

NO TO LOWERING **YES TO FULL** **IMPLEMENTATION**

STRENGTHEN THE LAW AND IMPLEMENT ITS PROVISIONS.

NO TO LOWERING THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY.

A TWELVE-YEAR OLD DOES NOT BELONG IN JAIL.

Proposed amendments run counter to the universally-recognized rights of children to protection as enshrined in the various international human rights instruments specifically by the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC).

The amendments should not punish the child; instead, it should address how to effectively implement the law and provide for stricter penalties to the duty bearers and State implementers who fail to execute the law.

To submit RA 9344 to amendments is premature considering that it hasn't even passed its infancy stage. This can be gleaned from the fact that the funding for this law has only been released this year, six (6) years after its conception and to the inability of the key stakeholders, who themselves allegedly do not understand the law and implementing the same.

The surge of crimes committed by minors cannot be blamed on the children themselves. The burden of finding solution to this dilemma should not be shifted to our minors who are pushed, forced, or even threatened to violate our laws but to the implementers of our laws. The pursuit of House of Representatives in lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility is no solution at all. Although the Senate deviated from this, its proposal to amend RA 9344 is still counterproductive.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND WELFARE ACT - RA NO. 9344

The first comprehensive legislation addressing the administration of Juvenile justice in the Philippines.

Six years since the JJWA took effect, several issues have been raised concerning its wisdom and challenges in its implementation which stirred clamor for its amendment both in the House of Representative and the Senate.

The most controversial aspect is the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR) which is raised from above nine to above 15 years old. Now majority of bills propose to lower the MACR to 12 years old.