

1 [Resolution supporting the WorldPride celebration in Jerusalem.]

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5 WHEREAS, WorldPride 2005, a ten-day festival celebrating the pride of the Lesbian,
6 Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities in the Middle East and throughout the world, will
7 be held in Jerusalem from August 18-28th, 2005; and

8 WHEREAS, WorldPride is sponsored by Jerusalem Open House, an incredible
9 grassroots civil rights organization leading the movement for the rights of the LGBT
10 Community in Israel since 1998; and

11 WHEREAS, Jerusalem Open House is the largest producer of Arabic language
12 materials about LGBT issues, and has a full-time outreach coordinator for the Palestinian
13 LGBT community; and

14 WHEREAS, The first WorldPride celebration was held in Rome in 2000, in order to
15 bring the message to the world religious leaders that Gays and Lesbians are a vital part of
16 humanity; and

17 WHEREAS, On March 31st Israel's two chief rabbis, patriarchs of Roman Catholic,
18 Greek Orthodox, and Armenian churches, and three Muslim prayer leaders held a rare joint
19 press conference asking Jerusalem's city government to prevent WorldPride from happening;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, These religious leaders have made extreme homophobic statements
22 regarding the WorldPride celebration such as, "This is very ugly and very nasty to have these
23 people come to Jerusalem," and that the celebration is "creating a deep and terrible sorrow
24 that is unbearable;" and

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1 WHEREAS, Opposition rhetoric has escalated into violence, with Jerusalem’s only
2 LGBT bar, owned by the openly gay member of Jerusalem’s city council, suffered extensive
3 fire damage and is closed for repairs after a man entered the doorway of the club and threw a
4 burning rag inside; and

5 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a leader in the fight for human rights for all people, and
6 has been vocal about the need for inclusive and safe spaces for people from all ethnic,
7 religious, cultural, and sexual communities; and now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the right of the
9 LGBT community to gather and celebrate WorldPride in Jerusalem; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors condemns the
11 acts of hatred, discrimination, and homophobia displayed by the world’s religious community
12 in regard to the WorldPride celebration.

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