

“CHICAGO RESOLUTION HONORING INDIA’S REPUBLIC AND DEMOCRACY”

**A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF CHICAGO AS A WELCOMING AND
INCLUSIVE CITY,**

**EXPRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL’S SOLIDARITY WITH CHICAGO’S SOUTH
ASIAN COMMUNITY REGARDLESS OF RELIGION AND CASTE,**

HONORING INDIA’S 72ND REPUBLIC DAY,

**AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO CONDEMN VIOLENCE IN THE
NAME OF ANY FAITH WHILE UPHOLDING THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND
SECULAR PROVISIONS OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION**

1. WHEREAS, recognizing that the City of Chicago is a sanctuary city, welcomes all regardless of their background; and
2. WHEREAS, the Chicago City Council expresses solidarity with Chicago’s South Asian community regardless of religion and caste; and
3. WHEREAS, India will celebrate its 72nd Republic Day on January 26, 2021, is the world’s largest democracy, and has long shared a unique and important relationship with the United States in promoting common democratic values and human rights; and
4. WHEREAS, India is the birthplace of four major world religions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism, is home to the world’s second-largest Muslim population, and has historic Christian, Jewish, and Zoroastrian populations, with three of India’s 29 states having a majority Christian population; and
5. WHEREAS, India’s Constitution mandates a secular state that upholds the rights of all citizens to the freedoms of religion, expression, speech and to equal treatment before the law; and
6. WHEREAS, President Trump’s bigoted policies within the U.S. including discriminating on religious grounds, targeting vulnerable communities, stripping citizenship, fabricating crises, and stoking hatred, have been mirrored by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Hindu extremist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, and their alarming

ideology that Hindus are racially and culturally superior to others; and

7. WHEREAS, across the country, there has been a surge in the number of mob lynchings and violence towards minorities, mostly Muslims, Dalits and Christians, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership; and
8. WHEREAS, the Indian parliament under the leadership of the BJP government and Prime Minister Modi passed the inherently discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which actively creates an unconstitutional, religion-based criteria to grant citizenship to select immigrants – the first instance of religion being used as a criterion for Indian citizenship; the CAA has already been used to threaten deportation for India's 40,000 Rohingya refugees; and
9. WHEREAS, in August 2019, Prime Minister Modi's extremist government forced nearly 33 million people in the northeastern state of Assam to prove Indian citizenship or face detention at mass prisons and detention camps that the Indian government has begun to build and fill; and
10. WHEREAS, nearly two million people were left off the state's citizenship rolls and a nationwide expansion of this policy could strip hundreds of millions of people (disproportionately Muslim, oppressed castes, women, indigenous groups known collectively as Adivasi, and LGBTQ+ communities) of their citizenship rights creating stateless individuals with no option to be re-naturalized; and
11. WHEREAS, in April 2019, the Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah, compared undocumented individuals to "infiltrators" and "termites", vowed a BJP government would "throw them into the Bay of Bengal," and called to expand the citizenship law used in Assam to other states in India; and
12. WHEREAS, reports indicate that police have attacked peaceful protestors at several prominent universities and destroyed Muslim homes in several cities. Peaceful protestors against these policies have faced violent repression including: police fatally firing live ammunition at demonstrators and arresting thousands. These are tactics the Modi government and Indian Army have used gratuitously in Kashmir while stripping its autonomy and prospects for self determination during an unprecedented-level of military occupation and communications blockade; and
13. WHEREAS, the government use of police to brutalize peaceful protestors violates fundamental democratic principles; and

14. WHEREAS, the Modi regime's repressive and prejudiced policies are inconsistent with Chicago's values as a welcoming and inclusive city that embraces South Asian communities of all castes and religions; and
15. Whereas, the United States has a deep history of individuals protesting against hate, injustice, and government action;
16. Whereas, local, state, and federal government bodies in the United States have supported the right to peacefully protest against unjust policies;
17. WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that citizens of Chicago of all backgrounds have regularly peacefully protested in Chicago to condemn these developments in India; and
18. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the City Council condemns President Trump's support for the repressive and discriminatory actions of Prime Minister Modi and his BJP government. It also condemns President Trump's refusal to denounce violence, those inciting violence, and those officials evading their duties to keep order and peace.
19. RESOLVED, the Chicago City Council rejects violence in the name of any faith, condemns all supremacist thought, calls for an end of divisions along faith lines. It believes it is the duty of all people to oppose hatred, racism, and authoritarianism around the world and that the human rights record of the Indian government is of concern, not only to the millions of Muslims, oppressed castes, women, indigenous, and LGBTQ+ people in India, but also to Chicago's South Asian immigrant community.
20. RESOLVED, the City Council go on record urging the Government of India to:
 - a. Respect the human rights of all people and adhere to international human rights law,
 - b. Condemn, at the highest levels, all religiously motivated violence, including violence which targets religious minorities,
 - c. Prosecute anyone actively inciting violence, including violence against peaceful protestors and journalists,
 - d. Uphold the Indian constitution by repealing the Citizenship Amendment Act, stopping the National Register of Citizens, and taking steps towards helping refugees by ratifying various UN treaties on refugees.

21. RESOLVED, That the City Council go on record urging our congressional delegation to support legislation censuring the Republic of India for adopting discriminatory policies such as the National Register of Citizens, the Citizenship Amendment Act, and military occupation and communications blockade of Kashmir; and be it further
22. RESOLVED, That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy to Chicago's Congressional Delegation on behalf of the entire City Council.