

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



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**SENATE**  
**Senate Bill No. 1410**

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Prepared by the Committees on Cultural Communities and Muslim Affairs; and Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality with Senators Ejercito Estrada, Padilla, and Hontiveros as authors thereof.

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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. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as "National Hijab Day".
- 2           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State recognizes the role of women in  
3 nation-building and shall ensure the fundamental equality of women and men before  
4 the law. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without  
5 discrimination and or preference, shall forever be allowed.
- 6           Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act:
- 7           a) *Hijab* refers to a modest garment worn by Muslim women to cover the  
8 hair and neck; and
- 9           b) *Hijabi* refers to a Muslim woman wearing a *hijab*.
- 10          Sec. 4. *Objectives.* — The objectives of this Act are as follows:

- 1 a) To protect the freedom of religion and the right of Muslim women to  
2 practice their religion;
- 3 b) To prevent discrimination against *hijabis*;
- 4 c) To encourage women to show their solidarity by wearing *hijab* during  
5 the National Hijab Day;
- 6 d) To promote appreciation for diversity in the expression of oneself and  
7 one's faith and religion; and
- 8 e) To promote tolerance and acceptance of other lifestyles amongst the  
9 citizenry.

10 Sec. 5. *National Hijab Day*. — The first day of February of each year is hereby  
11 declared as the observance of National Hijab Day to foster solidarity with *hijabis* by  
12 encouraging the wearing of *hijab* by women in public.

13 Sec. 6. *Public Awareness*. — Government agencies, schools, and the private  
14 sector are encouraged to observe National Hijab Day in an appropriate manner that  
15 promotes the objectives of this Act through awareness activities.

16 Sec. 7. *Implementing Agency*. — The National Commission on Muslim Filipinos  
17 (NCMF) is hereby mandated as the lead agency in promoting and raising  
18 consciousness about the practice of wearing a hijab. Towards this end, it may conduct  
19 fora, information dissemination campaigns, and other educational drives to effectively  
20 meet the objectives of this Act.

21 Sec. 8. *Separability Clause*. — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
22 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall  
23 remain in force and effect.

24 Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause*. — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
25 order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this  
26 Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1           Sec. 10. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following  
2 its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,