Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1155

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)

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY AND
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN
AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PREVALENT REPORTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT, MISCONDUCT,
AND OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST FEMALE STUDENTS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

WHEREAS, there has been a recent influx of harassment cases and abuse brought about not only by the
continued lockdown but also the long continuing culture of harassment and sexual violence in the country;

WHEREAS, students and survivors from different schools nationwide have bravely spoken up and called
out their perpetrators on social media claiming rampant voyeurism, cyber pornography, sexual harassment,
malicious acts of misconduct, and misogynist culture in educational institutions;

WHEREAS, most of the student victims speaking out are minors or were victimized when they were
minors;

WHEREAS, condemnation of the acts of sexual harassment and abuses and movements against such
have taken place inside their institution and it is vital to support those speaking out, and to call for further
action from the school administration;

WHEREAS, academic institutions should uphold its commitment to a safe campus must address the sexual
misconduct allegedly perpetrated by its abusive faculty. Administrators have the power and responsibility to
stop these injustices and must be held accountable when turning a blind eye on the instances of abuse being brought to light;

WHEREAS, these cases reflect the thriving macho-feudal culture in academic institutions which conveniently puts the blame on victims and attempts to bury the reality that the perpetrators are to blame for acts of crime and violence;

WHEREAS, alarmingly, these incidents happened and are still happening in institutions that serve as the "second home" of these young women;

WHEREAS, institutions must be at the forefront of protecting their students and lobbying for their safety. However, there are cases that they are also the same people who prey on students and take from students something they do not consent to in the classroom. Even worse, they invalidate the abuse experienced by their students, instead of reassuring students that they are heard and that their well-being is being prioritized over the institution's reputation;

WHEREAS, on May 16, a professor from the Bulacan State University (BULSU) Laboratory High School victimized several of his female students through malicious verbal abuse and sexual advances and while these issues are widely known, the administration still lets the said professor-perpetrator to teach in the university. Statements from students and alumni even revealed that cases of sexual harassment in BULSU have been swept under the rug because of the administration's fear of smearing the university's image;

WHEREAS, on June 21, students from the Quezon City Science High School (QUESCI) join the growing number of high school students and alumni across the country who have been speaking out against sexual violence and impunity in their campuses. One of the most disturbing cases publicized was that of a teacher labeled as a pedophile and a groomer by his own students after continuously asking for his students' nude photos and involvement in child pornography. He is also known for inappropriately touching and making unwelcome sexual advances towards minor students while in class;

WHEREAS, on June 24, young women from Miriam College exposed on social media sites detailed and harrowing complaints against the school’s employees. The posts were even accompanied by accounts of predatory behavior at the hands of the school employees including inappropriate private messages teachers allegedly sent to students, stories of faculty members trying to pursue relationships with minors and punitive actions taken by school officials against those who were victims of sexual harassment;

WHEREAS, on June 25, there were approximately 20 cases allegedly perpetrated against students of Marikina Science High School (MARISCI). The scope of these allegations range from sexual harassment, pedophilia and inappropriate comments;

WHEREAS, on June 26, students and alumni of St. Theresa's College (STC) posted sexual harassment incidents and pedophilia accompanied by screenshots and re-telling of accounts involving numerous
teachers through various school years. As per the students’ statement, no proactive action was taken by the school administration;

WHEREAS, on June 27, the student council of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) filed a case with the university against a longtime male professor who has allegedly sexually harassed several students. He had allegedly invited them for individual consultations in his private bedroom, and messaged students inappropriately. Several posts also suggest the alleged harassment had been going on for years, as some of the students had already graduated. Students also posted comments regarding the school’s lack of action as one of the former high school faculty member who repeatedly harassed students continues to teach at the university;

WHEREAS, on June 29, the clamor in the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) began when alumni and students came forward to share about abusive sexual patterns of former and current instructors of the institution. Many former students testified that their concerns about sexist attitudes and pedophilia coming from employees of the university were usually ignored or downplayed. The alumni of the UA&P even posted an online petition for the administration to be accountable for the victims of sexual harassment in the institution and as of this writing, 16,838 people have signed it;

WHEREAS, on July 1, students from University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) were involved in numerous screenshots of a group chat with conversation threads that contained messages on sexual harassment, slut shaming, objectification, and homophobia. It also exposed a list of members who are closely affiliated to particular student organizations in the university;

WHEREAS, on July 2, a number of students from University of St. La Salle (USLS) went online to recall some of their traumatic experiences and alleged some faculty of inappropriate behavior in the senior high school. The head discipline officer of USLS, however, only said that their jurisdiction is limited to cases where the people involved are both students. The students were even warned that they should not use the internet as a release for their anger or frustration or discontent. The said officer also dismissed the sexual harassment cases gaining traction online and said that if the students really know their rights, they would be reporting it to the right venue;

WHEREAS, on July 11, the student body of De La Salle University (DLSU) urged their administration to deny a student’s application to graduate for sexually harassing several female Lasallian students for years. The said perpetrator violated the privacy of the victims by secretly recording female students taking a shower in a bathroom through his phone;

WHEREAS, on July 13, sexual harassment survivors and students from St. Paul College Pasig (SPCP) came forward with their student manifesto submitted to their school’s administration regarding such issues in relation to sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive academic environment;
WHEREAS, on July 22, students of Mater Ecclesiae School (MES) are being asked to sign an agreement form that prohibits them from posting anything "that may adversely affect the name and any personnel of the school" on social media platforms, lest they risk being advised to transfer. This is allegedly in light of students speaking up online about sexual harassment within the school;

WHEREAS, on July 28, numerous reports from students of Quezon City Academy (QCA) have claimed that one of the teachers allegedly involved in the multiple sexual harassment cases in QCA is still working within the school and will even be teaching in the upcoming school year. No action or appropriate response from the academy’s administration has been given to the alleged victims;

WHEREAS, on August 1, a number of 50 cases in Honorato C. Perez Memorial Science High School (HCPMSHS) alone has been recorded and at least two teachers who are believed to be sexual predators are still inside the campus. The students have been told by the school’s administration to delete their posts about the issue, however, their calls for actions have yet to be resolved;

WHEREAS, on August 3, serial surfacing of reports of sexual misconduct in Tarlac National High School (TNHS) has been aired, but the school continues to suppress the clamor for accountability and neglect its stakeholders’ right to be heard;

WHEREAS, on August 4, students from School of the Holy Spirit Quezon City (SHSQC) also put to light the culture of impunity on sexual misconduct perpetrated by teachers in their institution. With the alleged resignation of one of the teachers involved and who did not even deny the allegations, along with the lack of updates on the cases, the school effectively ignores the calls for justice from students and instead allows the culture of impunity to continue within the school;

WHEREAS, these are only a few of the many sexual harassment in schools that are reported, recorded, or publicized in social media and other platforms. Students and alumni admit that they are afraid to come out and speak of their traumatic experiences;

WHEREAS, the management of educational institutions should address the situation by holding formal, impartial investigations, and holding perpetrators accountable. It is the students' right to feel safe at school and part of feeling safe means putting an end to a system that turns a blind eye to such atrocities;

WHEREAS, sexual harassment has been declared unlawful in the workplace, training and education environments and will not be tolerated as it violates the dignity and human rights of a person;

WHEREAS, victim-blaming, rape culture, and other patriarchal norms can only fester in places where sexual harassment cases are treated as secrets to be kept from the public. Sexual harassment should have no place in our society and victim-blaming has no place in creating safe spaces for survivors. When institutions coddle and protect sexual abusers, it leaves its members vulnerable to a cycle of abuse and kept in this system that normalizes sexual violence and degradation of women;
WHEREAS, these cases are not isolated. Every single day, even amidst the pandemic, reports of sexual harassment and violence against women continue to rise at an alarming rate while perpetrators continue to evade accountability due to the culture of impunity which dominates our institutions and our broader society;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Women and Gender Equality and the House Committee on the Welfare of Children conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the prevalent reports of sexual harassment, misconduct, and other forms of violence against female students in public and private academic institutions.

Adopted,

ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women’s Party

CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist

FRANCE L. CASTRO
Act Teachers Partylist

SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist