



*San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women  
Resolution Supporting the Hosting of the  
United Nations 5th World Conference on Women 2015 in San Francisco*

*BE IT KNOWN that the Commission on the Status of Women of the City and County of San Francisco hereby issues, and authorizes the execution, by the subscribing Commissioners, of the following resolution:*

*WHEREAS, In the immediate aftermath of World War II, a time of great turmoil and global chaos, San Francisco was selected by then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the venue for the United Nations Conference for International Organization, held on April 25, 1945, where 50 nations came together to draft the United Nations Charter which was signed at the War Memorial Veterans Building on June 26, 1945, earning San Francisco the prized title of being the "Birthplace of the United Nations;" and,*

*WHEREAS, In 1998, San Francisco became the first city in the world to enact a local ordinance reflecting the principles of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), an international bill of rights for women which 186 out of 192 members states are parties to, with the glaring exception of the United States, and whose historic enactment was detailed in the 2004 Ford Foundation publication Close to Home: Case Studies of Human Rights Work in the United States so that the issue of human rights could be understood within a U.S. domestic context; and*

*WHEREAS, The landmark CEDAW Ordinance has formed the basis for groundbreaking work of this Commission, including the gender analyses of 7 City Departments, the first comprehensive report on the status of girls in San Francisco, a report on work-life balance policies within City government, a project on gender budgeting; innovative programmatic and policy responses to violence against women; and,*

*WHEREAS, The policy work arising from the unique partnership among the sponsors of the Gender Equality Principles Initiative, Calvert Asset Management, Verite, and the Department on the Status of Women, and their partners, including Deloitte, Symantec, and other major employers, has attracted the attention of the U.N. Global Compact, and, ultimately, led to the incorporation of the keystone principles into the U.N. Women's Empowerment Principles launched in March 2010; and this work earned the City and County of San Francisco the prestigious 2010 Americas Award by the UN Institute for Training and Research, the multilateral Organization of American States, and the Jimmy Carter Center; and*

*WHEREAS, Additionally, San Francisco has announced plans to house the U.N. Global Compact Center at the former location of the Hunters Point Shipyard to promote even greater public-private partnerships in support of the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals, and create a space for international exchange outside of existing conference facilities in Geneva, Switzerland, and New York City; and,*

*WHEREAS, In March 2008, the Commission adopted a resolution calling for planning to commence on the 5th World Conference on Women which was forwarded to the U.N. Secretary-General's office through the Women's Intercultural Network; and*

*WHEREAS, The tradition of United Nations World Conferences on Women began in Mexico City in 1975, heralded as the International Year of the Woman to launch the U.N. Decade for Women; the U.N. General Assembly identified three key objectives that would become the basis for the U.N.'s work on behalf of women:*

- Full gender equality and the elimination of gender discrimination;*
- The integration and full participation of women in development;*
- An increased contribution by women in the strengthening of world peace ;*

*at this inaugural conference, there were 113 official delegations and 4,000 people representing non-governmental organizations (NGO) who, together, issued a World Plan of Action with measurable targets in these areas, to be achieved in 10 years; and,*

*WHEREAS, The Second World Conference on Women was convened in Copenhagen in 1980, immediately following the historic adoption of the CEDAW by the U.N. General Assembly in December 1979, and focused on the disparity between women's guaranteed rights and actual practices in the areas of education, employment, and health care; and the Copenhagen Program of Action called for expanding national measures to ensure women's property ownership, access to rightful inheritances, child custody, and citizenship rights; and challenged the continued stereotyping of women in society; and,*

*WHEREAS, The Third World Conference in Nairobi in 1985, attended by 1,400 official delegates of 157 countries and 15,000 NGO representatives, assessed the U.N. Decade for Women, 1975 - 1985, and concluded that much work remained to be done in achieving initial goals of equality, development, and peace; and, despite significant differences in political opinion, economic security, and language/culture, participants unanimously adopted the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, a 15-year action plan that made explicit the need to eradicate violence against women in order to achieve and maintain peace; and,*

*WHEREAS, The Fourth World Conference in Beijing in 1995 drew 180 government delegations and 2,500 non-governmental groups totalling 35,000 women from across the globe, to discuss the status of women and human rights worldwide and, ultimately, announce the historic Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action that formed the basis for the enactment of the San Francisco CEDAW Ordinance; and,*

*WHEREAS, San Francisco is at the forefront of the movement for human sustainability focused on creating a world where all people, regardless of gender, race, or other social characteristics, thrive and contribute to the further development of society;*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** That the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women supports most enthusiastically the hosting of the United Nations 5th World Conference on Women 2015 in San Francisco and urges our Congressional Delegation and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to work with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice so that she may secure the necessary support among U.N. Member States to bring the landmark conference to San Francisco.

*Kay Gulbengay*  
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Kay Gulbengay, President

*Rebecca Proveda*  
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*Julie Soo*  
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March 23, 2011