

“WOMEN AND CHILDREN TRAFFICKING”

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A girl child in the Philippines is discriminated upon early in life due to culture based and family reinforced gender biases. For instance, despite her special nutritional needs in preparation as future mother and nurturer, the girl child is allotted less food than her father and her brothers. When money for education is scarce, her brothers are given the preference.

The Filipino girl takes the stereotyped role of her mother who is portrayed as an abused and submissive woman relegated to domestic work. Moreover, the public considers girls and women as sex objects and typifies them as club/bar entertainers, beauty pageant contestants, and racer or pornographic film stars.

The pejorative expectations that Filipino society has on women and children and compounded by problems of extreme poverty; massive labor export; globalization; porous borders; aggressive tourism campaigns; negative portrayal of women by mass media; pornography on-line and internet chat rooms; the practice of mail order brides; inter country adoption; and joint military exercises in the country with visiting forces from abroad. These factors cause women to become easy victims of self-trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation either in the Philippines or in the countries of destination.