

Presidential Proclamation No. 11-55

Recognizing 25 November As

WHITE RIBBON DAY

To Encourage all residents of Palau, “To make a choice, to take a stand to end and to bring an end to all violence against women and girls, a stance that you can be proud off”, 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. The White Ribbon Campaign encourages men and boys to take a stand and say that violence in any form, is never acceptable; and

WHEREAS, the White Ribbon Campaign recognizes 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 violence against women and girls. Wearing a white ribbon is a personal yet public pledge that the wearer does not condone, excuse or remain silent about violence against women and girls, and

WHEREAS, violence against women has commonly been considered a “women’s issue”. 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 seek to raise awareness about this important issue, to engage the community in the prevention of violence against women and girls; to urge men and boys and women and girls to begin to break the silence on this issue; to increase and promote improved public policies and improved services for the

support for those in need of them; and to reduce the persistent stigma and discrimination that too often serve as barriers for people seeking services and support.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Johnson Toribiong, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau DO HEREBY PROCLAIM 25 November as “WHITE RIBBON DAY. A day where Palauans come together, united in the prevention of and bringing to an end violence against women and girls.

SO PROCLAIMED this 25th of November, 2011 at Ngerulmud, Republic of Palau.

for _____ */s/*
Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau