[Opposing India’s Exclusionary National Register of Citizens and Citizenship Amendment Act]

Resolution opposing India’s exclusionary National Register of Citizens and Citizenship Amendment Act and reaffirming San Francisco as a welcoming city, expressing the City and County of San Francisco’s Board of Supervisors’ solidarity with San Francisco’s South Asian community regardless of religion and caste.

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports Universal Human Rights for all peoples and opposes racial, casteist, religious, ethnic and nationalist discrimination; and

WHEREAS, The nation of India was founded as a secular republic in which members of all nationalities, ethnicities, castes, races, and religious faiths are welcome, and India and the United States share common values and bonds: Democracy, the Rule of Law, and the Protection of Human Rights and Liberty; and

WHEREAS, In August 2019, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a Hindu extremist government published an updated National Register of Citizens (NRC), forcing nearly 33 million people in the northeastern state of Assam to prove with documentary evidence their Indian citizenship or face detention at mass prisons and detention camps that the Indian government is constructing and filling; and

WHEREAS, Most Indians lack documentation such as birth certificates to prove citizenship and a nationwide expansion of the NRC will strip tens of millions of people (disproportionately Muslim, caste oppressed, women, indigenous and LGBTQ communities) out of their citizenship rights with no option to be re-naturalized; and

WHEREAS, On December 11, 2019, the Indian parliament, under the leadership of the BJP government, passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which the BJP government
falsely claims will help refugees fleeing religious persecution from neighboring countries, but in fact blatantly discriminates, allowing the NRC to be updated in relation to the National Population Register for citizenship based on religion, excluding Muslim people; and

WHEREAS, The New York Times reported on December 22, 2019, that “The Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah, has vowed in speeches to expand the checks used in Assam to other states and then use the citizenship law to purge India of ‘infiltrators’ and ‘termites’;” and

WHEREAS, The NRC and CAA will create a massive refugee and health crisis at a time that the United Nations is trying to cope with refugees all over the world; and

WHEREAS, Protests in India against the CAA and NRC in December 2019 have faced repression including reports that in the state of Uttar Pradesh police fatally fired live ammunition at demonstrators and arrested thousands; and

WHEREAS, The BJP government of India has been criticized by the United Nations for its human rights record on minorities; and

WHEREAS, In its 2020 report, The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has designated India as a Country of "Particular Concern" (CPC), stating that the country is "engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations;" and

WHEREAS, President Trump’s bigoted policies within the U.S. including discriminating on religious grounds, targeting vulnerable communities, stripping citizenship, fabricating crises, and stoking hatred, have been mirrored by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Hindu extremist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, and their alarming ideology that Hindus are racially and culturally superior to others; and

WHEREAS, The CAA, NPR and NRC are inconsistent with San Francisco’s values and history as a welcoming city for South Asian communities of all castes and creeds; and
WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors believes it is the duty of ordinary people to oppose the dangerous rise of the far right everywhere in the world and believes that the human rights record of the BJP government in India is of concern, not only to the millions of Muslims, caste oppressed, women, indigenous, and LBGTQ people in India, but also to San Francisco's South Asian immigrant community; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors condemn President Trump's support for the repressive and discriminatory actions of the BJP government and refusal to denounce violence, those inciting violence, and those officials evading their duties to keep order and peace; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors reaffirms San Francisco as a welcoming city and expresses solidarity with San Francisco’s South Asian community regardless of religion and caste; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors opposes the Citizenship Amendment Act, the National Population Register, and the National Register of Citizens in India, which together are discriminatory to Muslims, caste oppressed, women, indigenous peoples, and the LGBTQ community and any other efforts that render vulnerable populations anywhere to become stateless, scapegoated, and targeted for discrimination, violence, and the abrogation of human rights that are universal to one and all; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, to safeguard our democratic values and national security interests, calls on and urges other municipalities and the United States Congress to join them in the call for the Parliament of India to uphold the Indian Constitution by repealing the Citizenship Amendment Act, stop the National Register of Citizens, close all detention facilities detaining de-naturalized citizens, take steps towards helping refugees by ratifying various UN treaties on refugees, explore U.S. and U.N. sanctions; and to:
a) Respect the human rights of all people and adhere to international human rights law,

b) Condemn, at the highest levels, all religiously motivated violence, including violence which targets religious minorities, and

c) Prosecute anyone actively inciting violence, including violence against peaceful protestors and journalists; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to the members of Congress from San Francisco and the United States Senators from California with a request to take all action necessary to achieve the objectives of this Resolution.
Resolution opposing India’s exclusionary National Register of Citizens and Citizenship Amendment Act and reaffirming San Francisco as a welcoming city, expressing the City and County of San Francisco’s Board of Supervisors’ solidarity with San Francisco’s South Asian community regardless of religion and caste.

July 21, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 200771

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 7/21/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor

Date Approved: 07/31/2020

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date: 07/31/2020