

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, LOUIJEUNE,
ARROYO, BOK, BREADON, FLAHERTY, MEJIA, WORRELL AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MAHSA AMINI'S BIRTHDAY, SEPTEMBER 23ND, AS THE DAY OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO SELF EXPRESSION, BOSTON'S HIJAB DAY

WHEREAS, In many of the world's major religious groups, women wear head coverings. In Islam, which has the most followers of any faith other than Christianity, women may choose to wear a hijab; *and*

WHEREAS, For many Muslim women, the choice to wear a hijab and how they adorn themselves with said hijab is an intimate and personal decision that speaks to their relationship with God; *and*

WHEREAS, The choice to wear a head covering in the United States is unrestricted legally, though entrenched Islamophobia can still make this choice a precarious one. However, there are lawmakers around the world who have decided, through law, whether women are able to wear hijab or not; *and*

WHEREAS, Some governments, such as those in France and India, have banned head coverings in one way or another, and in Iran, the government has enacted strict laws mandating that women cover their hair in specific ways; *and*

WHEREAS, Mahsa Amini died in Iran's "morality police" custody after being detained for supposedly incorrectly wearing a hijab. Her arrest and subsequent death have sparked nationwide protests throughout Iran, leading to many more women being injured and detained while voicing their right to the freedom of self-expression; *and*

WHEREAS, The restriction on whether or not women can wear head coverings is a violation of women's rights. It is a tool used by governments to oppress and demoralize women, and in some cases, such as in Iran, it can be used as an excuse to imprison and possibly murder women; *and*

WHEREAS, Throughout history, women have been disenfranchised, marginalized, and oppressed, and throughout history, brave women have fought and died to oppose

their second-class status and to gain their liberation from patriarchy and entrenched male supremacy; *and*

WHEREAS, In Boston particularly, Muslim women, young and old, have experienced Islamophobia, anti-Muslim rhetoric, bullying, and attacks in schools, their workplace, on the street, and in their everyday lives. Muslim women should not have to fear wearing their hijab and being a Muslim in our city; *and*

WHEREAS, According to the Massachusetts Chapter of the Council on American- Islamic Relations, seventeen percent of hijab-wearing students have had their hijab pulled or have been physically harassed. And, thirty-three percent of Muslim students have altered their appearance, behavior, or names to hide the fact that they are Muslim; *and*

WHEREAS, Hijab is identified as a modest head covering that is decreed in the Islamic holy book, the Quran. Women across the world adorn hijab in numerous different ways. Some women may cover their faces with a niqab, or their whole body with a burka, among many other forms. Hijab is a personal form of worship that connects Muslim women with their God and cannot be forced upon by anyone; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston strives to be a bastion of freedom and democracy, and indeed, there is much in our City's history that we can be proud of. Hence, as the legislative body of Boston, we should attempt to give voice to the best elements of our Commonwealth. So it is the responsibility of this body to call for the freedom of women's self-expression to cover or not cover their hair, for the women of Iran and across the world; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: The City of Boston recognizes September 22nd, in honor of Mahsa Amini and in support of the women whose freedom to choose whether to cover, as the Day of Women's Right to Self-Expression.

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