

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8249

BY REPRESENTATIVES SANGCOPAN, BALINDONG, SINSUAT, DIMAPORO (M.K.), SAVELLANO,
DIMAPORO (A.), GUYA, ADIONG, HATAMAN AND NIETO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 693

**AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST DAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY
YEAR AS NATIONAL HIJAB DAY AND PROMOTING AN
UNDERSTANDING OF THE MUSLIM TRADITION OF WEARING A
HIJAB**

*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 of every year is
2 hereby declared as "National Hijab Day."
3
- 4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy*. The State recognizes the role of women in nation-
5 building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality of women and men before
6 the law. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship,
7 without discrimination and or preference, shall be forever allowed.
8
- 9 Sec 3. *Definition of Terms*. As used in this Act, "*hijab*" refers to a veil that
10 covers the head and chest, which is particularly worn by a Muslim female
11 beyond the age of puberty in the presence of adult males outside of their
12 immediate family. It may further refer to any head, face, or body covering worn
13 by Muslim women that conforms to a certain standard of modesty.
14
- 15 *Hijabi* refers to a Muslim woman wearing the hijab.

1 **Sec. 4. Objectives.**
2

- 3 a.) To encourage Muslim and non-Muslim women to wear the *hijab* and
4 experience the virtue in wearing it;
5 b.) To remove the misconception of wearing the hijab that has been
6 misunderstood as a symbol of oppression, terrorism and lack of freedom;
7 c.) To stop discrimination against Muslim *hijabi*;
8 d.) To protect the freedom of religion and the right of Muslim women to
9 practice their religion;
10 e.) To promote and deepen understanding amongst non-Muslims about the
11 value of wearing a *hijab* as an act of modesty and dignity of Muslim
12 women;
13 f.) To promote appreciation for diversity in expression of oneself and one's faith
14 and religion, and
15 g.) To promote tolerance and acceptance of other lifestyles amongst the
16 citizenry.
17

18 **Sec. 5. Awareness Program.** The National Hijab Day shall be observed on
19 every first day of February to showcase *Hijabis*' rights and the Muslim tradition
20 of wearing a *Hijab*. Muslim and non-Muslim women shall be encouraged to don
21 the *hijab* on this day.
22

23 Government institutions, schools, and the private sector shall be
24 encouraged to observe this event in a manner that promotes understanding and
25 awareness among its employees and students of the objective of the campaign.
26

27 **Sec. 6. Implementing Agency.** The National Commission on Muslim Filipinos
28 (NCMF) is hereby mandated as the lead agency in promoting and raising
29 consciousness about the practice of wearing a *hijab*. It shall conduct activities
30 that shall aim to deepen understanding of the *hijab* as a lifestyle choice amongst
31 Muslim women. Towards this end, it may conduct fora, information
32 dissemination campaigns and other educational drive to effectively meet the
33 objectives of this Act.
34

35 **Sec. 7. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
36 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
37

38 *Approved,*