

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, WEBER, WORRELL, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 1ST AS WORLD HIJAB DAY IN BOSTON

WHEREAS, World Hijab Day is an annual occurrence, founded by Nazma Khan in 2013 to honor hijab wearers and is honored each year in 140 countries worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Its purpose is to promote cultural and religious understanding by raising awareness about the hijab, a headscarf worn by some Muslim women for modesty; and

WHEREAS, The event aims to foster inclusivity, empower women who choose to wear the hijab and challenge stereotypes surrounding Islam. By encouraging dialogue, educational initiatives, and solidarity among diverse communities, Hijab Day seeks to celebrate the cultural richness and diversity within the Muslim community; and

WHEREAS, It provides a platform for individuals to learn, connect, and promote a more tolerant and accepting society where everyone can express their identities without facing prejudice or discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Namza Khan, a Bangladeshi-American, launched World Hijab Day (WHD) in 2013, to, in her words “raise awareness and normalize the wearing of hijab” and to foster a spirit of religious tolerance due to her personal experiences of facing “discrimination and bullying in school and university by being chased, spat upon, kicked, and called a terrorist; and

WHEREAS, Millions of hijab wearers the world over continue to face harmful and hateful acts of bigotry due to white supremacist and Islamophobic stereotypes; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, New York State recognized World Hijab Day, the House of Commons hosted an event for it attended by former UK Prime Minister Theresa May, and the Philippines approved recognizing National Hijab Day each February 1st to promote an understanding of Muslim tradition in 2021; and

WHEREAS, The day serves an important function in counterbalancing the profound ignorance that continues to abound in the non-Muslim world about what the wearing of the hijab signifies; and

WHEREAS, The message the day connotes is that the wearing of hijab should be a personal choice and that it loses its meaning when it is forced upon the wearer by a state authority; and

WHEREAS, Essentially, the wearing of hijab is a personal decision to be made by the individual and that it can function as an integral component of the wearer's spirituality and conformity with their religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, Any and all efforts made to spread awareness and to educate the masses of people as to the true meaning of hijab and what it symbolizes are valuable, particularly in our era of strife, conflict, and stereotypes; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council recognize, honor, and celebrate World Hijab Day on February 1st Annually in Boston

Filed on 1/31/2024