

1 [Urging Major Chocolate Producers to Stop Utilizing Child Forced Labor in Global Cocoa
2 Supply Chains]

3 **Resolution urging Mars, Nestle, and major chocolate producers to stop utilizing child**
4 **forced labor in their global cocoa supply chains while commending ethically made**
5 **chocolate in the wake of the announcement of Dandelion Chocolate workers**
6 **unionizing.**

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8 WHEREAS, Child forced labor is endemic in cocoa production, particularly in major
9 cocoa-producing West African nations such as Cote D'Ivoire and Mali; Côte d'Ivoire has
10 emerged as the largest exporter of cocoa in the world, providing 70 percent of the world's
11 supply, a majority of which is imported by multinational chocolate manufacturers to the United
12 States; and

13 WHEREAS, In October 2020, a comprehensive study of child labor in the cocoa sector
14 conducted by National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago and
15 funded by the U.S. Department of Labor concluded that 1.56 million child laborers were
16 illegally involved in cocoa production and harvesting in cocoa growing areas of Côte d'Ivoire
17 and Ghana in the 2018/19 growing season; and

18 WHEREAS, Almost 20 years ago, major chocolate producers like Mars, Nestle, and
19 Cargill admitted that child forced labor was prevalent in their cocoa supply chains and made
20 public commitments to stop it; and

21 WHEREAS, The percentage of forced child laborers in the cocoa supply chain
22 continues to increase, according to studies funded by the Department of Labor, despite these
23 public commitments; and

24 WHEREAS, Major chocolate producers have engaged in deceptive practices to avoid
25 taking responsibility for their long-term profiting from various forms of child slavery; chocolate

1 manufacturers like Mars and Nestle realize a financial benefit from their use of child laborers
2 to harvest cocoa, as this keeps the price of cocoa cheaper than it would be if cocoa were
3 harvested by paid adult workers who are given proper protective equipment; and

4 WHEREAS, Despite their knowledge of child slavery and their control over conditions
5 in the cocoa market, major chocolate manufacturers continue to operate in the Ivory Coast
6 with the unilateral goal of finding the cheapest sources of cocoa; these manufacturers
7 continue to supply money, equipment, and training to Ivorian farmers, knowing that these
8 provisions will facilitate the use of forced child labor; and

9 WHEREAS, These manufacturers' focus on profit over human welfare has driven down
10 industry standards and facilitated gross human rights violations that break international law, all
11 in the search of the cheapest cocoa possible; and

12 WHEREAS, These manufacturers, despite decades of assurances, have continuously
13 failed to eradicate child slave labor from their supply chains; and

14 WHEREAS, Chocolate manufacturers who are committed to ethical sourcing have
15 managed to source slave-free cocoa, despite having far fewer resources than multinational
16 chocolate manufacturers; and

17 WHEREAS, San Francisco is the headquarters of chocolate companies that have
18 taken and complied with fair-trade cocoa pledges, including Dandelion Chocolate whose
19 workers are currently unionizing; and

20 WHEREAS, Recently, workers in the Chocolate industry and other sectors have urged
21 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to introduce and support this Resolution condemning
22 the inhumane child labor practices of large international players in the Chocolate industry;
23 now, therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors condemns Mars, Nestle, and other major
2 chocolate manufacturers for their continued use of child slave labor in their cocoa supply
3 chains, despite decades of assurances that they would stop using such; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Mars, Nestle, and other
5 major chocolate manufacturers to honor their commitment and immediately cease use of child
6 slave labor in their cocoa supply; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit this
8 resolution to Mars Corporation CEO Grant F. Reid, Nestle CEO Ulf Mark Schneider, and the
9 United Nations International Labor Organization's Director General Guy Ryder.

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