

Presidential Proclamation No. 13-100

To Proclaim November 25, 2013 as White Ribbon Day, a day in which men shall lead the fight against violence against women and children.

WHEREAS, the White Ribbon Campaign is the first male-led campaign to end violence against women and children in the world; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to encourage men and boys to take a stand 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 children, but by staying silent about violence against women and children men are implicitly allowing such violence to continue; and

WHEREAS, the White Ribbon Campaign asks men, young and old, to speak out against violence against women and children by wearing a white ribbon as a public pledge that wearer does not condone, excuse, and will not remain silent about violence against women and children; and

WHEREAS, violence against women and children has historically been considered a “family thing” or a “women’s issue”, but it is not; violence against women and children is a societal issue that requires a societal response in order to ensure that all of our people live free of violence; and

WHEREAS, violence against women and children remains a de-stabilizing threat to our community and society as a whole; therefore, it is a critically important issue that must be brought to the forefront of discussions in communities; and

WHEREAS, the White Ribbon Campaign believes that violence against women and children will end when men and women work together in publicizing the issue; and

WHEREAS, violence against women and children should be recognized as a risk to human security and a potential de-stabilizing factor for families, communities, and societies alike; and

WHEREAS, violence against women and children is pervasive across the Pacific, and there is an urgent need to acknowledge the prevalence of violence against women and children in the Pacific at all levels of the community; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., the 9th President of the Republic of Palau, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM November 25, 2013 as “White Ribbon Day”, a day where Palauans come together, led by men, united in the prevention of, and to bringing about the end of, violence against women and children; and

I FURTHER PROCLAIM that violence against women and children is not a part of Palauan traditions and culture, and that Palauan tradition and culture does not condone or endorse any type of violence against women and children; and

I FURTHER URGE elected and appointed public officials and community leaders to speak out and do everything that they can from their position of leadership to increase public awareness about violence against women and children, and to oppose all forms of violence against women and children, including any perceived notion that Palauan tradition or culture makes violence against women and children appropriate; and

I FURTHER URGE all citizens and residents alike to make the issue of violence against women and children a predominant issue of discussion in our communities across the Republic; and

I FURTHER URGE all citizens and residents, especially men, to wear a White Ribbon as a public declaration that: “I do not condone, I will not excuse, and I will not remain silent about violence against women and children in my community.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this November 20, 2013:

/s/
His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau