

2015-J3733

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing February 1, 2016 as World Hijab Day

WHEREAS, The people of the United States and the great State of New York who come from a variety of backgrounds are united in certain foundational beliefs such as affirming the inherent dignity of all persons; the right of every person to be treated with respect; and the right of all citizens to practice their religion freely; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize Monday, February 1, 2016, as World Hijab Day to be celebrated on the steps of City Hall in New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Hijab, a traditional veil which covers a woman's hair and chest, has been very important to the history of Islam; it is believed to promote dignity and respect for women while maintaining modesty, and ensuring proper behavior; and

WHEREAS, World Hijab Day was started by Nezma Khan, a resident of the Bronx, as a day set aside for women who do not normally wear the Hijab, to try one on for the day; its purpose is to encourage religious tolerance, cultural understanding, and international solidarity; and

WHEREAS, Recently, there has been much discriminatory bias against Muslim women who wear the Hijab; there is also a perception in numerous countries that this way of dress is a threat to education, secularism, women's rights, public security and even freedom of religion itself; and

WHEREAS, Today, Muslim Hijabi women who live in the United States face many challenges; there have been several instances of personal attacks, and many have felt that they cannot go to work or attend school because of a fear of persecution for honoring their religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, To combat prejudice and bigotry, leaders in the American Muslim community are working tirelessly to show that the wearing of the

hijab is a choice, a freedom, and a blessing, as well as to educate their fellow citizens about Islam in ways which are relevant and meaningful; and

WHEREAS, One of America's great strengths as a society has been our ability to embrace different faiths and allow their members to express themselves freely; in this spirit, World Hijab Day encourages the wearing of the hijab as a proud display of religious faith and communal bonding which will make us stronger as a nation and more accepting of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor those important events which remind us of the rich and diverse heritage of our great State and Nation while encouraging greater religious tolerance and understanding in our communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize Monday, February 1, 2016 as World Hijab Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Nezma Khan, Founder, World Hijab Day.