. RESOLUTION NO. 631 DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF ABUSE OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS</p>	<p>Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Philippine Senate</p>	<p>The CFO fully supports the Senate Resolution filed by Senator Joel Villanueva (P.S. Resolution 636) directing the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources and other appropriate Senate committees to conduct inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the increasing incidence of abuse of OFWs.</p> <p>Migrant women workers, are often more vulnerable to exploitation, including trafficking in persons, and gender based violence. These vulnerabilities are oftentimes also heightened by their engagement in precarious employment without sufficient levels of social protection and with little or no access to legal protection. It is sad that even in today's modern day and age, thousands of women migrants are still employed in low skilled, low paid, and informal sectors, often delivering much needed yet insufficiently valued care services and domestic work. Like most women domestic workers, women overseas Filipinos working as domestic workers are in isolated conditions in the homes. This</p>

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			<p>precarious situation they are in, makes them not only particularly vulnerable to labor exploitation but also sexual and physical violence.</p>
	<p>POLICY INPUTS ON THE SUBSTITUTE BILL OF HOUSE BILLS NUMBERED 2592, 1471; 2664; 2850; and 5153 AN ACT DEFINING ELECTRONIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC AT NO. 9262 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ACT OF 2004</p>	<p>Committee on Women and Gender Equality House of Representatives</p>	<p>The CFO supports the draft Substitute Bill that will serve as an amendatory Bill to Republic Act No. 9262 as it aims to safeguard the inviolable rights of Filipino women and children, being one of the most vulnerable sectors of our society from the exploitations of today’s fast-paced digital era.</p> <p>Omission of the word “their” in the title of the as well as in Section 5 of the substitute bill. Inclusion of emotional violence in the definition of psychological violence.</p> <p>Inclusion in the section on additional and separate acts of “FABRICATION OF FAKE INFORMATION/NEWS TO SPREAD GOSSIP AND MALICIOUS INFORMATION WITH ILL INTENT TOWARDS THE VICTIM and CREATION OF FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS USING A DIFFERENT INDIVIDUAL’S PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH ILL INTENT AND/OR TO SOW MALICE, INTRIGUE OR OTHER HARM.”</p>

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	<p>CFO'S POSITION ON ARTICLE XV THE FAMILY OF THE 1987 PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION</p>	<p>Sub-Committee on Rights, Obligations and Social Justice Consultative Committee to Review the 1987 Constitution</p>	<p>Remove the word family” in Section 1 since the CFO is of the position that the provision on should be inclusive of the realities of a significant number of these families where one of the partners is a Filipino.</p> <p>Along with the elderly, the responsibility to care for members of the family should extend to all those who are inherently vulnerable. Thus, the CFO is of the position that Section 4 should be stated as “The family has the duty to care for its VULNERABLE (not just elderly) members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.</p> <p>Include in Section 3 “The State shall also recognize relations by affinity or consanguinity and other legal unions contracted in countries where these are recognized as additional foundations of the family.”</p>
<p>2017</p>	<p>POLICY INPUTS ON SENATE BILL NO. 2850 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND A UNIFORM STRATEGY TO PROTECT WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENT CRIME</p>	<p>Committee on Women and Gender Equality House of Representatives</p>	<p>The CFO supports Senate Bill No. 2850 An Act Establishing a Task Force to Recommend a Uniform Strategy to Protect Women Against Violent Crime</p> <p>The proposed task force should complement the functions of the IAC-VAWC not duplicate Include as members of the proposed Task Force the appropriate government agencies, civil society groups, and academe</p>

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	<p>POLICY INPUTS ON HOUSE BILL 2664 AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262, DEFINING ELECTRONIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OR E-VAW, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES</p>	<p>Committee on Women and Gender Equality House of Representatives</p>	<p>The CFO supports House Bill No. 2662 An Act Amending Republic Act No. 9262, Defining Electronic Violence Against Women or E-VAW.</p> <p>Include defaming or blackmailing in the provision as a means of electronic violence against women and children.</p> <p>Change stalking to cyber stalking (Section 2, E4) Add in the provision to injure the victim’s reputation (Section 2, E5)</p> <p>Given that electronic violence against women will be considered a crime, include as additional members of the IAC VAWC the Department of Science Technology or the Department of Information and Communications Technology.</p> <p>Make the bill gender-sensitive. Include also men and boys, as they too could be subject to exploitation.</p> <p>The legislation should also consider migrant women and children, especially victims of trafficking, smuggling and fraudulent marriages among others in its scope.</p> <p>Include bullying and coercion of a sexual nature in the provision (Section 2C)</p>
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	<p>POLICY INPUTS ON HOUSE BILL NO. 3813 AN ACT PENALIZING ALL ADVERTISING AGENCIES THAT EXPLOIT WOMEN AND GLORIFY SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THEIR ADVERTISEMENTS</p>	<p>Committee on Women and Gender Equality House of Representatives</p>	<p>The CFO supports House Bill No. 3813 An Act Penalizing All Advertising Agencies That Exploit Women and Glorify Sexual Violence in their Advertisements</p> <p>Include in the Declaration of Policy the regulation of online advertisement to include various social media channels and sites</p> <p>Change the agency that will monitor compliance with the provisions cited in the bill</p> <p>Make the bill gender-sensitive through including men and boys.</p> <p>Make clear mention of foreign advertising companies</p> <p>Consider ways to deal with the alien offender in cases where there is an existing extradition treaty with the home country of the foreigner</p>
	<p>POLICY INPUTS ON HOUSE BILL 1471 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR</p>	<p>Committee on Women and Gender Equality House of Representatives</p>	<p>The CFO supports House Bill No. 1471 An Act to Establish the Address Confidentiality Program for Victims of VAWC</p> <p>The proposed bill can serve as an amendment to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9262, especially Section 44 and Rule XI, Section 63 to expand the provisions on</p>



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	VIOLETIONS THEREOF, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		confidentiality of victims/survivors of violence. The proposed legislative measure should also consider migrant women and fraudulent marriages among others in its scope.
	POLICY INPUTS ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6446 AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE CAPACITY OF THE FILIPINO SPOUSE TO REMARRY WHEN THE ALIEN SPOUSE HAS OBTAINED A FOREIGN JUDICIAL DECREE OF ABSOLUTE DIVORCE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES	Committee on Population and Family Relations House of Representatives	The CFO would like to express its full support for House Bill No. 6446 in its legislative intent to recognize the right of Filipino spouses who have been divorced by their foreign spouses to remarry  Recognition of the validity of divorce in other countries obtained through non-judicial procedure (including divorce by mutual agreement), in accordance with their laws and based on nationality principles Amending Article 13 of Executive Order No. 209 or the Family Code of the Philippines (Section1)  The CFO also proposes an amendment to Article 38 of the Family Code that will give consideration for survivors of mail-order spouse scheme and trafficking in the guise of intermarriage which is consistent with public policy The CFO also proposes an amendment to Article 45 that will give consideration for survivors of domestic violence consistent with public policy
	POLICY INPUTS ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5584 AN ACT	Committee on Women and Gender Equality	The CFO supports House Bill No. 5584 An Act Defining Domestic Violence Against

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	DEFINING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY OTHER THAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND PROVIDING FOR PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VICTIMS, PRESRIBING PENALTIES THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE	House of Representatives	Individuals Including Members of the LGBT Community other than Women and Children and Providing for Protective Measures for Victims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the Declaration of Policy, the bill should extend recognition to all individuals regardless of gender and sexuality (including identification and expression) Economic abuse should be part of the acts of domestic violence (Section 5) Protection orders issued by authorities overseas should be recognized by Philippine and local authorities (Section 8) Recognition of domestic violence against individuals and the LGBT community other than women and children as a public crime</li> </ul>
2016	POSITION PAPER ON SENATE BILL NO. 1158 AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 26 OF EXECUTIVE NO. 209, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED		
	POSITION PAPER ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5907 AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE CAPACITY OF THE FILIPINO SPOUSE TO REMARRY WHEN THE ALIEN SPOUSE HAS OBTAINED A FOREIGN JUDICIAL DECREE OF ABSOLUTE DIVORCE,		

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	AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 208, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES		
	CFO INPUTS TO THE PHILIPPINES COMBINED 7TH AND 8TH CEDAW REPORT INITIATIVES TO MITIGATE THE VULNERABILITY OF FILIPINOS MARRIED TO FOREIGN NATIONALS FROM EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING	Philippine Commission on Women	
	SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONSOLIDATED SENATE BILL NO. 3209/HOUSE BILL NO. 5572 ENTITLED AN ACT PROVIDING STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST UNLAWFUL PRACTICES, BUSINESSES, AND SCHEMES OF MATCHING AND OFFERING FILIPINOS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS FOR PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE OR COMMON-LAW PARTNERSHIP, REPEALING FOR THE	Office of the Executive Secretary	

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	PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6955 ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE ANTI-MAIL ORDER LAW		
2015	CFO INPUTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 3398 ON THE REVISED PHILIPPINE HIV AND AIDS POLICY PROGRAM	Committee on Health and Demography Senate	<p>The CFO expresses its full support to the bill on the Revised Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Program Act. The issue on migrant health is among the recent advocacies of the CFO together with the Department of Health and other migrant and health related agencies.</p> <p>The following are the proposed inputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of the more inclusive term “overseas Filipinos” instead of “OFWs” in all the provisions of the bill</li> <li>- Inclusion of other migrant and health-related government agencies in formulating the comprehensive reintegration, care, and support program for overseas Filipinos inflicted with HIV-AIDS</li> <li>- Attendance to a separate seminar on HIV-AIDS shall only be made optional, and not mandatory to all Filipinos migrating to other countries. It may entail additional time and resources for Filipinos going abroad if they will be required to attend such seminar</li> </ul>

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			<p>- A module on HIV-AIDS to be included in the pre-departure orientation, pre-employment seminar, and other information dissemination campaign conducted by migrant-related government agencies (DFA, CFO, POEA, OWWA) and their accredited PDOS providers.</p>
	<p>POSITION PAPER ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4828 AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 21 OF THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES IN ORDER TO PRESCRIBE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MALE CITIZENS OR SUBJECTS OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY TO MARRY A FILIPINO WOMAN</p>		<p>The CFO supports the bill and proposes the following inputs to enhance the draft legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a foreign national be required to disclose if he/she has a criminal record; and marital background, if he/she has previously contracted marriage, as part of the requirements before the issuance of a marriage license.</li> <li>- the additional documents/information will help a Filipino partner be aware of the marriage history and behavioral background of his/her foreign partner and these should accompany the legal capacity to marry/certificates that will be issued by the foreign posts.</li> </ul>
	<p>CFO INPUTS TO THE PHILIPPINE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN GA RESOLUTION 68/137 (VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS)</p>		<p>In its submission, the CFO provided sex-disaggregated data on permanent and marriage migrants to contextualize the succeeding discussion of its relevant programs, services and initiatives to address violence against women migrants.</p>

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<p>2014</p>	<p>POSITION PAPER ON HOUSE BILL NO. 222 AN ACT PROTECTING FILIPINO WOMEN AGAINST UNSCRUPULOUS INDIVIDUALS IN THE INTERNET WHO ARE ENGAGED IN MATCH-MAKING ACTIVITIES AND OTHER VARIOUS SCHEMES, PURPOSELY FOR MARRIAGE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6955, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-MAIL ORDER BRIDE LAW</p>		<p>The CFO supports the bill and proposes the following inputs to enhance the draft legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prohibiting the matching of Filipino men and women for marriage or common-law partnership to foreign nationals by a third party engaged in the business of mail-order spouse</li> <li>- Declaring unlawful the operation of the mail order spouse industry in the World Wide Web</li> <li>- Confiscation and forfeiture of proceeds and instruments derived from committing the prohibited acts in favor of the government; and</li> <li>- Mandatory services to victims of the mail order spouse scheme to ensure their recovery and rehabilitation</li> <li>- Making the penalty stiffer, if the crime is committed by a syndicate, or in large scale</li> </ul>
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