

1 [Resolution Endorsing the United Nations Principle of the Responsibility to Protect.]  
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3 **Resolution Endorsing the United Nations Principle of the Responsibility to Protect.**  
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5 **WHEREAS**, On September 16, 2005 at the World Summit of the United Nations  
6 General Assembly, the United States of America and the other Members of the United  
7 Nations embraced the principle of the responsibility to protect according to which, "[e]ach  
8 individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes,  
9 ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of  
10 such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. We  
11 accept that responsibility and will act in accordance with it. The international community  
12 should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility and support  
13 the United Nations in establishing an early warning capability" (U.N. Document A/RES/60/1,  
14 par. 138 (2005)); and  
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16 **WHEREAS**, The United States of America and other Members of the United Nations  
17 further agreed that, "[t]he international community, through the United Nations, also has the  
18 responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in  
19 accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter, to help to protect populations from  
20 genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. In this context, we are  
21 prepared to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security  
22 Council, in accordance with the Charter, including Chapter VII, on a case by case basis and in  
23 cooperation with relevant regional organizations as appropriate, should peaceful means be  
24 inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to protect their populations from  
25 genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. We also intend to

1 commit ourselves, as necessary and appropriate, to helping States build capacity to protect  
2 their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity  
3 and to assisting those which are under stress before crises and conflicts break out" (U.N.  
4 Document A/RES/60/1, par. 139 (2005)); and

5 **WHEREAS**, On April 28, 2006, the United Nations Security Council reaffirmed the  
6 provisions of paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document  
7 regarding the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing  
8 and crimes against humanity (U.N. Document S/RES/1674 (2006), par. 4); and

9 **WHEREAS**, The principle of the responsibility to protect now reflects the commitment  
10 of all the Members of the United Nations to determine means to protect populations from the  
11 deadly and devastating consequences of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes  
12 against humanity (hereinafter "atrocities crimes"); and

13 **WHEREAS**, Efforts by the United Nations and individual nations to prevent and  
14 respond to atrocity crimes and thus protect populations have far too often failed or not even  
15 been attempted, with the result since 1945 that millions of innocent civilians have lost their  
16 lives or been wounded or displaced and their property and livelihoods destroyed; and

17 **WHEREAS**, In the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, the United States of  
18 America has accepted its responsibility to protect its own population from atrocity crimes and  
19 should continue acting in accordance with this principle; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The continued commission of atrocity crimes and the likely future threat of  
21 them is morally intolerable and unacceptable; and

22 **WHEREAS**, At other times in the history of the City and County of San Francisco and  
23 of the United States, such abominations as slavery and the denial of basic civil and voting  
24 rights to all citizens have been rendered illegal and to significant degrees eliminated through  
25 the concerted actions of concerned citizens, civil society, the courts, and state and national

1 lawmakers and leaders; and

2           **WHEREAS**, In the City and County of San Francisco there reside many citizens who  
3 have fled from atrocity crimes, for whom the City of San Francisco provides services and  
4 various forms of support, as well as many thousands of relatives of victims of the atrocity  
5 crimes that have occurred in other countries who seek effective policies by the United States  
6 and other nations to help protect their surviving relatives; and

7           **WHEREAS**, The moral imperative of the responsibility to protect is inescapable and it  
8 reflects the highest American values of freedom, humanitarian care, and the preservation of  
9 the lives of innocent non combatant men, women, and children; and

10           **WHEREAS**, The United States of America, as one of the most powerful and influential  
11 country in the world, has the moral duty and capacity to lead in domestic, in multinational  
12 initiatives and in the United Nations Security Council to prevent and respond rapidly to protect  
13 populations from the commission of atrocity crimes; and

14           **WHEREAS**, The citizens of the City and County of San Francisco contribute men and  
15 women and financial resources to the U.S. Armed Forces and elect Members of Congress  
16 and, with other citizens, the President and Vice President of the United States, and strongly  
17 believe that these public officials and their subordinates have profound responsibilities, to use  
18 every possible legal means, under both federal and international law, to protect populations  
19 from atrocity crimes; now, therefore, be it

20           **RESOLVED**, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
21 strongly urges the President and Congress to commit the leadership of the United States  
22 Government to effective implementation of the World Summit Outcome declaration on the  
23 responsibility to protect, and to do so in part through strengthening the preventive early  
24 warning capabilities of the federal government and the United Nations, and to develop  
25 strategies and policies as outlined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (U.N.

1 Document A/RES/60/1) and in the Security Council Resolution 1674 (2006) to ensure that the  
2 responsibility to protect populations has both credible meaning and effect, and that the United  
3 States is in the forefront of its domestic and global application; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
5 Francisco urges the President of the United States to initiate discussions with the permanent  
6 and non permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the members of the  
7 United Nations General Assembly and in separate forums with the governments of the North  
8 Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, the African Union, the Organization of  
9 American States, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations respectively, to develop  
10 coordinated strategies for regional efforts to implement the responsibility to protect, and that  
11 Congress should express its full support for these discussions by joint resolution; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President and  
13 Vice President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of State, the U.S. Secretary of  
14 Defense, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of  
15 Representatives, each member of the United States Conference of Mayors, each member of  
16 the California State Senate and Assembly, and the U.S. Permanent Representative to the  
17 United Nations.

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