Republic of the Philippines
# QUEZON CITY COUNCIL
Quezon City
22nd City Council

*PO22CC-300*

*107th Regular Session*

*ORDINANCE NO. SP-*3399*, S-2025*

*AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE FIRST DAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS "QUEZON CITY HIJAB AWARENESS DAY" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES*

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*Introduced by Councilor MARIA ELEANOR "Doc Ellie" R. JUAN, O.D.*

*Co-Introduced by Councilors Bernard R. Herrera, Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Dorothy A. Delarmente, M.D., Joseph P. Juico, Nikki V. Crisologo, Charm M. Ferrer, Fernando Miguel "Mikey" F. Belmonte, Candy A. Medina, Aly Medalla, Dave C. Valmocina, Tatay Rannie Z. Ludovica, Godofredo T. Liban II, Kate Galang-Coseteng, Geleen "Dok G" G. Lumbad, Albert Alvin "Chuckie" L. Antonio III, Don S. De Leon, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Atty. Anton L. Reyes, Edgar "Egay" G. Yap, Imee A. Rillo, Raquel S. Malañgen, Irene R. Belmonte, Nanette Castelo-Daza, Marra C. Suntay, Joseph Joe Visaya, Alfred Vargas, MPA, Ram V. Medalla, Shaira "Shay" L. Liban, Aiko S. Melendez, Mutya Castelo, Kristine Alexia R. Matias, RN, Eric Z. Medina, Emmanuel Banjo A. Pilar, Vito Sotto Generoso, Victor "Vic" Bernardo, Jose Maria M. Rodriguez and Jhon Angelli "Sami" C. Neri*

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*WHEREAS, Section 5, Article III of the 1987 Constitution provides that "No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed. No religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights";*

*WHEREAS, Section 11, Article II of the same Constitution guarantees equal protection for every Filipino, and prohibits discrimination of persons based on ethnicity, race, religion or belief, political inclination, social class, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, civil status, medical condition, or any other status in the enjoyment of rights. The fundamental law also declares that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;*

*WHEREAS, in line with the Goal 10 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this Ordinance aims to progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average. It also intends to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard, adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality, improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations, and facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies;*

*WHEREAS, according to the 2019 research conducted by Pew Research Center, the Islam religion is being practiced by approximately 1.75 billion people in the world and is estimated to grow to 3 billion in 2060;*

*WHEREAS, based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority, Islam ranks 2nd in the top three (3) religious affiliations in the Philippines, while the Muslim population in Quezon City is recorded at 36,599, which comprises about 1.24% of the total population of our City;*

*WHEREAS, Hijab, which is a visible and distinguishable expression of the Islamic faith, has been unjustifiably used as a source of discrimination and prejudice against Muslim women;*

*WHEREAS, February 1, 2013 marked the first annual World Hijab Day (WHD), founded by a Bangladeshi-New Yorker, Nazma Khan, in recognition of millions of Muslim women who choose to wear Hijab and live a life of modesty. This observance serves as a means to foster personal freedom of religious expression and cultural understanding by inviting women from all walks of life to experience the wearing of Hijab for one day every February 1st;*

*WHEREAS, despite the fact that this celebration was initiated almost a decade ago, Hijab awareness is relevant now more than ever as Muslim women are still facing serious challenges regarding the display of their faith through the wearing of Hijab;*

*WHEREAS, in order to foster inclusivity and cultural understanding in our City, the Quezon City Government deems it imperative to recognize thousands of Muslim women in our City, who choose to wear Hijab to promote freedom of religious expression and embody a life of modesty, by supporting the World Hijab Day movement.*

*NOW, THEREFORE,*

*BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:*

*SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. – This Ordinance shall be known as the "Quezon City Hijab Awareness Day Ordinance."*

*SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. – The Quezon City Government recognizes the role of women in nation-building and shall ensure the fundamental equality of women and men before the law. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination and or preference, shall always be allowed and respected.*

*SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:*

a. ***Hijab*** *– refers to a modest garment worn by Muslim women clearly defined by the Qur'an and Sunnah (Prophetic traditions), which includes a covering for the hair that extends to the chest; and*

b. ***Hijabi*** *– refers to a Muslim woman wearing a hijab.*

*SECTION 4. OBJECTIVES. – This Ordinance aims to declare the 1st day of February every year as Quezon City Hijab Day to promote tolerance and inclusivity so as to ensure the free exercise of Hijabis practicing their religion and to prevent discrimination against all hijabis in Quezon City.*

*SECTION 5. QUEZON CITY HIJAB AWARENESS DAY. – By virtue of this Ordinance, the 1st day of February of each year is hereby declared as the observance of the Quezon City Hijab Day to showcase Hijabis' rights and the Muslim tradition of wearing a Hijab.*

*SECTION 6. PUBLIC AWARENESS. – All public and private institutions, schools, and the private sector in Quezon City are encouraged to observe the Quezon City Hijab Day in an appropriate manner that promotes the objectives of this Ordinance through awareness activities and programs, which shall specifically discuss the relevance and the Muslim tradition of wearing a Hijab, as well as the Muslim women's right against discrimination.*

*SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY. – The Quezon City Bangsamoro Affairs Service Office and the Quezon City Gender and Development Council Office are hereby tasked to lead the implementation of the activities to be conducted in observance of the Quezon City Hijab Day. It shall conduct activities that aim to promote awareness and deepen understanding of the Hijab as a lifestyle choice amongst Muslim women in Quezon City. Towards this end, it may conduct, for information dissemination, campaigns and other educational drives to effectively meet the objectives of this Ordinance.*

*SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION. – The funds necessary for the implementation of the programs and activities, which will be undertaken in observance of the Quezon City Hijab Awareness Day, shall be taken from the annual five percent (5%) GAD budget or from any available funds of the City.*

*SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – Any portion or provision of this Ordinance that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying the other portions and provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.*

*SECTION 10. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.*

*SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.*

*ENACTED: February 10, 2025.*

GIAN G. SOTTO
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

*ATTESTED:*

ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)

APPROVED: MAR 07 2025

MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor

*CERTIFICATION*

*This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on February 10, 2025 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on February 17, 2025.*

ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)