



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8590

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BY REPRESENTATIVES SEMA, SANGCOPAN, MENDING, PAPANDAYAN  
AND RODRIGUEZ (M.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 931

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AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST DAY OF FEBRUARY OF  
EVERY YEAR AS "NATIONAL HIJAB DAY"

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the  
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1           SECTION 1. *National Hijab Day.* – The first day of February  
2 of every year is hereby declared as "National Hijab Day".

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the role  
4 of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental  
5 equality before the law of women and men. The free exercise  
6 and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without  
7 discrimination and or preference, shall be forever allowed.

8           SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act,  
9 *hijab* refers to a veil that covers the head and chest, which is  
10 particularly worn by a Muslim female beyond the age of puberty in  
11 the presence of adult males outside of their immediate family. It  
12 may further refer to any head, face, or body covering worn by  
13 Muslim women that conform to a certain standard of modesty.

14           *Hijabi* refers to a Muslim woman wearing the *hijab*.

1           SEC. 4. *Objectives.* –

2           (a) To encourage Muslim and non-Muslim women to wear the  
3 *hijab* and experience the virtue of wearing it;

4           (b) To remove the misconception of wearing the *hijab* that has  
5 been misunderstood as a symbol of oppression, terrorism and lack of  
6 freedom;

7           (c) To stop discrimination against our Muslim women *hijabi*;

8           (d) To protect the freedom of religion and the right to practice  
9 the religion of our Muslim women;

10          (e) To promote and deepen understanding amongst  
11 non-Muslims on the value of wearing *hijab* as an act of modesty and  
12 dignity of Muslim women;

13          (f) Promote appreciation for diversity in expression of oneself  
14 and one's faith and religion; and

15          (g) Promote tolerance and acceptance of other lifestyles  
16 amongst the Filipino nation.

17          SEC. 5. *Awareness Program.* – The observance of “National  
18 Hijab Day” shall showcase Muslim women's *hijabis*' rights. Muslim  
19 and non-Muslim women alike are encouraged to don the *hijab* for  
20 one day. Government institutions, private sectors and schools are  
21 encouraged to observe this event in a manner that promotes  
22 understanding and awareness among its employees and students on  
23 the objectives of the campaign.

24          SEC. 6. *Implementing Agency.* – The National Commission  
25 on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) is hereby mandated as the lead  
26 agency in the observance of this event, in promoting and raising  
27 consciousness about *hijabis* in the Philippines. It shall conduct

1 activities that aim to deepen understanding of the *hijab* as a  
2 lifestyle choice amongst Muslim women. Towards this end, it may  
3 conduct fora, information dissemination campaign and other  
4 educational drive to effectively meet the objectives of this Act.

5       SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
6 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper  
7 of general circulation.

Approved,

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