

Standards and Capacity Building Group
Memorandum Circular No. 02
Series of 2020

GUIDELINES IN THE PILOT-TESTING OF THE PAGHILOM PROGRAM

I. RATIONALE

Globally, there is recognition that torture and enforced disappearances are an utmost disrespect to human dignity that strikes at the very core of one's civil and political rights. Torture and Enforced Disappearance (ED) are two intertwined and abominable violations of human rights.

Victims of enforced disappearance are people who have literally disappeared from their loved ones and their community. They go missing when state officials (or someone acting with state consent) grabs them from the street or from their homes and then deny it, or refuse to say where they are¹. Sometimes disappearances may be committed by armed non-state actors, like armed opposition groups, and it is always considered a crime under international law.

These people are often never released and their fate remains unknown. A disappeared person is also at a high risk of torture since they are placed completely outside the protection of the law. A victim's lack of access to legal remedies puts them in a terrifying situation of complete defenselessness.² Even if they escape death and are eventually released, the physical and psychological scars stay with them.

Torture is defined as any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person any information; punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed; or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.

The definition of torture contains three cumulative elements, the intentional infliction of severe mental or physical suffering; by a public official, who is directly or indirectly involved; and for a specific purpose.³

According to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) 2014 Annual Report there are 155 documented torture cases⁴. Further, Families of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), an organization and network of families and relatives of ED, was able to record a total of 2,236 victims of enforced disappearance from July 1971 to August 2016⁵.

On the other hand, Enforced Disappearances (EDs) affect not only individuals and families, but also communities, societies, and entire nations. Victims are well aware that their families do not know what had happened to them and that chances are slim that anyone will come to their aid. Even if victims are eventually released, their physical and psychological scars of dehumanization and brutality of torture experiences remain.

¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>

² <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>

³ <https://www.apt.ch/en/>

⁴ Commission on Human Rights. (2014). Republic Act No. 9745 Anti-Torture Act of 2009 and Its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Quezon City, Philippines.

⁵ Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance. (n.d.). Enforced Disappearance Questions & Answers. Quezon City, Philippines.

Families and friends of victims themselves suffer mental torture of not knowing whether their victim is still alive and in languishing health conditions. They are torn between hope and despair by waiting for news that may never come. Families are well aware that they, too, are potential victims and that they may suffer the same fate themselves as they search for truth may expose them to even greater danger brought by those in power in the society.

These trauma and mental distress of each family is frequently compounded by the financial limitation consequences as the disappeared person is often the family's main breadwinner. Their serious economic hardships are most often borne by left behind women, they become more vulnerable to mental anguish, physical, sexual exploitation and other forms of violence and abuse.

Enforced disappearance which is accompanied by torture has frequently been used as a strategy to spread terror within the society. The feeling of insecurity generated by this practice is not limited to close relatives of the disappeared, but also affects their communities and the society as a whole.

The intergenerational impacts of these problems create an enduring cycle of pain and suffering, also known as multi generation trauma. Hence, national and international laws are established and being enhanced further, seeking to protect the rights of each individual not to be subjected to torture and/or enforced disappearances.

In view of the continuously increasing data and the close relationship of torture and enforced disappearance phenomena cases, the DSWD-STB put together two (2) projects for single/unified and simplified process of case management and developed a program entitled, "*Healing Intervention Leading to Optimum Management (PagHILOM) for the Victims of Torture and Enforced Disappearance and their Families*". The program is an intertwined model of intervention for victim-survivors of torture and enforced disappearance along with their family members. STB believes that full and strict implementation of this intervention shall greatly contribute to the fulfilment of their rights to reparation, access to justice and holistic healing.

II. LEGAL BASES

A. International Instruments

Several International Treaties have been established to protect the rights of each individual against Enforced Disappearance and Torture. *Article 8 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights* states that "Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law" while *Article 19 of the 1992 UN Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance* states that "The victims of acts of enforced disappearance and their family shall obtain redress and shall have the right to adequate compensation, including the means for as complete a rehabilitation as possible. In the event of the death of the victim as a result of an act of enforced disappearance, their dependents shall also be entitled to compensation."

This is further strengthened and supported by the *International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance of 1992 under Article 24, par. 5*, stating that "The right to obtain reparation referred to in paragraph 4 of this article covers material and moral damages and, where appropriate, other forms of reparation such as; Restitution; Rehabilitation; Satisfaction, including restoration of dignity and reputation; and Guarantees of non-repetition."

In addition, as victims of torture and/or enforced disappearance often end up with disabilities not only physically but also mentally and emotionally, the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2006*, provides a legal basis as the right to rehabilitation in CRPD applies

to all survivors of torture who can be categorized as persons with certain kinds of disabilities, without any exception.

In the Philippines, *Article 2, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution* provides that "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights." This is further supported by *Article 3, Section 12, paragraph 2* of the same constitution which guarantees that "No torture, force, violence, threat, intimidation, or any other means which vitiate the free will shall be used against him. Secret detention places, solitary, *incommunicado*, or other similar forms of detention are prohibited."

B. National Laws

Republic Act No. 9745, also known as *An Act Penalizing Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Prescribing Penalties* was signed into law on November 10, 2009. The law seeks to ensure that persons deprived of liberty are not subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment that would cause physical or psychological harm.

Moreover, on 21 December 2012, Republic Act 10353 otherwise known as the *Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012* was approved. The law declares that, "*The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights for which highest priority shall be given to the enactment of measures for the enhancement of the right of all people to human dignity, the prohibition against secret detention places, solitary confinement, incommunicado, or other similar forms of detention, the provision of penalty and civil sanctions for such violations and compensation and rehabilitation of the victims and their families, particularly with respect to the use of torture, force, violence, threat, intimidation or any other means which vitiate the free will of persons abducted, arrested, detained, disappeared or otherwise removed from the effective protection of the law.*"

In view of these International Treaties and Local Policies, *Section 19 of Republic Act No. 9745* provides for the formulation of a comprehensive rehabilitation program for the victims of torture and their families by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Health (DOH) in consultation with other human rights non-government organizations.

Likewise, *Section 27 of Republic Act No. 10353* presents a similar provision wherein it states that, "In order that the victims of enforced or involuntary disappearance who surfaced alive and/or their immediate relatives within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, may be effectively reintegrated into the mainstream of society and in the process of development, the State, through the CHR, in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the concerned non-government organization/s, shall provide them with appropriate medical care and rehabilitation free of charge."

Therefore, as stated in said laws and policies, there is really a call to formulate a program that would cater not only to victims of Torture and Enforced Disappearances but also their family and the community.

III. OBJECTIVES

The PagHILOM Program generally aims to restore the emotional, mental and economic well-being of victims of torture and enforced or involuntary disappearance who surfaced alive together with their families. Specifically, it aims to:

- To facilitate psychosocial healing of victims and their families;

- To ensure access of victims and friends to additional help and support for their recovery;
- To facilitate healing through peer-to-peer help;
- To ensure timely case review, delivery of comprehensive interventions, monitoring and evaluation of the assistance provided in the context of case management

IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

The Healing Intervention Leading to Optimum Management (PagHILOM) for Victims of Torture (VicTors) and Families and Relatives of Involuntary and Enforced Disappearances (FRIEnDs) responds to the rehabilitation needs of all victims and families of torture and enforced disappearances. Derived from the *Tagalog* word, *paghilom*, which means the process of healing, the program aims to contribute to the rebuilding of lives of VicTors and FRIEnDs. The program promotes holistic healing, social and economic reintegration, and is implemented in coordination with the CHR, DOH, DOI and concerned NGO partners through partnership and collaboration efforts.

The enhanced PagHILOM program is a model of intervention envisioned to contribute to the rebuilding of lives, reparation, access to justice and holistic healing of victim-survivors of torture and ED by engaging a committed and functional rehabilitation team of service providers (SPs) and support groups (SGs) at the local and national level. The SPs and SGs are “co-journeymers” who are aware of the physical pain, anxiety and trauma of torture victim-survivors and the traumatic loss and unresolved grief or “complicated mourning” (where trauma and grief coincide) of family members/relatives of victims of ED.

The main function of the rehabilitation team is to journey with the victim-survivors and their families with essential resources and enabling mechanisms in order for them to fulfill their rights to reparation and rehabilitation. As co-journeymers, their task is to allow victims-survivors to:

- Accept the reality of the suffering
- Experience the pain and loss
- Find meaning in the experience
- Envisage hope at the end of the traumatic experience

In the pilot implementation of the program, the following phases will be conducted along with identified activities:

A. Pre-Implementation Phase

The pre-implementation phase shall consist of the following social preparatory activities both at the DSWD-Social Technology Bureau (national level) and at the identified pilot areas:

A.1. Selection of Pilot Areas (Region and LGU) and Target Beneficiaries

The criteria for the selection of pilot areas shall include the following:

- Presence of numerous victims of torture and enforced disappearance
- Willingness of LGU officials to implement the program

A.2. Coordination Meeting

Meetings with partner agencies, from the national government and civil society organizations, will be conducted to initially gather support and partnership for the program. Preliminary

meetings with the local government units (LGUs) which have been identified as target pilot areas will also be conducted to discuss the program and its pilot implementation in their area.

A.3. Program Orientation and Planning Session with partners

Program partners, specifically the LGUs, shall be oriented about the program to help ensure seamless pilot implementation. The LGUs shall also formulate plan of action for the implementation of the program and identify their counterparts in the implementation of the program.

A.4. Forging Memorandum of Agreement with the Local Government Units and partner agencies and CSOs

Forging of memorandum of agreement with the pilot LGUS shall be executed to formalize the partnership on the pilot implementation of the program. The pilot LGUs through the Sangguniang Bayan shall be enjoined to issue an executive order allowing the DSWD Social Technology Bureau to pilot test the program and supporting the creation of a multidisciplinary team, in close coordination with the LGU particularly the Provincial/ City Social Welfare and Development Office. The said multidisciplinary team will be composed of social workers, psychologists, lawyers, medical doctors and other professions whose services or assistance may be availed by identified beneficiaries according to their need and as assessed by their case managers.

A.5. Formation of Regional Coordinating Team (RCT) and Rehabilitation Team (RT)

The Regional Coordinating Team (RCT) in the pilot implementation areas will be composed of the regional counterparts of the national government agencies (NGAs) and CSOs in the National Technical Working Group including the pilot LGU. A memorandum of agreement shall also be forged between and amongst the members RCT. The pilot LGUs may also form their Rehabilitation Team (RT) which is composed of the case managers/ social workers of the identified victims of torture and enforced disappearance and their families. Other partners such as psychologists, medical doctors and lawyers may also be members of the RT as seen fit by the RCT. The RT serves as the frontliners in ensuring the immediate and appropriate delivery of services to VicTors and FRIEnDs.

A.6. Development of Modules

In recognition of the distinct needs and circumstances of VicTors and FRIEnDs, modules geared towards equipping frontliners with knowledge and skills in providing initial therapeutic interventions will be developed. These sessions will contain guides on certain individual or family therapeutic techniques that can be utilized by those working with VicTors and FRIEnDs.

A Consultant shall be hired to write and finalize the modules. A Module Development Writeshop shall be conducted to finalize session guides for the individual and family therapy sessions. The writeshop shall be attended by academe and professionals with knowledge and experience in conducting therapy sessions with victims of torture and enforced disappearance and those working with said type of clientele in the three (3) pilot areas.

A.7. Capacity Building Activities

Capacity-building activities with regards to the case management process, assessment tools in documenting cases of VicTors and FRIEnDs and use of psycho-education session modules for individual and family therapy shall be participated in by members of the regional coordinating team and rehabilitation team.

B. Implementation Phase

The implementation phase of the program shall focus on capacitating and organizing of the regional coordinating team and rehabilitation team; and the delivery of specific psychosocial interventions such as individual/ family therapy, skills training and livelihood assistance to victims of torture and enforced disappearance who surfaced alive and their families.

B.1. Case Management

- *Assessment*
- *Provision of Services*
- *Conduct of Healing Sessions*

This is a product of the module development workshops/ writeshops and final output of the consultant. The psychoeducation sessions are designed for small groups of VicTors and FRIEnDs for group therapy. This is also applicable for group and family therapy as assessed by the rehabilitation team. This is also part of the pilot-testing and will be conducted initially with the whole group. Succeeding sessions may be devised as assessed by a psychologist who is part of the rehabilitation team.

B.2. Case Conferencing and Regular Home Visit

Case conferencing shall be conducted every other month to ensure that the intervention plan is being implemented. The case conference shall be convened by the Provincial/ City Social Welfare and Development Office head and attended by social workers/ case managers along with other members of the rehabilitation team. Monthly homevisit to VicTors and FRIEnDs shall also be conducted by LGU social workers to monitor the situation/progress of VicTors and FRIEnDs and provide necessary intervention. These homevisits may increase in frequency as seen necessary by case managers.

B.3. Provision of Skills Training, Financial/Livelihood Assistance and other services to VicTors and FRIEnDs

VicTors and FRIEnDs shall be provided with skills training and livelihood assistance through the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). Each VicTor or FRIEnDs will be referred to the SLP for possible inclusion to the program. Referral to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) may also be done to provide avenues for program beneficiaries to be equipped with necessary skills for job placement.

B.4. Advocacy

This will involve conduct of advocacy activities to secure support for and awareness in the implementation of the program among the LGUs, NGOs, CSOs and faith based organizations. This will be particularly highlighted in the observance of International Day of the Disappeared (August 30), International Week of the Disappeared (last week of May), and International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (June 26), International Human Rights Day (Dec 10).

B.5. Mid- and Terminal Social Technology Evaluation Workshop

This shall be conducted at the middle and end of the pilot implementation. A participatory evaluation, using the logical framework, shall be done with and to all stakeholders and beneficiaries of the program. Gaps and/or areas needing further improvements shall be identified so that necessary enhancement shall be made in the finalization of the program manual. The program documentation shall also be prepared, together with the transition plan, for the eventual turn-over of the program to the Protective Services Bureau. Transition meetings with PSB shall be conducted prior to the actual turn-over of the program.

C. Post-Implementation Phase

A National Training of Trainers shall also be conducted to ensure the institutionalization of the PagHILOM Program, in coordination with the Social Welfare Institutional Development Bureau (SWIDB) and partner agencies from the national government and civil society organizations. This will be conducted after the Terminal STEW and once the program has been evaluated and found to be relevant and effective.

A full pilot-testing documentation report will be prepared detailing the implementation of the program in the three (3) pilot areas. Further, promotion to various LGUs with the same sectoral concern will be conducted and materials to market the program will be produced such as but not limited to primers, flyers, audio-video presentation and brochures.

V. GENERAL POLICIES

A. Cost Parameters

In line with the stipulated ceiling for allocation of grants and subsidies for target beneficiaries of ongoing social technologies, the following cost parameters will be followed:

- Financial Assistance for Employment of Livelihood – An amount of P 5,000.00 – P 10,000.00 shall be provided shall be provided to the VicTors and/or FRIEnDs to support their job seeking activities or as start-up/ seed capital for a livelihood activity. The expenses incurred shall be supported with official receipts. For clients provided with support for employment, the client shall submit a Contract of Employment or similar documents once they are hired.

For clients who opt for a livelihood activity, they may be referred to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and/or DSWD Sustainable Livelihood Program for livelihood assistance. In cases wherein clients are not able to access livelihood support due to various reasons, the LGU focal person may refer the client to the DSWD-FO to avail of the Financial Assistance for Livelihood support. The LGU Focal Person and the DSWD FO Focal Person shall assess client's readiness to start a livelihood activity; and ensure that the business is market-driven. The beneficiaries shall undergo Basic Business Management Training (BBMT) to guide them in the identification of livelihood activity. Eligible clients will be requested to submit a program proposal to the DSWD FO for assessment and approval.

- Medical Assistance – clients may be provided with medical assistance amounting to P5, 000.00 depending on assessed medical needs. Assessment by assigned physicians of DOH-retained hospitals to handle cases of victims of torture and ED will be considered along with prescriptions, clinical abstracts, hospital bills and laboratory requests, among others. Availment of this assistance will be through recommendation of LGU focal person to the DSWD Field Office.

Cases wherein needed medical intervention exceeds the stipulated amount may be referred to other offices for augmentation from other partner offices such as the DOH, Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), among others. The LGU Focal Person shall assist the client in availing said assistance from the partner offices.

- Educational Assistance – An amount of P 500.00 financial assistance shall be allocated to children of VicTors and FRIEnDs per month (June to March only) to cover their school supplies, transportation cost, and other school related expenses. This shall be disbursed on a semestral basis. A total of P 5,000.00

of educational assistance per year may be provided to the children of clients, per recommendation of the LGU Focal Person to the DSWD Field Office. The DSWD FO Focal Person shall conduct validation of the children and process the provision of the assistance, subject to availability of fund. The client will be required to submit school registration and/or certificate of enrolment and valid school ID of the child.

B. Duration of Activities and Frequency of Sessions

Modules and session guides will be developed for the use of social workers and program implementers in handling cases of torture and/or enforced disappearance. Capability building activities will be conducted to equip these responders on the use of said modules and session guides.

Three (3) sessions will be conducted within each module conducted within one (1) to two (2) days depending on the time committed by program beneficiaries. The sessions will discuss the following topics:

Session No.	Topic/s
1	Understanding the nature, elements and forms, causes and political, economic, social and cultural contexts of torture and enforced or involuntary disappearance.
2	Understanding more deeply the effects and impact of torture and enforced disappearances on families and communities, on the perpetrators and offenders (direct or vide-taped testimonies, sharing of a doctor/counselor handling cases of torture victims); existing initiatives from concerned agencies, NGOs and other organizations (panel presentation)
3	Identification of needs and services, of opportunities and challenges; resolutions and recommendations

Separate modules will be developed for victims/ clients themselves and for their family members. This will help address differing concerns and issues by the two (2) groups.

VI. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The nature and degree of involvement of agencies depends on the level of intervention needed by the victims of torture and ED and their families. It is also absolutely necessary that experts on the field of rehabilitation services to torture and ED survivors from the private sector be consulted. Institutional arrangement for the implementation of the program shall be in place to define roles and responsibilities between and among the agencies as follows:

A. Commission on Human Rights (CHR)

1. Visit and inspect jails, prisons and detention facilities, rehabilitation and confinement facilities that have custody of torture and ED victims;
2. Conduct nationwide information drive and trainings concerning the Anti-Torture Act of 2009 and Anti-ED or Involuntary Disappearance Act Of 2012;
3. Provide legal assistance to victims of torture and ED in jails and initiate the filing of cases against violators;
4. Monitor and ensure human rights training of officials and key stakeholders in all levels of local government units

B. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

1. Social Technology Bureau (STB)

- Develop concept paper, program design, guidelines, modules and manual as bases for implementation, expansion and institutionalization in addressing the social cost of migration;
- Initiate conduct of consultation-meetings, program orientations and capability buildings in the pilot testing with concerned agencies, partners/stakeholders;
- Conduct consultation and quarterly coordination meetings with partner agencies and concerned regions
- Spearhead in convening meetings among the inter-agency group
- Spearhead the pilot implementation in partnership with MSWDO, and other concerned agencies in selected regions
- Provide fund to concerned regional offices for social marketing and for the initial expansion initiative.
- Provide technical assistance to the field offices and other stakeholders and serve as resource person/s to training to Field Office (FO) staff, LGUs
- Develop and enrich program guidelines and manuals
- Provide technical assistance and resource augmentation to concerned regional offices on social technology development, pilot testing and social marketing and if necessary, initial program expansion;
- Prepare and submits the WFP and periodic reports for approval of the STB Bureau Director/Office of the Asst Secretary for Office of the Secretary

2. Protective Services Bureau (PSB)

- Attend and participate in the consultation and coordination meetings on pre, pilot and post implementation phases;
- Provide technical assistance and monitoring of case management/ operations in providing support services to overseas Filipinos
- Assist in the development of the monthly / quarterly report of program implementation.

3. DSWD Field Offices

- Partners of STB in the pilot testing of the programs and services for VicTors and FRIEnds
- Facilitate administrative support to the program
- Provide technical assistance and resource augmentation (TARA) to LGUs and partner agencies.
- Advocate/encourage Regional Development Councils (RDCs), concerned LGUs, and other regional and local bodies/structures having concerns on torture and ED to intensify awareness raising activities on the following: a) laws and policies on torture and ED; b) ill effects of being tortured and losing someone and d) efforts of the government on torture and enforced disappearance
- Prepare and submit quarterly/year-end regional reports to STB
- Coordinate with target LGUs and Regional Interagency partners on the schedules of activities of the program;
- Ensure implementation of the program at the Local Government Units
- Attend consultation and related activities at the regional level;
- Prepare/update the regional situationer as basis for program implementation;
- Conduct regular coordination meetings and advocacy at the regional levels;
- Strengthen the referral network in providing services / assistance;
- Develop / implement / monitor social technologies for the support services to victim of Torture and Enforce Disappearance
- Attend inter-agency meetings

C. Local Government Units (LGUs)

1. Partners of STB and MSWDO in the pilot testing of the programs and services for VicTors and FRIEnds.
2. Strengthen partnership with other concerned LGUs, other government agencies and NGOs advocating the rights and welfare of VicTors and FRIEnds for the purpose of dissemination of information on all aspects of the program.

D. Department of Justice (DOJ)

1. Conduct regular seminars and trainings for its prosecutors on the proper handling of cases involving victims of torture and ED;
2. Designate prosecutor who can handle torture and ED cases effectively, speedily and compassionately;
3. Create a Task Force or a Specific Division at the National Prosecution Service to be devoted to the prosecution of torture and ED cases.

E. Department of Health (DOH)

1. Provide technical assistance to LGUs and NGOs in the implementation of the rehabilitation program specifically in the provision of medical intervention to the victims of torture and ED and their families with due consultation with trainers who have both theoretical and experiential knowledge on the subject.
2. Allocate budget for the implementation of the various health components of the rehabilitation program.
3. Ensure that the DOH retained hospitals shall readily accommodate all referrals for medical treatment of the victims of torture and ED.
4. Conduct medical documentation training for City health officers (CHO), municipal health officers (MHO), Doctors to the Barrios (DTTB), provincial health officers (PHO).
5. Coordinate with mental health service providers (psychiatrists or psychologists) with proper training in handling torture and ED cases to provide a comprehensive psychological assessment of the victim-survivors.
6. Train health officers on documentation and reporting of torture.
7. Issue a memorandum mandating medical officers on the mandatory reporting of torture cases to the Commission on Human Rights.

F. Public Attorneys' Office (PAO)

1. Provide legal assistance to victims of torture and ED in filing their complaints.
2. Conduct investigation of torture and ED complaints brought before it, pursuant to R.A. 9745 or the "Anti-Torture Act of 2009" and Anti-ED or Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012.
3. Conduct regular trainings and seminars for PAO lawyers in proper handling of investigations and/or cases involving torture and ED.
4. Designate PAO lawyers to serve as legal counsels to torture and ED victims.

G. Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED)

1. Ensure the integration of human rights education courses in all primary, secondary and tertiary level academic institutions nationwide particularly on R.A. 9745 and R.A. 10353 and other related laws.
2. Provide education/scholarship assistance to children of victims of torture and ED.
3. Provide counseling to children of victims in coordination with the LGU Social Workers.

H. Department of the Interior Local and Government (DILG)

1. Advocate and disseminate Anti-Torture and Anti-Enforced Disappearance related national policies to the Local Government Units (LGUs); as well as guidelines that may be promulgated by other government agencies pertaining to the handling of victims of torture and ED.
2. Assist the DSWD in organizing and facilitating capability building activities for LGUs in handling and treatment of torture and ED victims, whenever necessary.
3. Specific on children, help ensure that LGUs upgrade/sustain the functionality of the Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC) to work for the prevention of torture and ED of children and protection of child victims.
4. Coordinate with LGUs, through the Leagues, in implementing policies and programs on R.A. 9745 and R.A. 10353.
5. Encourage LGUs to include and maintain anti-torture and anti-ED initiatives in their comprehensive development plans.

I. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

1. Participate in program and policy development and implementation of the Anti-torture and Anti-ED laws;
2. Promote and sustain advocacy and awareness campaigns on condemning torture, ED, and other human rights violations;
3. Develop and facilitate program and direct participatory services for the recovery, reintegration, and empowerment of torture and ED victims;
4. Ensure concerned CSOs' active participation in monitoring and evaluating implementation of the rehabilitation program for victim-survivors of torture and ED;
5. Participate in the training on the comprehensive rehabilitation program as implementing partners;
6. Endeavor to empower victim-survivors and develop them into committed and dedicated human rights defenders.

VII. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately. All previous issuances inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed/ revoked accordingly.

Issued in Quezon City this 17th day of September, 2020.


CAMILO G. GUDMALIN
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