

RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM AND HATE INCIDENTS AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Principal Author: Bilal Mahmood

Co-Sponsor: Joe Sangirardi, Parag Gupta

WHEREAS, Racism is defined as the discrimination by an individual, community, or institution against another person on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, especially of ones that are a minority or marginalized¹; and the American Public Health Association notes racism is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on social interpretation of how one looks, such that it unfairly disadvantages some individuals and advantages other individuals²; and

WHEREAS, Hate crimes and hate incidents have increased - from Islamophobia to anti-Jewish to anti-Black to anti-Asian to anti-Latino to anti-LGBTQIA+ - with the exponential rise displaying epidemiological patterns of an epidemic, akin to a virus that mutates from one marginalized population to another: over the last 10 years hate crimes have risen nationally from 5,843 to 11,643 annually in the United States³, with anti-Black hate crimes spiking in 2020 from 2,182 to 3,499 annually, anti-Asian hate crimes spiking in 2021 from 334 to 753 annually, anti-Trans hate crimes spiking in 2022 from 250 to 338, reported anti-Semitic hate incidents spiking in 2023 from 3,698 to 8,873 annually⁴, and reported Islamophobic hate incidents also spiking in 2023 from 5,156 to 8,061 annually⁵; and

WHEREAS, The SF Human Rights Commission⁶ and SF Health Commission⁷ and SF Board of Supervisors⁸ have all declared anti-Black racism as a public health crisis, and last year the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officially declared “racism a serious public health threat that directly affects the well-being of millions of Americans”⁹; and

WHEREAS, The systemic racism underlying the exponentially rising hate crimes and hate incidents is also in turn causing direct health detriments to those marginalized communities; Black, LGTBQIA+, Indigenous, Latino, Jewish, Muslim, and Asian and Pacific Islander

¹ Oxford Dictionary ([link](#))

² American Public Health Association ([link](#))

³ FBI Hate Crime Database ([link](#))

⁴ ADL ([link](#))

⁵ CAIR ([link](#))

⁶ Human Rights Commission ([link](#))

⁷ Health Commission ([link](#))

⁸ SF Board of Supervisors ([link](#))

⁹ CDC ([link](#))

PROPOUNDED BY: Bilal Mahmood

ADOPTED:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-05-Racism Public Health

communities have seen rising hate crimes and incidents reported over the last decade, and several of these groups have reported lower health outcomes than White counterparts in San Francisco - Black populations are 3-6 times more likely to be hospitalized¹⁰, Black and Latino adults are nearly twice the risk level of becoming obese¹¹, Latino adults are 2 times as likely and Black adults are 10 times as likely to be diagnosed with HIV¹², Black and Pacific Islander individuals have the lowest life expectancies in San Francisco¹³, and more than 1 in 10 LGBTQ+ youth attempted suicide nationally in the last year¹⁴; and

WHEREAS, New academic studies are showing that these disparate health outcomes are strongly predicted by incidents of racism, wherein discrimination has been proven to result in systemic inflammation, somatization, and anxiety¹⁵, that increased levels of trauma and inflammation can be passed down biologically¹⁶, and systemic inequities in healthcare treatment for marginalized communities rooted in racist historical biases lead to differences in treatment that aggravate these health outcomes¹⁷; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Democratic Party declares that all forms of racism and hate incidents are a public health crisis adversely impacting the health and wellbeing of people of color and marginalized communities in San Francisco; that the Party adopts the principles of the Resolutions declaring anti-Black racism as a human rights and public health crisis in San Francisco passed unanimously by the Human Rights Commission, SF Board of Supervisors, and SF Public Health Commission; and urges the City of San Francisco to assess opportunities to leverage resources and funds in its public health budget to support and supplement victims services and victims of hate crimes and incidents; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall be transmitted to Mayor London Breed, the District Attorney's Office, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission

¹⁰ SF Gov Health Disparities Dashboard ([link](#))

¹¹ SF Gov Health Disparities Dashboard ([link](#))

¹² SF Gov Health Disparities Dashboard ([link](#))

¹³ SF Gov Health Disparities Dashboard ([link](#))

¹⁴ Trevor Project ([link](#))

¹⁵ UCLA Health ([link](#))

¹⁶ Harvard School of Public Health ([link](#))

¹⁷ PNAS study ([link](#))

PROPOUNDED BY: Bilal Mahmood

ADOPTED:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-05-Racism Public Health