



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

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Department of Labor and Employment
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
(OWWA)
PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION SEMINAR
(PDOS)

A D V I S O R Y

No. 09-004

All prospective overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and returning OFWs are reminded of cultural peculiarities in dealing with foreign nationals. Our penchant of overly expressing our friendliness / closeness through physical contact or “touching” (“*pagkalabit*” o “*pagyakap-yakap*” o “*paghawak-hawak*”) may be wrongfully interpreted as “sexual harassment” or “sexual advances” or uncalled for friendliness.

This advisory is being issued to prevent future repetition of such incident, which ended up with a female Filipino nurse in London, England being haled to court but was fortunately proven innocent of the charge of “*sexual harassment*”.

Carmelina F. Velasquez
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