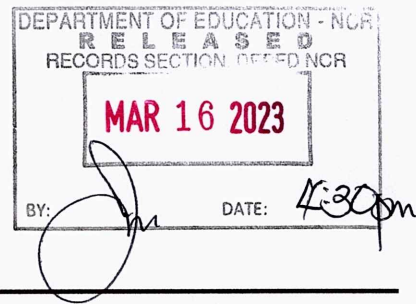




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION



CN-2023-3-3-1185

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

ORD-2023-157

TO : SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS

FROM : WILFREDO E. CABRAL, CESO III
Regional Director

SUBJECT : 2023 GIRL-CHILD WEEK CELEBRATION

DATE : February 28, 2023

1. This has reference to the attached Unnumbered Memorandum dated February 28 , 2023 from Angelo M. Tapales, Undersecretary for Council for the Welfare of Children, the contents of which are self-explanatory, for information and appropriate action.
2. Please see attached list of activities in the above-mentioned activity.
3. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.



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Doc. Ref. Code	RO-ORD-F005	Rev	00
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Republic of the Philippines
COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN

MEMORANDUM

FOR: NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS/NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, ACADEME, AND OTHER PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: 2023 GIRL-CHILD WEEK CELEBRATION

DATE: 28 FEBRUARY 2023

I. RATIONALE

By virtue of Proclamation No. 759, s. of 1996, the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), as the focal inter-agency body of the government for children in the Philippines, spearheads the Protection and Gender-Fair Treatment of the Girl Child Week or also known as the “Girl-Child Week” every 4th week of March. This week-long observance also supports the National Women’s Month celebration for the whole month of March, which highlights the theme “WE for gender equality and inclusive society” – a call to foster an inclusive society where change works for everyone regardless of gender, class, status, and culture.

The focus of the 2023 Girl-Child Week celebration **from March 25 to 31, 2023** is “**adolescent pregnancy**” with the theme “**Strong Girls, Strong World: Protecting Girls' Rights and Well-being in the Face of Adversity**”. This was determined through an online survey consultation with child representatives of the select National Steering Committee on Child Rights Advocacy (NSC-CRA) member agencies, and was selected by the panel of judges from CWC, Miriam College-Child Rights Advocacy Center, and the Regional Committee for the Welfare of Children-National Capital Region child representative.

Recently, the country declared adolescent pregnancy as a national emergency. In 2020, the Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) reported 56,428 live births among 10-to-17-year-old mothers, which were 10% lower than the 62,510 recorded in 2019, while 51 live births were recorded from girls aged 10 to 12 years old. Due to pregnancy, early parenthood, and reproductive work, adolescent mothers and fathers are forced to deprioritize their education and this may eventually prompt them to drop out of school. Consequently, this may lead to limited job opportunities and underemployment.

In this regard, CWC enjoins all government agencies and local government units through their respective Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point System (GFPS), civil society organizations/non-government organizations, academe, and other partner organizations to support the “**#StrongGirlsStrongWorldPH**” Campaign for the 2023 Girl-Child Week celebration. This includes conducting and supporting inclusive in-person, online, and hybrid activities which address underlying and socio-cultural factors influencing adolescent pregnancy, and engages everyone regardless of gender, class, status, and culture.



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The “**#StrongGirlsStrongWorldPH**” Campaign encourages public discourse and collective action to strengthen girls’ safety, protective behavior, and knowledge on adolescent sexual and reproductive health that are keys to the realization of their rights.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To generate critical awareness, promote public discourse, and interest in adolescent pregnancy, and the accessible measures and social protection programs for adolescent mothers and their children;
2. To facilitate learning and unlearning misconceptions, outdated perceptions, attitudes, and behavior change towards adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and adolescent mothers and fathers; and
3. To encourage collective action to address adolescent pregnancy at all levels of society.

III. IDEAS FOR GIRL-CHILD WEEK ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Agencies/organizations may consider conducting their 2023 Girl-Child Week organizational activity with the following recommendations:

SCHEDULE	ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION
March 27 to 31 (Monday to Friday)	In-person learning session or webinar on Bodily Autonomy	It aims to teach children that they are in control of their own bodies, the concept of safe and unsafe touch, respecting personal spaces, and how children can exercise and claim their right to make choices over their bodies and futures free from any form of violence or coercion.
March 27 to 31 (Monday to Friday)	In-person learning session or webinar on Adolescent Pregnancy	It aims to teach reproductive health and comprehensive sexuality education, debunking taboos, and strategies on how parents can effectively deliver their role in Adolescent Sexuality and Reproductive Health.
March 27 to 31 (Monday to Friday)	In-person learning session or webinar on Basic Self-defense Skills for Children	It aims to teach children the basic skills that will help them physically protect themselves from harm, and helplines they can report to in emergency situations.
March 27 (Monday)	#StrongGirlsStrongWorldPH Online Campaign	The CWC encourages individuals and organizations to join the online campaign by using the Girl Child Week photo frame in their profile pictures. The following are the steps to participate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the Girl Child Week photo frame on your Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter profile picture; 2. Write and customize our template caption: “I, (STATE YOUR NICKNAME), got the power to curb adolescent pregnancy this 2023 Girl-Child Week for a #StrongGirlsStrongWorldPH! <p style="text-align: center;"><i>I challenge (MENTION THREE OF YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA FRIENDS/ FOLLOWERS) to do the same.”</i></p>
March 29 (Wednesday)	#PowerPurple Wednesday Campaign	Organizations are enjoined to wear purple (or violet)-colored clothing on 29 March 2023



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SCHEDULE	ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION
		(Wednesday) to signify support on Girl-Child Advocacy Day.

IV. WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE GIRL-CHILD WEEK

- **Share/post** Girl-Child Week advocacy materials on the websites/official social media accounts;
- **Develop, produce, and distribute Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials** and other collaterals even those developed by CWC;
- **Conduct organizational activity** related to the focus and theme of the 2023 Girl-Child Week and submit activity details by emailing paio@cwc.gov.ph and pprd@cwc.gov.ph for inclusion in the week-long Calendar of Activities on or before **15 March 2023 (Wednesday)**; and
- **Support and participate** in all Girl-Child week-related activities nationwide.

V. ACCESS TO REFERENCE MATERIALS/COLLATERALS

To access and download **2023 Girl-Child Week materials/collaterals** (e.g. banner/ tarpaulin design, cover photo template, shirt design), please visit the following:

- **Google Drive:** bit.ly/2023GCWMaterials
- **CWC website:** www.cwc.gov.ph
- **Facebook Page:** fb.com/CWCgovph
- **Twitter Page:** [@CWC_govph](https://twitter.com/CWC_govph)
- **YouTube channel:** [CWChildrenOfficial](https://www.youtube.com/CWChildrenOfficial)

For your appropriate action.

USEC. ANGELO M. TAPALES
Executive Director V

Digitally signed by Tapaes Angelo Milan
Date: 2023.03.01 15:00:30 +08'00'

cac/glb/mva/pma/elb