

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 10-31

Recognizing 25 November

As

WHITE RIBBON DAY

Take that important stance, be it personal and or a public to end violence against women and girls, to Encourage and Empower women and girls to “Break the silence, and to End the violence.”

WHEREAS, the White Ribbon Campaign is the first **male-led campaign** to end violence against women and girls in the world. We encourage men and boys to take a stand and say that violence, in any form, is never acceptable;

WHEREAS, the White Ribbon Campaign recognize that most men do not commit acts of violence against women and girls. Yet by staying silent about this issue, we are allowing it to continue. The White Ribbon Campaign asks men to speak out against women and girls. Wearing a white ribbon is a **personal/public pledge that wearer does not condone, excuse or remain silent about violence against women and girls**; and

WHEREAS, the violence against women has commonly been considered a “women’s issue”, and whereas a critical issue that should be brought out and to the forefronts of issues in the communities. The White Ribbon Campaign believes that violence against women and girls will only end when men and women work together; and

WHEREAS, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is now widely recognized as a risk to human security and a potential de-stabilizing factor for communities and societies alike. It remains pervasive across the Pacific, and as it is still considered a sensitive issue in most Pacific cultures, its prevalence often goes underreported. There is an urgent need to acknowledge the prevalence of SGBV in the Pacific at all levels of the community, whether occurring in the domestic context or during conflict and post-conflict situations.

AND WHEREAS, the Ministry of Justice and the Bureau of Public Safety seeks and to raise awareness about this important issue and engage community in the prevention of violence; and to urge women and girls to begin to break the silence on this issue, and to further to seek to increase and promote improved public policies and improved services for support for those in need of them. We further seek to reduce the persistent stigma and discrimination that too often serve as barriers for people seeking services and supports.

THEREFORE, I, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau DO HEREBY PROCLAIM 25 NOVEMBER as “WHITE RIBBON DAY.” A day where Palauans comes together, united in the prevention of and to bringing and end to violence against women and girls. We seek to bring about the awareness that violence against women and girls is happening in our communities, in households throughout this nation. We further seek to amplify the urgency for all governmental and nongovernmental women organizations and agencies to work in concert with elected officials to legislate laws address this issue. Encourage appointed public officials to speak out, and to do everything they can to increase public awareness, and to abhor/oppose violence against women and girls in any form, to speak up and to break the silence that violence against women and girls is not condoned or nor accepted in our communities. **I FURTHER URGE ALL CITIZENS TO** join and support the local, state, national, and nongovernmental organizations that are working to promote awareness and of speaking of and to breaking the silence against violence against women and girls a predominant issue in discussion in our communities across Palau.

Together and united for cause, to encourage and empower women and girls to “Break the silence, End the violence.” We can, and will make a difference, in cutting back and stopping potential acts of violence against women and girls in our communities! Support, take pride in your decision to make the conscientious choice to “Break the silence, End the violence against women and girls”, by wearing a White Ribbon, personal/public declaration that I do not condone, will not excuse, and will not remain silent about violence against women and girls.

SO PROCLAIMED this 24th day of November 2010, at the Capitol, Melekeok State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau