



**SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN**

FACT SHEET

United Nations
Fifth World Conference on Women 2015

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On March 8, 2012, International Women's Day, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and United Nations President of the General Assembly Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar welcomed the proposal that, 20 years after the landmark 1995 United Nations World Conference on Women was held in Beijing (1995), such a UN conference should be organized in 2015. It would be the Fifth United Nations World Conference on Women (5WCW). The San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women has proposed that San Francisco host the landmark event.

How did the idea start? The first World Conference on Women was held 1975 in Mexico City, followed by Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985), and Beijing (1995).

Why does it matter? There are indications that rights and opportunities for women have stalled. A fifth world conference could tackle issues centrally involving women, including violence, civil rights, political participation, military issues (UN Security Council Resolution 1325), equal access to decent work, and rural issues. The meeting could also cover aid effectiveness, food security, human trafficking, drugs, migration, environment, climate change and information technology, all of which impact women and their communities. In short, the conference will define the agenda for human sustainability in the 21st Century.

Why is San Francisco involvement important? Because of our people, policies, and place in the world. 5WCW is a next step of a San Francisco and California diplomatic renaissance. With some of the world's most powerful women, and the only municipal department on women, we consciously drive innovation on women empowerment and seek to broker worldwide advancement of women. We are the birthplace of the UN in 1945 and host of the 2011 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit process resulting in the *San Francisco Declaration on Women and the Economy*. We have the capacity and the passion for success.

What's it going to take to bring it here? The UN General Assembly must approve the proposal and formalize logistics. Concurrently, the City of San Francisco will develop a hosting plan, coalesce support, and secure funding.

Who's on board? Prominent women behind 5WCW include Isabelle Allende, Gloria Steinem, and Alice Walker. Over 13,000 people have signed a petition hosted by San Francisco Bay Area women's rights leader Dr. Jean Shinoda Bolen. With backing of Mayor Ed Lee, the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women has formed a significant steering committee and secured the pro bono support of Deloitte to staff a strategy team. The Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women has also endorsed the effort.

What do you hope to accomplish? Diplomatic influence, policy convergence, international connections, and economic impact.

How big is the conference? The conference will attract over 20,000 attendees from across the globe.

How will it be funded? A combination of philanthropy, grants, sponsorships, and registration fees.

When is it planned? Summer 2015 at the Moscone Center.