

### ***On the Corporal Punishment of Children***

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, during its 60<sup>th</sup> Session in Geneva, with the support of the High Commission for Human Rights, members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, child focused non-governmental organization (NGOs), as well as individuals prominent in the promotion and protection of children's human rights, have launched a global initiative towards ending all corporal punishment of children.

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, as a constitutional institution mandated to carry out the state policy guaranteeing full respect for human rights, fully supports the aforesaid movement.

The Philippines, as a matter of fact, since 1974, has enacted legislation and several executive issuances prohibiting corporal punishment of children and providing for penalties for persons or institutions. The Philippines has prohibited all forms of physical and mental violence on children. Article 59 of Presidential Decree No. 603, known as the "Child and Youth Welfare Code", penalizes any person who will inflict cruel and unusual punishment upon the child or will deliberately subject him to indignities and other excessive chastisement that embarrass or humiliate him (*Article 59 [8]*). Republic Act No. 7610, enacted on June 17, 1992, declared as the policy of the state to provide special protection from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination, and other conditions prejudicial to their development, provide sanctions for their commission and carry out a program for prevention and deterrence of and crisis intervention in situations of child abuse, exploitation and discrimination. (*Section 2, RA 7610*)

In October 1993, the Secretary of Justice promulgated rules and regulations for the protection of children in situations in armed conflicts. Likewise, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports has issued rules prohibiting corporal punishment in schools and imposing disciplinary actions on school authorities violating said rules and regulations.

The Commission on Human Rights issues this Human Rights Advisory to remind all government offices and officials, and individuals concerned to strictly, comply with these laws and regulations prohibiting corporal punishment of children. Any incident of corporal punishment of children must be reported to the Commission on Human Rights or any law enforcement agency for appropriate action.

*Quezon City, 25 October 2001*