

[Resolution recognizing Holodomor Memorial Day and February 24th as a Day of Solidarity with Ukraine]

**Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to designate the fourth Saturday of November as Holodomor Memorial Day and to commemorate February 24th as a Day of Solidarity with Ukraine, in recognition of the historical, cultural, and civic significance of the Holodomor and the ongoing struggle for peace and freedom in Ukraine.**

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is home to a vibrant Ukrainian community, with residents maintaining strong cultural, linguistic, and historical ties to Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, Since the start of the full-scale war of Ukraine on February 24th, 2022, countless Ukrainian families have been displaced, with many young Ukrainians arriving in San Francisco seeking safety after fleeing violence, separation, and destruction in their communities<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, United States Census Bureau data shows that about 14,000 Bay Area residents were born in Ukraine and about 26,000 claim Ukrainian ancestry. The Bay Area has a larger number of residents with ties to Ukraine than any other city in California and in the United States, with 53 residents per 10,000 having a direct ancestral tie to Ukraine, and San Francisco having 62 residents per 10,000 who claim Ukrainian ancestry<sup>2</sup>; and

<sup>1</sup> Congress.gov. "Text - S.Res.472 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine, and that Vladimir Putin's brutal and unprovoked war against Ukraine once again threatens the existence of the Ukrainian people, while exacerbating the problems of global hunger." November 27, 2023. <https://www.congress.gov/bills/118th-congress/senate-resolution/472/text>.

<sup>2</sup> Haney and Mandelman, "Resolution in Support of Ukrainian Refugees," *BOARD OF SUPERVISORS*, n.d., <https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/r0122-22.pdf>.

1 WHEREAS, The Richmond District of San Francisco, particularly the area  
 2 surrounding Geary Boulevard between 17th and 27th Avenues, hosts a significant  
 3 concentration of Ukrainian residents, businesses, and cultural institutions; and

4 WHEREAS, Local establishments such as Pushkin Restaurant, Leleka  
 5 Restaurant, Hromada SF, Ukrainian School of San Francisco, Holy Virgin Cathedral,  
 6 Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ukrainian Hall San Francisco, and  
 7 the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council serve as longstanding anchors of  
 8 Ukrainian heritage and community in San Francisco; and

9 WHEREAS, February 24th marks the anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion  
 10 of Ukraine and serves as a solemn reminder of the ongoing struggle for peace,  
 11 democracy, and human rights. Commemorating this date provides an opportunity for the  
 12 San Francisco community to stand in solidarity with Ukraine, honor the lives lost, and  
 13 reaffirm the City's commitment to global justice and human dignity; and

14 WHEREAS, Youth in San Francisco have played an important role in preserving  
 15 Ukrainian culture through initiatives such as Slavic Voice 4 Ukraine, a youth-led media  
 16 and advocacy platform that promotes Ukrainian heritage, civic engagement, and  
 17 intercultural understanding through storytelling, oral history, and public programming.  
 18 Ukrainian youth at San Francisco State University have also been active in journalism,  
 19 advocacy, and cultural initiatives, helping raise awareness about Ukraine's history,  
 20 culture, and current challenges, and inspiring the next generation to engage with their  
 21 heritage<sup>34</sup>; and

<sup>3</sup> "HOME | the Slavic Voice," The Slavic Voice, n.d., <https://voiceslavic.wixsite.com/the-slavic-voice>.

<sup>4</sup> Zac Zavala, "Ukrainian Hope: An Interview With Ukrainian Born and San Francisco State Alumna Anya Livshyts. Hear Her Views on the Current Tensions Between Russia and the Place She Still Calls Home, Ukraine," San Francisco State University | Department of Journalism, April 18, 2022, <https://journalism.sfsu.edu/ukrainian-hope-interview-ukrainian-born-and-san-francisco-state-alumna-anya-livshyts-hear-her-views>.

1 WHEREAS, Local organizations, volunteers, and host families in San Francisco  
 2 provide vital support to these youth, helping them continue their education, participate in  
 3 cultural and civic activities, and integrate into the community. Youth-led initiatives and  
 4 programs amplify the voices of young Ukrainians, promote intercultural understanding,  
 5 and ensure their experiences and contributions are recognized and celebrated<sup>5</sup>; and

6 WHEREAS, Holodomor Memorial Day, observed annually on the fourth Saturday  
 7 of November, commemorates the millions of Ukrainians who perished in the man-made  
 8 famine of 1932–1933. At the height of the Holodomor in 1933, it is estimated that  
 9 Ukrainians died at a rate of 28,000 a day with nearly a third of the victims being children  
 10 younger than 10 years old; and this day provides an opportunity to educate the public  
 11 about this historical atrocity, honor the victims, and acknowledge its lasting impact on  
 12 Ukrainian culture, history, and diaspora communities<sup>6,7</sup>; and

13 WHEREAS, Recognizing Holodomor Memorial Day in San Francisco would  
 14 honor the historical, cultural, and civic contributions of Ukrainian residents and affirm the  
 15 City's commitment to remembrance, education, and cultural understanding; now,  
 16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the  
 18 Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to designate the fourth  
 19 Saturday of November as Holodomor Memorial Day, to honor the lives lost and educate  
 20 the public about the historical significance of the Holodomor; and, be it

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<sup>5</sup> "San Francisco Teen Finds Creative, Constructive Way to Show Support for Ukraine," *NBC Bay Area*, December 20, 2023, <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/video/news/local/bay-area-proud/san-francisco-teen-finds-creative-constructive-way-to-show-support-for-ukraine/3402106/>.

<sup>6</sup> Southern California Holodomor Genocide Committee, "Home - Southern California Holodomor Genocide Committee," Southern California Holodomor Genocide Committee - the Website Devoted to the Genocidal Famine in Ukraine, November 1, 2025, <https://socalholodomorgenocidecommittee.org/>.

<sup>7</sup> Ray Cooper, "Holodomor Remembrance Day," State of North Carolina | Office of Governor, 2022, <https://governor.nc.gov/governor-proclaims-holodomor-remembrance-day-2022/open>.

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission recommends  
2 that the City and County of San Francisco commemorate February 24th as a Day of  
3 Solidarity with Ukraine, in remembrance of those impacted by the ongoing war and in  
4 recognition of the resilience of the Ukrainian people; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)  
6 is encouraged to collaborate with community partners, educators, and youth  
7 organizations to develop educational programming and classroom activities on February  
8 24th and the fourth Saturday of November, including lessons on Ukrainian history, the  
9 Holodomor, culture, and democracy, as well as opportunities for students to learn about  
10 peacebuilding, civic engagement, and human rights; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission encourages  
12 the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, City departments, and community organizations to  
13 collaborate in hosting cultural events, educational programming, and public awareness  
14 initiatives on and around the fourth Saturday of November and February 24th; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission shall  
16 transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and the Office  
17 of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs for their consideration and action; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor is encouraged to raise the Ukrainian flag  
19 at San Francisco City Hall at noon on the fourth Saturday of November in honor of  
20 Holodomor Memorial Day, February 24th, and August 24th (Ukrainian Independence  
21 Day) in recognition of Ukraine's Independence and resilience.