

1 [Declaring Gender-Based Shelter, Affordable Housing, and Support Services as Proven  
2 Safety and Prevention Tools During National Human Trafficking Prevention Month - January  
3 2024]

4 **Resolution declaring gender-based shelter, affordable housing, and support services**  
5 **as proven safety and prevention tools during National Human Trafficking Prevention**  
6 **Month, January 2024, and urging City Departments to prioritize resource coordination**  
7 **and investments into safe shelter, affordable housing, and wrap-around services**  
8 **specifically for women and women-identified survivors of domestic abuse, sexual**  
9 **exploitation and violence, human trafficking, and street entrapment and trauma.**

10  
11 WHEREAS, Every year since 2010, the President of the United States of America has  
12 dedicated the month of January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, to raise  
13 awareness about human trafficking, and to educate the public as to how to recognize it and as  
14 to what local, state, and federal agencies are doing to combat and prevent human trafficking;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In 2000, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act enshrined the United States'  
17 commitment to combating human trafficking domestically and internationally, on file with the  
18 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 240069, which is hereby declared to be a part of  
19 this Resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

20 WHEREAS, On March 15, 2023, The Department on the Status of Women released its  
21 Human Trafficking in San Francisco report, which documented a 23% increase in human  
22 trafficking cases between 2017 and 2021, with 94% of reported victims identified as women,  
23 and 72% of reported victims identified as people of color; and

1           WHEREAS, Many academic research and scientific studies have documented that  
2 homelessness and housing instability are some of the top precursors to human trafficking,  
3 particularly for women and women-identified people; and

4           WHEREAS, Approximately 41% of the homeless population surveyed in the  
5 Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing’s 2022 Homeless Point in Time Count  
6 (PIT) identified as women, transgender, or gender nonbinary, (a likely undercount given the  
7 limitations of accessing homeless people on the street), while less than 5% of San Francisco’s  
8 homeless services are located and accessible in gender-specific safe spaces; and

9           WHEREAS, In January of 2024, the University of California San Francisco (UCSF),  
10 through its Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, released a study “Towards Safety:  
11 Understanding Intimate Partner Violence and Homelessness,” which identified safe, low-  
12 barrier, and accessible gender-based shelter and permanent supportive housing with  
13 wraparound services as critical tools to combatting violence against women and women-  
14 identified individuals, as well as preventing human trafficking and exploitation; and

15           WHEREAS, The UCSF study identified that 81% of participants were affected by  
16 intimate partner violence during their current episode of homelessness, and reported  
17 spending most of their nights in unsheltered settings, further exposing themselves to  
18 exploitation and abuse; and

19           WHEREAS, In 2019, the Mayor’s Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force conducted a San  
20 Francisco Community Needs Assessment for Survivors of Violence, which found that 2,684  
21 survivors were turned away from Victim Service Providers or Emergency and Transitional  
22 Housing; and

23           WHEREAS, The Women’s Housing Coalition (WHC), comprised of eight community-  
24 based non-profit service provider member organizations, held a half-day retreat on July 7,  
25 2023, with city departments including the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community

1 Development, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, City Attorney’s Office,  
2 Department on the Status of Women, Department of Public Health, Sheriff’s Department,  
3 Adult Probation and Board of Supervisors, to identify evidence-based solutions to preventing  
4 exploitation, abuse and violence against women and women-identified people, and preventing  
5 and responding to the trauma of homelessness and housing insecurity; and

6 WHEREAS, A key finding from the WHC work retreat was identifying dedicated funding  
7 sources and improved, committed and long-term resource coordination from City Departments  
8 to refer, treat, and house women and women-identified individuals with culturally competent  
9 and gender-specific services and placements; and

10 WHEREAS, In a 2023 survey conducted by the WHC, almost all of the 100 women and  
11 women-identified individuals, both struggling on the streets or in and out of co-ed placements  
12 in transient shelter or temporary housing, reported that they felt safest in gender-specific  
13 shelter and housing, and if they could not find it, they would rather live on the street than in  
14 co-ed settings; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
16 declares gender-based shelter, affordable housing, and support services as proven safety and  
17 prevention tools during National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, January 2024; and, be  
18 it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
20 Francisco urges City Departments to prioritize resource coordination and investments into  
21 safe shelter, affordable housing, and wrap-around services, specifically for women and  
22 women-identified survivors of domestic abuse, sexual exploitation and violence, human  
23 trafficking, and street entrapment and trauma; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Boad of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
25 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit this Resolution to the Mayor’s Office of

1 Housing and Community Development (MOHCD), Department on the Status of Women,  
2 Office of Victim and Witness Rights, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing,  
3 and Sheriff's Department upon final adoption.

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