

1 [Asian Women's Shelter - 25th Anniversary]

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3 **Resolution commemorating the Asian Women's Shelter on their 25th anniversary for**
4 **their distinguished service to those who have suffered from domestic violence in the**
5 **City and County of San Francisco.**

6
7 WHEREAS, 2013 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Asian Women's Shelter (AWS);
8 and

9 WHEREAS, AWS was founded as the first shelter in Northern California and third in the
10 nation to provide language-accessible services to non-English speaking women and children
11 refugees and immigrants who have suffered from domestic violence; and

12 WHEREAS, The mission of AWS is to eliminate domestic violence and to foster the
13 social, political and economic self-determination of women via its programs and services; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1991 the AWS launched the Multilingual Access Program to offer non-
15 English support to survivors of violence and as of 2010 the on-call support is offered in over
16 30 languages and dialects, thus increasing the number of people who can be assisted; and

17 WHEREAS, Through testimony of AWS residents, the battered immigrants provision of
18 the federal Violence Against Women Act is successfully added and passed, leading to
19 programs designed to meet the needs of immigrant women and women of different races or
20 ethnicities; and

21 WHEREAS, AWS has continually been committed to expanding their services to
22 transgender and lesbian survivors of domestic violence and addressing homophobia starting
23 with the Lesbian Services program in 1990, which became the Queer Asian Women's
24 Services in 1997 and is currently the Queer Asian Women and Transgender Services to
25 include all survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking; and

1 WHEREAS, In the year 2000 the AWS launches the Community Building Program to
2 provide community education, grassroots mobilization, technical assistance and advocacy;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The national Peer-to-Peer technical assistance program launched in 2001,
5 works with anti-violence agencies around the country to provide specific training and services
6 depending on the specific needs of a particular association; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2002-03 AWS creates the first anti-trafficking program in the Bay Area
8 to provide services and advocacy for trafficked survivors; and

9 WHEREAS, The commitment of AWS to end violence against women is exemplified by
10 innovative projects such as: The Multilingual Digital Storytelling Project launched in 2007, that
11 empowers immigrant survivors to convey their stories via different forms of media, keeping
12 their own voices and languages; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the AWS
14 for the immense value its programs and services provides to address the specific language
15 and cultural needs of immigrant and refugee women and children to fulfill their rights to a
16 violence-free home, and proclaims May 11, 2013 as Asian Women's Shelter Day.