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**MONCADA, TARLAC**

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12<sup>th</sup> SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF MONCADA, TARLAC FOR CY 2025 HELD ON THE 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2025 AT THE SB SESSION HALL, SB-ABC-SK BUILDING.**

**PRESENT:**

**HON. JESSIE E. AQUINO**

**.. VICE MAYOR, PRESIDING OFFICER**

**HON. JAYVEE B. NATIVIDAD  
HON. CELESTE A. AYSON  
HON. MICHAEL B. UYCOCO  
HON. JANIUS JOHN C. YASAY  
HON. DEAN MICHAEL V. DUQUE  
HON. CHARL JUSTIN E. QUIJANO  
HON. LESLIE G. LOPEZ  
HON. CONSTANCE NESTOR A. FAVIS  
HON. BERNADINE C. FERRER  
HON. ERVEN B. PRADO**

**.. MEMBER, PRO-TEMPORE  
.. MEMBER, FLOOR LEADER  
.. MEMBER  
.. MEMBER  
.. MEMBER  
.. MEMBER  
.. MEMBER  
.. MEMBER  
.. LNB PRESIDENT  
.. MFSK PRESIDENT**

**ABSENT:  
NONE**

**MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO.  
2025-005**

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ALL FORMS OF BULLYING AND YOUTH EXPLOITATION, INCLUDING CYBERBULLYING AND ONLINE EXPLOITATION, IN PUBLIC PLACES AND DIGITAL SPACES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MONCADA, TARLAC, EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 08, SERIES OF 2023, WHICH PROHIBITS GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN STREETS AND PUBLIC PLACES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF**

**Authored and Sponsored by: Coun. Jayvee B. Natividad;  
Coun. Leslie G. Lopez**

**Co-sponsored by: Coun. Janius John C. Yasay, LNB Pres. Bernadine C. Ferrer,  
MFSK Pres. Erven B. Prado**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines mandates the State to uphold the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 10627 or the "Anti-Bullying Act of 2013" defines and penalizes acts of bullying particularly in schools, but there is a growing need to address bullying that occurs beyond schools, including in communities and online spaces;

**WHEREAS**, Municipal Ordinance No. 08, Series of 2023, prohibits gender-based sexual harassment in streets and public places in Moncada, Tarlac, but does not comprehensively cover all forms of bullying and youth exploitation, especially in digital platforms;





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**WHEREAS**, the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), including the misuse of technologies such as deepfakes and synthetic media, has created new and alarming forms of bullying, harassment, and youth exploitation online, enabling perpetrators to fabricate images, videos, and messages that damage reputations, manipulate behavior, and violate privacy;

**WHEREAS**, bullying and youth exploitation have extended into social media and other online platforms, increasing harm to vulnerable sectors including minors and youth;

**WHEREAS**, social media and other online platforms are now frequently used to harass, intimidate, demean, and bully individuals, particularly minors, women, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and other vulnerable sectors;

**NOW THEREFORE**, on motion by Coun. Leslie G. Lopez, duly seconded by Coun. Jayvee B. Natividad;

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Sangguniang Bayan of Moncada, Tarlac, in session assembled, that:

## SECTION 1. TITLE

This ordinance shall be known as the **“ESPASYO ORDINANCE”** which stands for **Expanded Safe Places Against Sexual Harassment, Youth Exploitation, and Online Abuse Ordinance**.

## SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY

It is the policy of the Municipality of Moncada to protect all persons, especially youth, from bullying, harassment, and exploitation in both physical and digital spaces, ensuring safe and secure environments in public areas and social media platforms.

## SECTION 3-A. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **Bullying** — Any repeated, deliberate act or series of acts, whether verbal, written, physical, or electronic, committed by an individual or group, that causes harm, intimidation, humiliation, or distress to another person such as but not limited to the following:
  - Inflict or threaten physical harm or damage to a person's property;
  - Cause emotional or psychological harm such as fear, anxiety, depression, or low self-esteem;
  - Disrupt the victim's education, work, or social life by creating a hostile environment;
  - Target a person's appearance, disability, gender identity, ethnicity, religion, or other personal characteristics;
  - Include but are not limited to teasing, name-calling, spreading false rumors, social exclusion, cyberbullying (such as harassment or threats through electronic means), physical aggression, or coercion.





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- **Youth Exploitation** — The use, manipulation, or coercion of individuals under the age of 25 in any manner that causes harm, including online sexual exploitation, trafficking, or forced labor.
- **Cyberbullying** — Bullying that takes place over digital devices and platforms, such as social media, messaging apps, and online forums.
- **Public Places** — Streets, plazas, parks, markets, transportation hubs, and any space accessible to the public within the municipality.
- **Digital Spaces** — Online and electronic platforms accessible via the internet or electronic communication devices.
- **Child / Children** – Refers to any person below eighteen (18) years of age, or those over eighteen (18) but are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition.  
(In accordance with Republic Act No. 7610 – Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act)
- **Youth** – Refers to individuals who are fifteen (15) to twenty-four (24) years old, as defined by the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP) and recognized by the National Youth Commission (NYC).
- **Vulnerable Person** – Refers to any individual who, due to age, disability, physical or mental condition, social status, or personal circumstances, is at greater risk of abuse, bullying, harassment, or exploitation, and may have limited capacity to protect or defend themselves.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Children and youth
  - b) Persons with disabilities (PWDs)
  - c) Senior citizens
  - d) Pregnant women
  - e) Members of the LGBTQIA+ community
  - f) Persons with mental health conditions
  - g) Economically disadvantaged individuals
  - h) Persons deprived of liberty or undergoing rehabilitation
  - i) Survivors of abuse or trauma
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** – Refers to the simulation of human intelligence by computer systems, machines, or software applications, including the ability to learn, reason, generate content, or perform tasks traditionally requiring human cognition.
  - **Deepfake** – Refers to synthetic or manipulated media—especially videos, images, or audio recordings—created using artificial intelligence, such as machine learning or neural networks, to falsely depict a person saying or doing something they did not actually say or do. Deepfakes may be used maliciously to defame, humiliate, sexually exploit, or harass individuals, and are strictly prohibited when used in ways that cause harm under this ordinance.

### SECTION 3-B. THE GRAVITY AND IMPACT



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Bullying is not a simple or harmless act. It is a serious violation of personal dignity and safety that causes immediate and long-term harm to individuals and the community. Victims of bullying—especially children and youth—are at risk of suffering severe emotional, psychological, social, and physical consequences.

The gravity of Gender-based Harassment and Bullying lies in its capacity to:

1. **Instill fear and trauma** – Victims often live in constant fear of being targeted, leading to anxiety, emotional breakdown, and withdrawal from school, work, or community life.
2. **Disrupt education and development** – Bullying severely affects academic performance, school attendance, participation, and a child's ability to learn or socialize in a safe environment.
3. **Cause mental and emotional damage** – Victims may develop depression, suicidal thoughts, post-traumatic stress, or long-term emotional distress, especially when bullying is sustained or left unaddressed.
4. **Damage physical health and safety** – Bullying that includes or leads to physical violence can result in injuries, damage to property, and endangerment of one's life.
5. **Erode self-worth and identity** – Victims, especially youth, may begin to doubt their value, abilities, or identity, particularly when they are bullied based on appearance, disability, gender, or personal background.
6. **Harm the broader community** – Tolerating bullying fosters a culture of violence, impunity, and silence, undermining the safety, unity, and moral fiber of schools, barangays, and the entire municipality.

#### SECTION 4. COVERAGE

This ordinance applies to all acts of bullying, youth exploitation, and online abuse committed within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Moncada, Tarlac, including but not limited to:

- Public Spaces
- Digital Spaces and Social Media Platforms

The ordinance covers acts committed by residents or non-residents within the physical or digital jurisdiction of Moncada when the victim is a resident of Moncada or the act has significant harmful effects within the community. It includes bullying and exploitation occurring via accounts or devices accessed or controlled within Moncada, regardless of where the perpetrator is physically located.

#### SECTION 5-A. PROHIBITED ACTS

Gender-based sexual harassment is hereby prohibited in all streets and public places in the Municipality of Moncada, Tarlac. No person shall engage in any conduct that has the purpose or effect of creating a hostile or intimidating environment for another person based on their gender.





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**GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT** shall include, but not limited to the following acts:

- a) Making derogatory or offensive comments, jokes, or language about a person's gender or sexuality, including the use of slurs.
- b) Making unwanted sexual advances or propositions towards a person based on their gender.
- c) Engaging in unwelcome physical touching or contact, such as touching a person's body without their consent.
- d) Engaging in lewd or offensive behavior in front of a person based on their gender, such as exposing oneself or making sexual gestures, or displaying sexually suggestive or explicit materials in a public area or workplace where others can see them.
- e) Singling out a person based on their gender for unfair treatment, such as excluding them from social activities or professional opportunities.
- f) Making threats or engaging in bullying behavior towards a person based on their gender.
- g) Intentionally misgendering a person by using the wrong pronouns or referring to them by a name or title they do not identify with.

**BULLYING** may manifest in various forms, including but not limited to:

a) **Physical Bullying**

Involves hurting a person's body or possessions. Examples include hitting, kicking, pushing, tripping, biting, spitting, stealing or damaging belongings, and other acts of physical aggression.

b) **Verbal Bullying**

Includes saying or writing mean things intended to hurt or demean someone. Examples are name-calling, insults, teasing, intimidation, threats, racist or sexist remarks, and derogatory comments about a person's appearance, abilities, or background.

c) **Social or Relational Bullying**

Aimed at damaging a person's reputation or relationships. This includes spreading rumors, purposeful exclusion from groups or activities, public humiliation, and encouraging others to reject or isolate the victim.

d) **Cyberbullying**

Bullying through digital platforms such as social media, texting, messaging apps, emails, or online gaming. This includes sending threatening or harmful messages, sharing embarrassing photos or videos, impersonation, doxxing (publishing private information), and creating hate sites or groups.

e) **Sexual Bullying**

Involves repeated, unwelcome sexual advances, comments, gestures, or actions that demean, humiliate, or intimidate. This includes sexual jokes, inappropriate touching, sexual threats, or online sexual harassment.

f) **Bullying Based on Disability or Appearance**

Targeting individuals because of physical disabilities, medical conditions, or appearance traits such as weight, skin color, or other distinguishing features.

**CYBERBULLYING** shall include, but not limited to the following acts:





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- a) **Sending Threatening or Harassing Messages**  
Any use of digital communication to send messages that threaten, insult, intimidate, or harass a person.
- b) **Online Name-Calling, Insults, and Defamation**  
Repeatedly posting or sending messages meant to mock, insult, or damage the character and reputation of another person.
- c) **Spreading False Information (Fake News)**  
Publishing or sharing malicious, fabricated, or misleading content meant to embarrass or harm another individual.
- d) **Posting or Sharing Harmful Content Without Consent**  
Uploading or distributing private images, videos, or personal information of a person without their consent, especially with the intent to embarrass, blackmail, or ridicule.
- e) **Cyberstalking**  
Repeatedly sending unwanted messages or engaging in digital surveillance that causes fear, distress, or a sense of being threatened.
- f) **Impersonation or Identity Theft**  
Creating fake accounts or accessing someone else's account to deceive, manipulate, harass, or post content in their name.
- g) **Group Attacks and Mob Harassment**  
Organizing or participating in coordinated online bullying, harassment, or trolling against a person, especially through group chats, hashtags, or comment threads.
- h) **Cyberbaiting**  
Provoking someone online to act emotionally or irrationally, then recording and sharing their reaction to humiliate them.
- i) **Sextortion and Non-consensual Sharing of Explicit Content**  
Threatening to post or actually posting sexual content or messages to control, shame, or exploit a person.

Cyberbullying is punishable under this ordinance when:

- Either the perpetrator or victim resides in Moncada, or
- The bullying act causes harm to a resident of Moncada, regardless of where the perpetrator is located, or
- The act is committed using accounts, devices, or IP addresses based in Moncada.

**Youth Exploitation** shall include, but not limited to the following acts:

1. Producing, distributing, or possessing sexualized images or videos of minors, including real, altered, or AI-generated content.
2. Soliciting sexual content from minors through social media, messaging apps, games, or other online platforms.
3. Using live streaming or webcam platforms to exploit minors sexually, with or without monetary exchange.
4. Coercing or blackmailing youth (sextortion) to produce or share explicit content under threat, manipulation, or extortion.
5. Using fake profiles or impersonating youth online to lure or manipulate others into risky, illegal, or harmful activities.





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6. Using minors in monetized online content without proper consent, protection, and compliance with child labor and data privacy laws.
7. Involving minors in illegal or dangerous offline activities such as selling drugs, petty crimes, or street begging for profit.
8. Engaging minors in sexual services, trafficking, or child labor, whether done locally or promised through online recruitment.
9. **Any parent, guardian, or adult who knowingly allows, tolerates, or profits from the exploitation of a youth shall be held equally liable.**
10. **Any person who shares, reposts, or spreads exploitative content** involving youth, even if not the original source, shall be held accountable under this ordinance.

**SECTION 5-B. PENALTIES**

Any person who violates the provisions of this Ordinance shall be penalized with a fine of not more than two thousand five hundred pesos (P 2,500.00) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) month nor more than six (6) months, or both, at the discretion of the court.

**SECTION 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION AND ANTI-BULLYING DESK.** There shall be established a Child Protection and Anti-Bullying Desk in every barangay in the Municipality of Moncada.

**SECTION 7. DESIGNATION OF DESK OFFICERS**

Each Sangguniang Barangay shall designate at least one (1) Member of the Sangguniang Barangay, together with the Barangay Child Development Worker and one (1) Barangay Public Safety Officer (BPSO) or *barangay tanod*, preferably one with background in child welfare, as the Child Protection Desk Officers, subject to training and capacity-building. The Barangay VAWC Desk Officer may also be designated as one of the desk officers for child protection and anti-bullying concerns.

**SECTION 8. FUNCTIONS OF THE DESK**

The Desk shall perform the following duties:

- Receive and document reports of child, teen, and youth abuse or bullying;
- Assist in referral of cases to MSWDO, police, or proper authorities;
- Conduct community awareness on children's rights and anti-bullying;
- Maintain confidentiality and privacy of child-related cases;
- Coordinate with schools and child-focused organizations.

**SECTION 9. TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING**

The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), in partnership with the DSWD, DepEd, SUCs, DILG, and NGOs, shall provide necessary training for all designated desk officers.

**SECTION 10. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Municipal Government of Moncada, Tarlac, through the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) and Philippine National Police (PNP) shall be responsible for the implementation of this ordinance. The Office of the Mayor shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations to ensure the effective enforcement of this Ordinance and likewise with the applicable provisions of RA 7877 (Anti-Sexual Harassment Act) and RA 11313 (Safe Spaces Act) as operationalized by DILG-PCW Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-001 dated December 7, 2020.





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**SECTION 11. REPEALING CLAUSE**

All ordinances, rules, and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 12. EFFECTIVITY**

This ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its posting in at least three (3) conspicuous places in the municipality and on social media platforms of the LGU

**ENACTED**, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025, at Moncada, Tarlac.

X-----X

**Affirmative Votes:** Natividad, Ayson, Uycoco, Yasay, Duque, Quijano, Lopez, Favis, Ferrer, Prado

**Negative Votes:** None **Abstentions:** None

**Presided by:** J. Aquino

X-----X

**CERTIFICATION**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** to the correctness of the foregoing Ordinance which was enacted on Third and Final Reading by the 12<sup>th</sup> Sangguniang Bayan of Moncada during its Regular Session held on the aforementioned date and place.

**VICTOR SANDINO S. MOLINA**

Municipal Government Department Head I  
Secretary to the Sanggunian

**ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED  
TO BE DULY ENACTED:**

**JESSIE E. AQUINO**

Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

**APPROVED BY HIS HONOR, THE MAYOR, THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August, 2025**

**RAMON BENITO M. AQUINO**

Municipal Mayor



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