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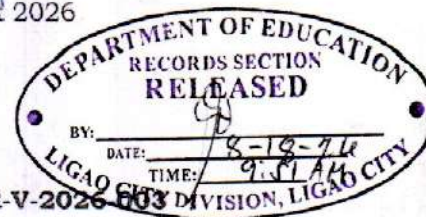
Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION V - BICOL

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By: [Signature] Date: AUG 18 2026

17 August 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 01094 s. 2026

81826437



**DISSEMINATION OF REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY CHR-V-2026-003
AND CHR-V-2026-004**

To : Schools Division Superintendents
Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
Chief Education Supervisors, SGOD and CID
Division Legal Officers
Division Learner Rights and Protection Focal Persons
All Others Concerned

1. In reference to the advisories issued by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Region V, this Office hereby informs all concerned of the following:

a. CHR-V-2026-003, entitled "*Bawat Bata, Protektado: Sama-samang Itaguyod ang Ligtas at Mapagkalingang Paaralan.*" The CHR Region V received reports concerning several cases filed against teachers accused of sexual abuse of children. Each incident is a serious matter that requires prompt and appropriate action, as well as stronger mechanisms to protect children and ensure that schools, as primary environments where children develop their knowledge, skills, and character, remain safe, secure, and free from any form of abuse.

b. CHR-V-2026-004, entitled "*Advisory on the Prevention of School Violence, the Protection of Learners, and the Shared Responsibilities of Duty Bearers.*" The Advisory seeks to reinforce the protection of learners and strengthen coordinated measures for the prevention of and response to school violence, consistent with human rights standards, child protection laws, and DepEd Order No. 06, s. 2026, or the *Guidelines on Ensuring a Safe and Motivating Learning Environment*.

2. All Schools Division Offices (SDOs), public elementary and secondary schools are hereby directed to immediately disseminate the Advisories and ensure strict compliance with the provisions of this Memorandum.

3. For information, guidance, and compliance.

[Signature]
GILBERT T. SADSAD
Regional Director

ESSD-SPPS/LRPO/srnsd
08/17/2026



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R: [Signature] Aug. 18, 2026
PW information, guidance
& compliance.

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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Regional Office V, Legazpi City

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PANGREHIYONG PABATID UKOL SA KARAPATANG PANTAO
CHR-V-2026-003

PABATID

**Bawat Bata, Protektado: Sama-samang Itaguyod ang
Ligtas at Mapagkalingang Paaralan**

Batayang Impormasyon

Alinsunod sa Artikulo 34 ng Convention on the Rights of the Child, ang Estado ay may pananagutang magsagawa ng mga kinakailangang hakbang upang maprotektahan ang bawat bata laban sa lahat ng anyo ng sekswal na pagsasamantala at sekswal na pang-aabuso. Kaugnay nito, mahalagang tiyakin na ang mga paaralan bilang pangunahing lugar kung saan hinuhubog ng mga bata ang kanilang kaalaman, kasanayan, at pagkatao ay nananatiling ligtas, protektado, at malaya mula sa anumang uri ng pang-aabuso.

Bakit ito Mahalaga?

Ang pagkakaroon ng ligtas, inklusibo, at mapagkalingang kapaligiran sa pag-aaral ay isang mahalagang hakbang sa pagtataguyod ng mga karapatan, kapakanan, at ganap na pag-unlad ng bawat bata. Bilang ikalawang tahanan ng mga mag-aaral, mahalagang matiyak na ang paaralan ay isang ligtas na espasyo na malaya sa anumang uri ng pang-aabuso, karahasan, at pagsasamantala.

Ipinakikita ng mga estadistika sa Pilipinas na karamihan sa mga batang biktima ng pang-aabuso ay nakararanas nito mula sa mga taong kanilang kilala at pinagkakatiwalaan. Dahil dito, higit na mahalaga ang sama-samang pagkilos ng mga magulang, guro, kawani ng paaralan, at buong komunidad upang maprotektahan ang mga bata, mapalakas ang kanilang kamalayan sa kanilang mga karapatan, at matiyak ang kanilang ligtas, panatag, at maliwanag na kinabukasan.

Pangangailangan ng Aksyon

Sa pagtupad ng mandato nito, nakatanggap ang Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Region V ng mga ulat hinggil sa ilang kasong isinampa laban sa mga gurong inaakusahan ng pang-aabusong sekswal sa mga bata. Bagama't ang mga kasong ito ay hindi sumasalamín sa kabuuan ng sektor ng edukasyon, ang bawat insidente ay seryosong usapín na nangangailangan ng maagap na pagtugon at mas matibay na mga mekanismo sa pagprotekta sa mga bata.



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Mga Maaaring Gawin ng mga Magulang at mga Paaralan

Mahalagang maturuan ang mga bata ng mga gawaing pangkaligtasan (Protective Behaviors) upang mapangalagaan nila ang kanilang sarili at malaman ang mga dapat gawin sa mga sitwasyong maaaring magdulot ng panganib. Kabilang dito ang mga sumusunod:

1. Pagmamay-ari sa Sariling Katawan (Body Ownership): Ituro sa mga bata na ang kanilang katawan ay kanila at walang sinuman ang may karapatang humawak o gumawa ng anumang bagay sa kanilang katawan na nagdudulot sa kanila ng takot, hindi komportable, o pakiramdam na hindi sila ligtas;
2. Ligtas at Hindi Ligtas na Paghipo (Safe vs. Unsafe Touches): Tulungan ang mga bata na maunawaan ang pagkakaiba ng ligtas na paghipo, tulad ng mapagkalingang yakap mula sa magulang o tagapag-alaga, at ng hindi ligtas o nakalilitong paghipo na dapat nilang iwasan at iulat;
3. Ang Panuntunang "Tumanggi-Lumayo-Magsumbong" (No-Go-Tell Rule): Turuan ang mga bata na Tumanggi kung may taong gumagawa ng bagay na hindi nila gusto o nagpaparamdam ng panganib, Lumayo (Go) agad sa sitwasyon o sa taong nagdudulot ng panganib at Magsumbong (Tell) kaagad sa isang pinagkakatiwalaang nakatatanda; at
4. Mga Pinagkakatiwalaang Nakatatanda (Trusted Network): Hikayatin ang bawat bata na tukuyin ang hindi bababa sa tatlong pinagkakatiwalaang nakatatanda tulad ng magulang, guro, kamag-anak, guidance counselor, o iba pang responsableng matanda na maaari nilang lapitan at pagsabihan kapag sila ay natatakot, nababahala, o may naranasang hindi ligtas.

Ang mga Protective Behaviors ay mga mahahalagang kaalaman at kasanayang itinuturo sa mga bata upang mapangalagaan ang kanilang sarili laban sa pang-aabuso, karahasan, at iba pang panganib. Itinuturo nito sa kanila ang kanilang karapatan sa sariling katawan, ang pagkilala sa ligtas at hindi ligtas na paghipo, ang wastong pagtugon sa mapanganib na sitwasyon, at ang kahalagahan ng pagsasabi sa mga pinagkakatiwalaang nakatatanda. Sa pamamagitan nito, nagiging mas mulat, matatag, at may kakayahan ang mga bata na pangalagaan ang kanilang sariling kaligtasan at kapakanan.

Mga Polisiya at Tungkulin ng DepEd

Dahil dito, nananawagan ang Tanggapang ito sa higit pang pagpapatibay ng pagpapatupad ng mga interbensyon at inisyatibang nagtataguyod ng ligtas at mapagkalingang kapaligiran sa mga paaralan. Kabilang dito ang inilabas ng Kagawaran ng Edukasyon (DepEd) na Memorandum Blg. OM-OUOPS-2024-05-01115 na may pamagat na "Guidelines on the Implementation of the Safe Spaces Act in Basic Education" na may petsang Pebrero 7, 2024. Nakasaad sa memorandum na kinikilala ng Kagawaran ng Edukasyon ang patuloy na pagdami ng mga naiulat na kaso ng karahasang nakabatay sa kasarian (gender-based violence) sa mga paaralan. Ayon naman sa Philippine Commission for Women (PCW), nananatiling vulnerable ang mga kabataang babae sa seksuwal na panliligalig at iba pang anyo ng diskriminasyon at karahasang nakabatay sa kasarian sa loob ng mga institusyong pang-edukasyon at pagsasanay.



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Ang nasabing Panuntunan (Guidelines) ay ipinalabas upang higit pang patatagin ang polisiya ng Kagawaran ng Edukasyon na may mahigpit na polisiya ng hindi pagpapahintulot (zero tolerance) sa lahat ng uri ng pang-aabuso, pagsasamantala, karahasan, diskriminasyon, pambu-bully, at iba pang anyo ng pang-aabuso laban sa mga bata, kabilang ang seksuwal na panliligalig na nakabatay sa kasarian (gender-based sexual harassment).

Inaatasan nito ang mga paaralan na regular na magsagawa ng mga kampanya sa malawakang pagpapalaganap ng kaalaman tungkol sa Safe Spaces Act at iba pang mga batas na may kaugnayan sa Gender-Based Violence, kabilang ang pagbibigay ng oryentasyon sa mga konseho at organisasyon ng mga mag-aaral, mga teaching at non-teaching staff, mga mag-aaral, mga guwardiya, at iba pang kasapi ng komunidad ng paaralan. Inaatasan din ang mga paaralan na magsagawa ng mga gawaing pangkomunikasyon para sa pagbabago ng pag-uugali (socio-behavioral change communication) ukol sa pag-iwas sa seksuwal harassment; magsagawa ng mga Learning Action Cell (LAC) session na tumatalakay sa mga batas, patakaran, at iba pang estratehiyang may kaugnayan sa pagtiyak ng ligtas na espasyo sa mga paaralan; at bumuo ng mga makabago at epektibong programa na makatutulong sa pagpapanatili ng ligtas na kapaligiran at sa pagbawas ng mga insidente ng gender-based sexual harassment (GBSH) sa mga paaralan.

Nakasaad din sa Guidelines na ang Punong-guro, sa pamamagitan ng Guidance Counselor o Guidance Designate, ay dapat magpatupad ng mga mekanismo ng interbensiyon upang mapangalagaan ang kapakanan ng mag-aaral na nakaranas ng GBSH o iba pang kaugnay na kasong seksuwal. Maaaring kabilang dito ang pagbuo at pagpapatupad ng sistema ng maagang pagtukoy o babala (early warning or detection system) para sa mga insidente ng GBSH sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng Rapid HEaADSSS (Home, Education/Employment, Eating, Activities, Drugs, Sexuality, Suicide/Depression and Safety) Assessment bilang kasangkapan sa pagtukoy ng mga maagang palatandaan o sintomas ng naturang pangyayari, gayundin ang Full HEaADSSS Assessment para sa mas malalim na pagsusuri ng kaso sa tulong ng mga sinanay na propesyonal.

Inaatasan din ang mga paaralan na bigyang-kakayahan ang mga mag-aaral sa pamamagitan ng pagtuturo ng mga pangunahing kasanayan sa buhay (basic life skills), tulad ng mga kasanayan sa paglaban o pagtanggì sa hindi ligtas na sitwasyon (resistance skills), kasanayan sa paggawa ng desisyon (decision-making skills), at kasanayan sa paglutas ng problema (problem-solving skills). Hinihikayat din ang mga mag-aaral, magulang, at kawani ng paaralan na agad iulat ang anumang pinaghihinalaang pang-aabuso sa punong-guro, Child Protection Committee, o iba pang kinauukulang awtoridad upang matiyak ang maagap na pagprotekta sa bata.

Sa pamamagitan ng epektibong pagpapatupad at patuloy na pagpapalakas ng mga mekanismo at interbensiyong ito, matitiyak na ang mga paaralan ay hindi lamang mahigpit na magpapatupad ng polisiya ng ganap na hindi pagpapahintulot (zero tolerance) sa lahat ng anyo ng pang-aabuso, karahasan, at pagsasamantala laban sa mga bata, kundi patuloy ding



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magsusulong ng isang ligtas, inklusibo, at mapagkalingang kapaligiran sa pag-aaral kung saan ang mga ganitong insidente ay napipigilan at nabibigyan ng maagap at angkop na pagtugon.

Tungkulin ng mga Lokal na Pamahalaan at mga Opisyal ng Barangay

Ang mga Lokal na Pamahalaan at mga Opisyal ng Barangay ay may mahalagang papel sa pagpapanatili ng ligtas at protektadong kapaligiran para sa mga bata at kabataan sa komunidad. Dapat silang makipag-ugnayan at makipagtulungan sa mga paaralan upang matiyak na ang mga insidente o alalahanin sa kaligtasan ay agad na natutugunan.

Kabilang sa kanilang mga tungkulin ang: Pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga paaralan para sa pagbuo at pagpapatupad ng mga hakbang sa proteksyon at kaligtasan ng mga mag-aaral; Pagtanggap at pag-aksyon sa mga referral mula sa paaralan, kabilang ang pag-uugnay sa mga kinakailangang serbisyo tulad ng social welfare, counseling, at iba pang support services; Pagpapatupad ng mga lokal na ordinansa at safety measures na may kaugnayan sa proteksyon ng mga bata at kabataan; Pagbibigay ng agarang suporta at koordinasyon sa panahon ng mga insidente o sitwasyong maaaring magdulot ng panganib sa mga mag-aaral; Pakikipagtulungan sa mga magulang, paaralan, at iba pang community stakeholders upang mapalakas ang prevention, reporting, at response mechanisms sa komunidad; at Pagtiyak ng maayos at sensitibong paghawak sa mga referral at reklamo, lalo na sa mga kasong may kinalaman sa pang-aabuso, harassment, exploitation, o iba pang banta sa kaligtasan ng bata.

Tungkulin ng mga Tagapagpatupad ng Batas at mga Kaugnay na Ahensya

Ang mga law enforcement agencies at iba pang kaugnay na ahensya ay may tungkulin na tumugon sa mga insidenteng nangangailangan ng pormal na legal, kriminal, o cyber-investigation. Ang kanilang pakikilahok ay mahalaga lalo na kapag ang isang insidente ay maituturing na malubhang paglabag sa batas o may potensyal na panganib sa biktima o sa ibang miyembro ng komunidad.

Kabilang sa kanilang mga tungkulin ang: Pakikipagtulungan sa mga paaralan at institusyon kapag ang isang insidente ay nangangailangan ng pormal na imbestigasyon; Pagsasagawa ng naaangkop na legal, criminal, o cyber-investigation alinsunod sa umiiral na mga batas, polisiya, at proseso; Pagtugon sa mga malulubhang kaso, kabilang ang mga insidenteng may kinalaman sa pisikal o sekswal na pang-aabuso, exploitation, seryosong pagbabanta, harassment, at iba pang kriminal na gawain; Pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga kaugnay na ahensya upang matiyak na ang biktima ay makatatanggap ng kinakailangang proteksyon, suporta, at referral; Maingat na pangangalaga at paghawak sa mga ebidensya at sensitibong impormasyon, lalo na sa mga kasong may digital o online na element; Pagtiyak na ang proseso ng imbestigasyon ay isinasagawa nang may paggalang sa karapatan, dignidad, kaligtasan, at privacy ng mga biktima, lalo na ng mga bata at kabataan; at Pagbibigay ng



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malinaw na gabay sa paaralan at komunidad tungkol sa mga kinakailangang hakbang kapag ang isang insidente ay umabot na sa antas na nangangailangan ng pormal na aksyong legal o law enforcement.

Sa lahat ng pagkakataon, mahalaga ang maayos na koordinasyon sa pagitan ng paaralan, barangay, lokal na pamahalaan, law enforcement, at iba pang kaugnay na ahensya upang matiyak na ang bawat insidente ay naaaksyunan nang mabilis, naaangkop, at may pangunahing konsiderasyon sa kapakanan at kaligtasan ng biktima.

Panawagan sa Pagkilos

Sa pamamagitan ng Pabatid na ito, muling pinagtitibay ng CHR Region V, bilang Child Ombud, ang pangako nitong pangalagaan at itaguyod ang mga karapatan at kapakanan ng mga bata. Naniniwala rin kami na ang kaligtasan ng bawat bata ay pananagutan ng bawat isa. Sa sama-samang pagkilos ng mga magulang, paaralan, pamahalaan, at komunidad, maisusulong natin ang mga paaralang tunay na ligtas, inklusibo, at mapagkalinga para sa lahat ng bata.

Ika-10 ng Agosto 2026, Lungsod ng Legazpi, Pilipinas.


ATTY. ARLENE Q. ALANGCO
Regional Human Rights Director 



Commission on Human Rights
Regional Office V, Legazpi City

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REGIONAL OFFICE V

**REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY
CHR-V-2026-004**

**ADVISORY ON THE PREVENTION OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE, THE PROTECTION OF LEARNERS, AND THE
SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES OF DUTY BEARERS**

The State recognizes the vital role of children and youth in nation-building and affirms its constitutional duty to protect and promote their rights to survival, development, protection, and participation. Every learner has the fundamental right to education in an environment that is safe, inclusive, respectful, and conducive to learning. Schools must remain places where children are able to learn, develop, and thrive free from violence, fear, intimidation, discrimination, and abuse. School violence, regardless of its form or severity, undermines children's rights to education, security, dignity, health, and development, and adversely affects not only the learners directly involved but also their families, schools, and communities.

The 1987 Constitution, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Republic Act No. 7610 or the *Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act*, Republic Act No. 10627 or the *Anti-Bullying Act of 2013*, Republic Act No. 9344 or the *Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006*, as amended by Republic Act No. 10630, Republic Act No. 9155, and other child protection laws collectively recognize the State's obligation to ensure that every child enjoys a safe, child-friendly, gender-responsive, inclusive, and rights-based educational environment. Complementing these laws, the Department of Education issued DepEd Order No. 006, s. 2026, entitled the **Guidelines on Ensuring a Safe and Motivating Learning Environment (ESMLE)**, which strengthens the learner protection framework by adopting a whole-school approach to the prevention of violence and learner rights violations.

Pursuant to Article XIII, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution, the Commission on Human Rights is mandated, among others, to investigate all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights; provide appropriate legal measures for the protection of human rights; monitor the Philippine Government's compliance with its international human rights treaty obligations; promote respect for the primacy of human rights; and recommend measures to Congress and other government agencies for the effective promotion and protection of human rights. In the exercise of this constitutional mandate, the Commission issues this Advisory to guide duty bearers in preventing school violence and ensuring that all interventions remain consistent with domestic laws, child protection principles, and international human rights standards.

In recent months, the Commission on Human Rights Region V has monitored reports of serious incidents of school violence involving learners within the region. While each incident remains subject to the appropriate investigation and proceedings by the concerned authorities, these reports underscore the urgent need to strengthen child protection mechanisms, reinforce preventive interventions, and ensure that every response is undertaken in accordance with the law and a human rights-based approach.



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The Commission likewise recognizes the indispensable role of the media in informing the public. However, the manner by which incidents involving children are reported requires the highest degree of responsibility. Sensational, repetitive, or speculative reporting, as well as the unnecessary disclosure of information that may identify children, may result in re-traumatization, stigmatization, social exclusion, interference with ongoing investigations, and unintentional contribution to imitation or *copycat behavior* among vulnerable learners. Responsible reporting therefore serves not only the public's right to information but also the child's right to privacy, dignity, protection, and recovery.

Human Rights Perspective

School violence is not merely a matter of discipline or school administration; it is fundamentally a human rights concern that directly infringes upon a child's right to life, dignity, personal security, education, health, development, participation, and equal protection of the law. Every act of violence committed within or in relation to the school environment undermines the child's ability to learn and develop in a safe, inclusive, and nurturing setting, often resulting in lasting physical, psychological, emotional, and social harm. As emphasized by UNESCO in *Behind the Numbers: Ending School Violence and Bullying* (2019), school-related violence in all its forms is an infringement of children's and adolescents' rights to education and to health and well-being, and no country can achieve inclusive and equitable quality education for all if learners experience violence and bullying in school. These findings reinforce the obligation of the State and all duty-bearers to prevent school-related violence and ensure that educational institutions remain child-friendly environments where every learner is protected, respected, and able to realize their full potential.

The Constitution mandates the State to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights. As the country's National Human Rights Institution, the Commission on Human Rights recognizes that the prevention of school violence requires more than disciplinary action or criminal accountability. It demands a **rights-based, child-centered, trauma-informed, and restorative approach** that addresses the needs of victims, promotes accountability of offenders consistent with law, strengthens institutional protection mechanisms, and encourages the participation of families, schools, communities, government agencies, the media, and learners themselves in creating safe and violence-free educational environments.

Accordingly, the Commission on Human Rights Region V reminds all duty bearers of their respective responsibilities in preventing school violence and protecting the rights of every learner:

1. Every learner has the right to a safe and violence-free learning environment.

Every child has the right to study in an environment free from physical violence, bullying, cyberbullying, psychological abuse, sexual harassment, corporal punishment, discrimination, intimidation, hazing, exploitation, retaliation, and all other forms of violence that threaten the child's life, dignity, security, and development.



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Schools shall foster a culture of respect, inclusion, empathy, accountability, and peaceful conflict resolution. Violence committed by or against learners should never be normalized, tolerated, trivialized, or dismissed as ordinary childhood behavior without appropriate intervention. Every learner, regardless of sex, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, or other status, is entitled to equal protection and respect.

2. Schools shall establish and maintain a Safe and Motivating Learning Environment pursuant to DepEd Order No. 006, s. 2026.

All public and private basic education institutions shall faithfully implement DepEd Order No. 006, s. 2026, which requires schools to adopt a whole-school approach in ensuring a safe and motivating learning environment. School administrators shall establish and strengthen learner protection mechanisms, implement preventive education programs, conduct risk assessments, maintain functional reporting and referral systems, and promote positive school climate where violence and discrimination are neither tolerated nor ignored.

Upon receiving information or reports involving school violence, schools shall immediately ensure the safety of the learners involved, activate the appropriate learner protection mechanisms, notify the parents or guardians, document the incident, conduct the necessary assessment, provide or facilitate psychosocial interventions, and coordinate with the Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO), law enforcement agencies, health authorities, or other concerned government agencies whenever warranted.

School Heads, Learner Rights and Protection (LRP) focal persons, teachers, and other school personnel shall ensure that all interventions are child-sensitive, trauma-informed, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive, culturally appropriate, respectful of confidentiality, and consistent with the best interests of the child.

3. School disciplinary measures shall uphold children's rights and promote restorative justice.

Schools have the authority and responsibility to maintain discipline and ensure order within educational institutions. However, disciplinary measures shall always respect the dignity, rights, and evolving capacities of every learner.

Corporal punishment, degrading treatment, humiliating sanctions, public shaming, discriminatory punishment, excessive penalties, and any disciplinary measure constituting physical, psychological, or emotional abuse are strictly prohibited.

Consistent with the principles of positive discipline and restorative justice, schools are encouraged to adopt interventions that promote accountability, reconciliation, behavioral change, and restoration of relationships. Appropriate disciplinary measures should be accompanied by counseling, mediation, conflict resolution, behavioral interventions, and learner support services that address the underlying causes of violent behavior while promoting rehabilitation rather than exclusion.



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Where the conduct constitutes a criminal offense, schools shall coordinate with the appropriate authorities while ensuring full compliance with child protection laws and the rights guaranteed to every learner.

4. Children in Conflict with the Law shall be treated in accordance with Republic Act No. 9344, as amended.

When acts of school violence constitute criminal offenses and the alleged offender is below eighteen (18) years of age, all concerned authorities shall strictly observe the provisions of Republic Act No. 9344, as amended by Republic Act No. 10630.

Children in Conflict with the Law remain rights holders and shall be treated with humanity, dignity, and respect at every stage of intervention. Authorities shall ensure that:

- the best interests of the child remain the primary consideration;
- diversion measures are considered whenever legally applicable;
- deprivation of liberty is imposed only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period;
- the child's privacy and confidentiality are protected at all stages of the proceedings;
- the child has access to legal, psychosocial, educational, and social welfare services; and
- rehabilitation, reintegration, and restorative justice remain the primary objectives of the juvenile justice system.

Children shall not be subjected to violence, discrimination, public humiliation, unlawful detention, or stigmatization because of their involvement in criminal proceedings.

5. Victims of school violence are entitled to immediate protection, assistance, and access to justice.

Victims of school violence shall receive immediate protection from further harm, timely medical attention when necessary, psychological first aid, psychosocial support, counseling, legal assistance, and appropriate referral to competent government agencies.

Schools, social workers, health professionals, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned institutions shall adopt a victim-centered, child-sensitive, trauma-informed, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive, and culturally appropriate approach in handling all reports involving child victims.

The identity, personal information, educational records, photographs, videos, and any information that may directly or indirectly identify child victims shall be protected in accordance with existing laws on confidentiality and privacy.



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6. Parents and guardians are indispensable partners in preventing school violence.

Parents and guardians bear the primary responsibility for the upbringing, guidance, and development of their children. They are encouraged to maintain open communication with their children, recognize early signs of bullying, violence, emotional distress, or behavioral changes, and provide appropriate guidance and emotional support. As there has been alarming similarity of harming incidents, parents should be vigilant of any change in behavior of their child to avoid Copycat Syndrome from taking place. Parents are, likewise, encouraged to explain to their children alarming news reports which they may have seen or heard to ensure that they get the correct message from the news.

Parents shall cooperate with schools, social workers, and other authorities during interventions, encourage peaceful conflict resolution, monitor their children's use of social media and digital platforms, and promptly report incidents that threaten the safety and well-being of learners.

Strong family engagement remains one of the most effective safeguards against school violence and contributes significantly to the development of responsible, respectful, and resilient learners.

7. Local Government Units and Child Protection Councils shall strengthen community-based child protection systems.

Local Government Units (LGUs), through the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC), Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC), Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO), Local School Boards, Local Health Offices, and other concerned agencies, shall strengthen community-based child protection programs aimed at preventing school violence and addressing its underlying causes.

The BCPC and LCPC shall ensure the effective implementation of local child protection programs, facilitate coordination among schools, families, and government agencies, and promote community awareness on children's rights and violence prevention. The LSWDO shall provide appropriate social case management, psychosocial interventions, counseling, family assessment, referral services, and other social welfare interventions for child victims, children at risk, and Children in Conflict with the Law, consistent with their respective mandates.

LGUs are likewise encouraged to strengthen parenting education programs, youth development initiatives, mental health promotion, anti-bullying campaigns, conflict management programs, and other preventive interventions that foster safe, peaceful, and child-friendly communities.

8. Law enforcement agencies shall conduct child-sensitive investigations while upholding children's rights.

The Philippine National Police, particularly the Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPDs), together with prosecutors and other law enforcement authorities, shall ensure that investigations involving child victims, witnesses, or Children in Conflict with the Law are conducted in accordance with child-sensitive procedures and existing child protection laws.



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Law enforcement officers shall coordinate closely with schools, social workers, health professionals, prosecutors, and other concerned agencies to ensure that interventions are lawful, proportionate, and responsive to the developmental needs of children.

Whenever the alleged offender is a child, authorities shall strictly observe the provisions of **Republic Act No. 9344**, as amended, particularly those relating to diversion, confidentiality, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Likewise, child victims and witnesses shall be protected from intimidation, retaliation, secondary victimization, and unnecessary exposure throughout the investigation and judicial process.

9. The media, journalists, digital content creators, online platforms, and members of the public shall exercise responsible and child-sensitive reporting.

The Commission recognizes the indispensable role of the media in informing the public, promoting transparency, and fostering accountability. However, the exercise of press freedom and freedom of expression carries the corresponding responsibility to respect and protect the rights and dignity of children.

Pursuant to **Section 29 of Republic Act No. 7610**, information tending to establish or reveal the identity of a child victim of abuse, exploitation, violence, discrimination, or any circumstance that places the child at risk shall not be published or broadcast except as authorized by law. Likewise, where the child involved is a **Child in Conflict with the Law**, the confidentiality provisions of **Republic Act No. 9344**, as amended, shall be strictly observed. Media practitioners, publishers, broadcasters, administrators of digital platforms, and all persons engaged in disseminating information shall refrain from publishing names, photographs, videos, school information, family details, or any identifying information that may directly or indirectly reveal the identity of the child.

The Commission likewise emphasizes that sensational, repetitive, speculative, or graphic reporting of incidents involving children may contribute to secondary victimization, re-traumatization, social stigmatization, fear within the school community, and may unintentionally encourage imitation or copycat behavior among vulnerable learners. Responsible journalism therefore requires careful verification of facts, respect for children's privacy, contextual reporting that promotes public understanding, and avoidance of unnecessary publicity that may glorify or normalize violence.

Members of the public are likewise reminded that sharing, reposting, livestreaming, or otherwise disseminating photographs, videos, or other materials depicting violence involving children may further victimize those affected, interfere with ongoing investigations, violate the child's right to privacy, and may expose individuals to civil, criminal, or administrative liability under applicable laws.

10. Learners are encouraged to become advocates of peaceful and inclusive school communities.

Learners play an important role in fostering a culture of respect, empathy, inclusion, and non-violence within their schools and communities. Every learner is encouraged to reject all forms of bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, retaliation, and violence; report incidents to trusted adults or school authorities; support classmates who may be victims of violence; practice responsible use of social media; and respect the diversity, dignity, and rights of others.



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Students are reminded that silence in the face of violence may allow abuse to continue. Responsible reporting of incidents, active participation in school programs promoting peace and child protection, and respect for school rules contribute significantly to the creation of safe and motivating learning environments.

11. Preventing school violence is a shared responsibility.

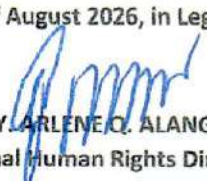
The prevention of school violence cannot be achieved by schools alone. It requires sustained collaboration among educational institutions, families, learners, local government units, child protection agencies, law enforcement authorities, health professionals, media organizations, civil society organizations, faith-based institutions, community leaders, and the public.

Every stakeholder bears a legal and moral responsibility to uphold children's rights, prevent violence, ensure accountability, support healing and rehabilitation, and promote a culture of respect, inclusion, and non-violence. By working together, communities can address the root causes of violence, strengthen protective systems, and ensure that schools remain safe spaces where every learner is able to develop to his or her fullest potential.

School violence is not merely a disciplinary concern but a human rights issue that directly affects the rights of children to education, security, dignity, health, participation, and development. Every incident therefore demands a prompt, coordinated, child-sensitive, and rights-based response that prioritizes prevention, protection, accountability, rehabilitation, and the best interests of the child.

By the issuance of this Advisory, the Commission on Human Rights Region V reaffirms its commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of every learner and calls upon all stakeholders to strengthen child protection systems, faithfully implement existing laws and policies, promote responsible reporting, and cultivate peaceful, inclusive, and violence-free learning environments where every child can learn, develop, and thrive with dignity and respect.

Issued this 10th day of August 2026, in Legazpi City, Philippines.


ATTY. ARLENE C. ALANGCO
Regional Human Rights Director



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