



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue,
Pasig City

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 15, 1999

DECS MEMORANDUM
No. 110, s. 1999

GIRL CHILD WEEK CELEBRATION

To : Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Heads of Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. Proclamation No. 759, declares the fourth week of March as Protection and Gender-Fair Treatment of the Girl Child Week. This year's celebration will be observed on 21 - 28 March with the theme "Batang Babae'y Pangalagaan; Ipaglaban Kaniyang Karapatan! (Protect the Girl Children; Fight for their Rights!).
2. The celebration will focus on protection of the girl child in school, family and community as set forth in the Convention of the Rights of the Child. (Enclosed is a fact sheet on the Girl Child.) The following are suggested activities to initiate to fittingly celebrate the occasion:
 - a. Networking with government and non-government agencies on the conduct of different activities supporting girl children
 - b. Organizing fora and assemblies where child advocates talk on issues like rights of girl children, measures on protecting them, changes on values and attitudes towards them brought about by forced labor, violence, abuse and negligence
 - c. Inviting girl children survivors sharing experiences in focused group discussions
 - d. Mobilizing a school-community march or parade with placards supporting the rights of the girl children
 - e. Holding day camps for the girl children
 - f. Producing indigenous posters and slogans with key messages on protection of the girl children
 - g. Presenting photo exhibit, film/slide, puppet shows on issues confronting female Children
 - h. Writing letters to the editor on the theme
 - i. Conducting essay writing contest on protection of the girl children
 - j. Delivering daily lessons for the week integrating the theme in all learning areas
 - k. Putting up of bulletin board display of children's work depicting the theme
3. Reports on accomplishments of how the occasion was celebrated may be forwarded to Dr. Lidinila M. Luis-Santos, Director IV, Bureau of Elementary Education, DECS, Pasig City.
4. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

Andrew Gonzalez
ANDREW GONZALEZ, FSC
Secretary

Incl.:

As stated

Reference:

DECS Memorandum: No. 87, s. 1998

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

✓CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS

Fact Sheet

Background

The fourth week of March of every year is celebrated as "Protection and Gender-Fair Treatment of the Girl Child Week" by virtue of Proclamation 759 signed on March 6, 1996. During this time, information campaign to raise awareness on issues affecting girl children is given focus. Through the many activities undertaken by both government and non-government organizations nationwide, a deeper understanding of the situation of girl children is gained. Issues focusing on abuse and exploitation of girl children are discussed. Concerns affecting girl children are underscored, to include child-rearing practices, gender socialization and sex-role stereotyping concepts, reinforced gender discrimination.

Since 1996, the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), the apex agency for children's concerns, has been orchestrating all efforts for the annual observance of this event. As such, it has initiated projects and activities promoting the rights and responsibilities of Filipino girl children as well as people and institution responsible for ensuring the girl child's total well being.

During the first year celebration in 1997, several activities have been conducted with the theme: "Today's Girl children, Tomorrow's Women". The celebration was highlighted by a one day activity initiated by CWC, UNICEF, DSWD and partner agencies from both the government and non-government organizations. This activity included the launching of the Girl Child Information Kit, Keynote address of the Children in Action Pool of Advocates, Musical presentations of children from selected NGOs, Photo Exhibit and Film Showing.

The 1998 celebration focused on rights of girl children as guaranteed by the country's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The year's theme was, "Girl Children Have Rights, Too!" The CNSP Sub-Task Force on the Girl Child conducted several activities, to include a cultural presentation which showcased the talents of children from the different member agencies of the National Council of Social Development (NCSD). A Technical Lecture on *Girl Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances* was also conducted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Highlighting the celebration was a forum on the "Discrimination Against Girl Children. The forum provided a venue for girl children issues to be discussed especially the sex discrimination being experienced by girl children in the family and in the society which contributes to their disadvantaged situation.

The 1999 Girl Child Week Celebration

With the growing concern to address the plight of Filipino Girl Children especially those who are abused and exploited, this year's celebration will focus on the protection rights of girl children. The theme for this year's celebration is, "Batang Babae'y Pangalagaan, Ipaglaban Kaniyang Karapatan."