



SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 22-035

**PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND SUPPORTING THE
CHOICE OF RELIGIOUS GARB**

WHEREAS, religious freedom is a core American value, and Snohomish County supports religious freedom for each and every one of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County is a welcoming and inclusive environment for people of all religious backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County has a vibrant American Muslim community that has endured attacks against its religious freedom, including attempts to prevent them from building a religious place of worship; and

WHEREAS, American Muslims in Snohomish County, like all other residents, should have the freedom to pray as they see fit, and build a place of worship like any other religious community; and

WHEREAS, some Muslim women choose to wear the hijab or head covering, and do so for different reasons depending on the individual, including to maintain modesty, as an expression of Muslim identity, and/or as a religious symbol or requirement; and

WHEREAS, American Muslim women in Snohomish County who choose to wear the hijab are valued and contributing members of the County; and

WHEREAS, recent and continued crackdowns on hijab or religious clothing in other countries like India and France are inconsistent with American values and the values of Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, American Muslims in Snohomish County, like all other residents, should have the freedom to make personal choices about their clothing and religious garb, including the choice to wear or not wear a hijab; and

WHEREAS, the County welcomes and supports those residents who choose to wear religious head coverings, whether those are Muslim hijabs, Sikh turbans, Jewish kippahs, Catholic habits, or other modes of religious head coverings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Snohomish County Council hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. Residents shall have the right and freedom to pray as they see fit, and to build places of worship in accordance with the law.

Section 2. Each resident shall have the right and freedom to wear religious head coverings as they choose, and the County welcomes people regardless of whether or not they wear religious head coverings.

APPROVED this 25th day of May, 2022.

Megan Dunn
Council Chair

Jared Mead
Council Vice-Chair

Stephanie Wright
Councilmember

Nate Nehring
Councilmember

ATTEST:

Debbie Eco, CMC
Clerk of the Council