

1 [Adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child]

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3 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to adopt the United Nations Convention on**  
4 **the Rights of the Child and supporting its inalienable freedoms for children and youth**  
5 **in San Francisco.**  
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7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission recognizes that children and youth  
8 are unique and invaluable to the human race as the continuum of our existence and  
9 livelihood,

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission recognizes that youth and children  
11 under 18 comprise nearly 15 percent of the population of San Francisco, and nearly 40  
12 percent of households in San Francisco have children and youth under 18, and

13 WHEREAS, The SF Youth Commission recognizes that between the years of 2000 to  
14 2006 the population of youth in SF between the ages of 15 through 19 declined by nearly 15  
15 percent, and

16 WHEREAS, Youth in San Francisco face numerous risk factors to their health growth  
17 and development, including harmful outside influences, such as abuse, exploitation, drugs,  
18 and gangs, so that in 2006 45% of youth in San Francisco felt at risk due to gang involvement  
19 and violence in their communities, and

20 WHEREAS, San Francisco youth have identified a problem with the family core such  
21 that 45% of youth feel at risk due to poor family supervision; and the Foster care System is  
22 overburdened with over 1,700 youth in San Francisco's Foster Care system in fall 2007, and

23 WHEREAS, In 2007, almost 13,000 families in San Francisco made choices between  
24 basic needs such as rent, utilities, and food as a result of limited income, and San Francisco  
25 public schools are floundering at only 61% capacity, and

1           WHEREAS, Undocumented youth in San Francisco are denied the right to be returned  
2 to parents if forcefully removed due to deportation; and there are 18,000 youth between the  
3 ages of 12 and 16 with at least one immigrant parent, and

4           WHEREAS, In the light of these risks, San Francisco is in need of a policy that aims to  
5 transform and improve the plight of youth in San Francisco, and

6           WHEREAS, The Convention on the Rights of the Child sets standards of basic human  
7 rights for children, and seeks to help the States and Governments fulfill their basic needs, and

8           WHEREAS, The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child articles 19, 33, 34, and 36  
9 indicate that children have a right to be protected from violence, abuse and economic  
10 exploitation, and

11           WHEREAS, The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child articles 3, 39, and 40  
12 pertain to the right that children have to basic needs such as education, housing, healthcare  
13 etc., and

14           WHEREAS, The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child articles 9, 11 indicates that  
15 children who are removed from their parents due to deportation have a right to be returned to  
16 their families where it is feasible and in the best interests of the youth, and

17           WHEREAS, The Convention states in article 40 that each child is an individual, neither  
18 a possession nor harlequin object, whose freedoms, as protected by the Constitution of our  
19 Founding Fathers and the Bill of Rights, cannot be stripped away; and

20           WHEREAS, The UN Convention of the Rights of the child articles 12, 13 and 14  
21 pertain to the right that children and youth have to the unabridged freedom of expression, and

22           WHEREAS, Support of the convention will bring forth the Youth Commission message-  
23 that the unheard voices of youth be free to permeate our government's walls to influence and  
24 inform the legislation affecting us; therefore, be it

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\*\*Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier\*\*

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1           WHEREAS, That the San Francisco Youth Commission adopts the UN Convention on  
2 the Rights of Child Policy, with the convention as a guide for advocating for youth, and be it

3           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors adopts the UN Convention on the Rights  
4 of the Child.

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\*\*Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier\*\*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**