

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

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

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

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

11 WHEREAS, Tokyo refuses to admit atrocities committed in formerly-occupied countries and the  
 12 events are not taught in their schools<sup>[8]</sup>; and

13 WHEREAS, the statue was created by Californian Steven Whyte<sup>[1]</sup>; and

14 WHEREAS, the statue depicts three young girls and a grandmother figure<sup>[1]</sup>; and

15 WHEREAS, it was first unveiled in St. Mary's Square on September 22nd, 2017<sup>[1]</sup>; and

16 WHEREAS, the population of comfort women survivors are diminishing every year; 35  
 17 reported South Korean survivors are alive today<sup>[4]</sup>, in a 2016 report conducted by BBC 70 reported  
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9 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/223038.stm>

22 10 <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/09/02/world/japanese-veteran-writes-of-brutal-philippine-war.html?mcubz=1>

23 11 <http://unit731.org/experiments/>

24 12 <http://www.nytimes.com/1995/03/17/world/unmasking-horror-a-special-report-japan-confronting-gruesome-war-atrocity.html?pagewanted=all&mcubz=1>

25 1 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/09/21/why-japan-is-losing-its-battle-against-statues-of-colonial-era-comfort-women/?utm\\_term=.d06657d1d580](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/09/21/why-japan-is-losing-its-battle-against-statues-of-colonial-era-comfort-women/?utm_term=.d06657d1d580)

8 <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-21226068>

4 <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/south-korea-world-longest-protest-comfort-women-170908024721239.html>

1 Filipina survivors are alive today<sup>[13]</sup>, while there are only two comfort women survivors living in Taiwan,  
2 China<sup>[14]</sup>; and

3 WHEREAS, survivors are running out of time for the reparations and apologies they so long  
4 seek<sup>[5]</sup>; and

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, survivors are still haunted by their experiences: "It was my first time and that  
14 experience really caused me so much pain... I cooked for and prepared the needs of Captain Sakuma  
15 in the morning, while at night he would lie beside me and forced me to make love with him. I did not  
16 put up any resistance every time he would have sex with me, because I was afraid of being hurt. After  
17 he was through, I would go to the [lavatory] and douche myself." -Ma Fe Yabut Santillan, the  
18 Philippines<sup>[6]</sup>; "I don't remember how many men came in. At one point I felt a sudden pain so I fought  
19 back. The soldier got angry. He held my head and banged it really hard into the table and I lost  
20 consciousness<sup>[15]</sup>," -Estellita Jose, the Philippines; and  
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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-36537605>

24 <sup>14</sup> <http://en.people.cn/n3/2017/0814/c90000-9254976.html>

25 <sup>5</sup> <http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/05/30/529671510/not-all-south-koreans-satisfied-with-japans-apology-to-comfort-women>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/29/world/asia/comfort-women-south-korea-japan.html?mcubz=1><sup>[3]</sup>

<sup>6</sup> [http://maywespeak.com/?page\\_id=981](http://maywespeak.com/?page_id=981)

1 WHEREAS, the survivors are not only psychologically tormented by their experiences, but  
2 some were physically harmed like having their uterus removed<sup>[7]</sup>; and

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


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

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

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

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

15 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission encourages the Board of Supervisors  
16 and Mayor Ed Lee to encourage the Mayor of Osaka to rethink his threats to sever ties with San  
17 Francisco and to resolve this through open dialogue between our sister cities.  
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21 Chiara Lind, Chair, 2017-18 Youth Commission  
22 Adopted on December 4, 2017  
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7 <http://news.trust.org/slideshow/?id=8b7369dd-247d-4f66-ba19-45797760b647>

2 <http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/diplomacy/article/2113015/it-japan-bashing-osaka-may-sever-sister-city-ties-san-francisco>