[Resolution to Support the Erection of the Comfort Women Statue in St. Mary’s Square]

Resolution supporting the memorialization of comfort women and other atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial Army during the 2nd World War.

WHEREAS, the Japanese Imperial Army committed countless atrocities across the Asian continent ranging from human experimentation by Unit 731 and Unit 100 of the Japanese military to massacres in Manila, Philippines and Nanjing, China to name a few[^9,^10,^11,^12]; and

WHEREAS, there were as many as 200,000 women and girls taken from occupied countries such as Korea, China, the Philippines, which constituted a majority of the comfort women population, and smaller groups originated from other Asian countries, and even places like Australia and the Netherlands, where they were used in brothels during World War II by the Japanese military[^1]; and

WHEREAS, Tokyo refuses to admit atrocities committed in formerly-occupied countries and the events are not taught in their schools[^8]; and

WHEREAS, the statue was created by Californian Steven Whyte[^1]; and

WHEREAS, the statue depicts three young girls and a grandmother figure[^1]; and

WHEREAS, it was first unveiled in St. Mary’s Square on September 22nd, 2017[^1]; and

WHEREAS, the population of comfort women survivors are diminishing every year; 35 reported South Korean survivors are alive today[^4], in a 2016 report conducted by BBC 70 reported

[^9]: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/223038.stm
[^11]: http://unit731.org/experiments/
Filipina survivors are alive today[13], while there are only two comfort women survivors living in Taiwan, China[14]; and

WHEREAS, survivors are running out of time for the reparations and apologies they so long seek[5]; and

WHEREAS, although in 1993 an apology was issued by Japan and a fund was created for the survivors, the fund relied on private donors and was never fully accepted by the South Korean government[1,3]; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 South Korea and Japan came to an agreement that Japan would make an apology, and a promise of $8.3 million dollars to a foundation used to care for the survivors, and South Korea agreed to never criticize Japan over the issue again[1,3]; and

WHEREAS, the agreement has been criticized by activist groups as they were not consulted enough, and many Koreans want the decision reversed[1,5]; and

WHEREAS, survivors are still haunted by their experiences: “It was my first time and that experience really caused me so much pain… I cooked for and prepared the needs of Captain Sakuma in the morning, while at night he would lie beside me and forced me to make love with him. I did not put up any resistance every time he would have sex with me, because I was afraid of being hurt. After he was through, I would go to the [lavatory] and douche myself.” -Ma Fe Yabut Santillan, the Philippines[6]; "I don't remember how many men came in. At one point I felt a sudden pain so I fought back. The soldier got angry. He held my head and banged it really hard into the table and I lost consciousness[15]." -Estellita Jose, the Philippines; and

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5 http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/05/30/529671510/not-all-south-koreans-satisfied-with-japans-apology-to-comfort-women
6 http://maywespeak.com/?page_id=981
WHEREAS, the survivors are not only psychologically tormented by their experiences, but
some were physically harmed like having their uteruses removed[7]; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s sister city Osaka, Japan has threatened to sever ties with San
Francisco over the statue, calling the issue “Japan-bashing” and “a one-sided view”[1,2]; and

WHEREAS, 40 statues dedicated to the same message of memorializing Japan’s wartime sex
slaves have been erected in South Korea, and 10 in the United States including Virginia, New Jersey,
and Southern California[1]; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the threats by San Francisco’s sister city Osaka will not deter the San
Francisco Youth Commission from standing on the side of truth; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission encourages the Board of Supervisors
and Mayor Ed Lee to encourage the Japanese government to recognize all atrocities committed by the
Japanese Imperial Army during WWII; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission stands by the freedom to express
oneself including through the use of art; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission encourages the Board of Supervisors
and Mayor Ed Lee to encourage the Mayor of Osaka to rethink his threats to sever ties with San
Francisco and to resolve this through open dialogue between our sister cities.

Chiara Lind, Chair, 2017-18 Youth Commission
Adopted on December 4, 2017