

**ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN LAWS
IN THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE AND THAILAND:
A COMPARATIVE STUDY**

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*Anti-violence against women and children
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**FRANCES ANDREA K. ALONZO
MARY GRACE S. BRIONES
LIEZEL R. MASICAP**

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ABSTRACT

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The study dealt with the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Laws in the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Specifically, the study aimed to: (1) identify the laws in the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand on anti-violence against women and children from 2005 to 2015; (2) describe the scope and major sections of the anti-violence against women and children laws and their implementing rules and regulations; (3) identify the agencies involved in the implementation of anti-violence laws and their corresponding functions and roles; (4) describe the national programs being implemented or have been implemented supporting the anti-violence against women and children; and (5) analyze the statistics in the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand on violence against women and children from 2005 to 2015 in terms of: a) Battery; b) Rape; and c) Stalking.

Based on the results of comparing AVAWC laws of the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, the Philippines has the most comprehensive laws followed by Singapore and Thailand. The Philippines also has the oldest existing law addressing VAWC which is the Revised Penal Code of 1930. Under the scope and major sections of AVAWC laws in the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, the study revealed that penalties for violating AVAWC laws in the three (3) countries generally include imprisonment and fine. The length of imprisonment and amount of fine differ from each country; depending on the

seriousness of the offense, age of the victim, relation of the perpetrator to the victim and other circumstances.

The results of this study also concluded that Singapore Police Force (SPF) is the oldest existing agency involved in advocating AVAWC among the three (3) countries. In terms of the number of agencies involved, the Philippines has the most number of agencies (18) eliminating VAWC, followed by Thailand (11) and Singapore (4). The Philippines is also the only country among the three (3) countries which forms Inter-Agency Councils (IACs) that are tasked to handle, first-handedly, the cases regarding VAWC.

In terms of AVAWC programs implemented or being implemented, Thailand has the most number of programs with fourteen (14) national programs addressing the issue of VAWC, followed by Philippines (7) and Singapore (5).

Based on the results of VAWC statistics in the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, Thailand has the highest statistics in terms of battery (assault) from 2005 – 2015. In terms of rape, the recorded rape cases of children in the Philippines has the highest number of cases among the three (3) countries and in terms of stalking, the Philippines has the highest number of recorded cases, specifically the sexual harassment cases on women.

The observed general pattern of the study is PH>SG>TH which suggests that the Philippines exerts more efforts in eliminating VAWC than Singapore and Thailand which can be seen through its comprehensive laws, IACs and progressive programs. The Philippines is followed by Singapore and Thailand respectively.

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