

2022 HAAAM RESOLUTION TEMPLATE

WHEREAS, (CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT/STATE) and the nation have been influenced by the extraordinary cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity of its residents; and

WHEREAS, There is an estimated one billion Hindus worldwide, and approximately 2.23 million Hindu Americans live across the nation; and

WHEREAS, (CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT/STATE) is home to a significant Hindu American population; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans in (CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT/STATE) represent diverse ethnic backgrounds, including individuals of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Malaysian, Indonesian, Afghani, Nepali, Bhutanese, Sri Lankan, Fijian, Caribbean, and European descent; and

WHEREAS, (CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT/STATE) and our nation have greatly benefited from Hindu Americans, especially through the Vedanta philosophy, Ayurvedic medicine, classical Indian art, dance, music, meditation, yoga, literature, and community service; and

WHEREAS, The year 2022 marks the 129th anniversary of when Hinduism was officially introduced to the United States by Swami Vivekananda at the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago, IL, and the 122nd anniversary of when he founded the Vedanta Society in San Francisco, California, in 1900; and

WHEREAS, Hindus are primarily an immigrant community and first started immigrating to (CITY/COUNTY/STATE) and the United States in the early 1900s, and came in increasing numbers after the lifting of the Asian Exclusion Act of 1924 in 1943 and the abolishment of quotas for immigrants based on national origin in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Most Hindu immigrants have come to the United States as students, in search of better economic opportunities, or to unite with family members, while others have arrived in this country after facing religious persecution in their countries of origin; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans and the Vedanta philosophy have significantly influenced notable intellectuals such as President John Adams, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph

Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, J.D. Salinger, Christopher Isherwood, Aldous Huxley, Huston Smith, and Joseph Campbell; and

WHEREAS, The first Hindu temple in the United States was built in San Francisco, California, and at the dedication of the temple on January 7, 1906, it was proclaimed to be the “First Hindu Temple in the Whole Western World”; and

WHEREAS, There are now (NUMBER) Hindu temples, religious centers, and cultural centers throughout (CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT/STATE); and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have greatly enriched (CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT/STATE) higher education university systems by teaching numerous students, especially in the academic fields of astrophysics, computer science, engineering, law, planetary science, psychology, and neuroscience, and a majority of Hindu Americans are in high-skill occupations; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-seven percent of Hindu American adults have a college degree and nearly 50 percent of Hindu American adults have a postgraduate degree, according to the Pew Research Center; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans share the entrepreneurial spirit of America and contribute to (CITY/COUNTY/STATE)'s economic vitality, growth, and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have also contributed to many of (CITY/COUNTY/STATE) economic sectors and have particularly excelled in the areas of business, law, politics, information technology, medicine, and science; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans now serve in various levels of government across the state and nation, including three Members in the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, (CITY/COUNTY/STATE) Hindu temples, organizations, and individuals actively engage in seva, a Sanskrit word for selfless service, towards their fellow human beings through charity, public service, and the provision of free medical and legal services; and

WHEREAS, Ahimsa, which is the Sanskrit word for noninjury or nonviolence, is a central principle for Hindu Americans in (CITY/COUNTY/STATE), and it provides the ethical foundation for vegetarianism, environmentalism, and harmonious living; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans throughout (CITY/COUNTY/STATE) celebrate numerous holidays and festivals, such as Diwali, which celebrates the victory of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance; and

WHEREAS, Despite their positive contributions to (CITY/COUNTY/STATE) and this nation, Hindu Americans face stereotypes and misconceptions about their heritage and have been the targets of bullying, discrimination, hate speech, and bias-motivated crimes; and

WHEREAS, Hindu-American religious symbols have been misunderstood, including the sacred swastika, which translates to 'all is well' in Sanskrit and has been used in religious observances +4,000 years; and

WHEREAS, this misunderstanding and misappropriation has led to frequent harassment of the Hindu-American community; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigations Hate Crimes Statistics Report, crimes targeting Hindu Americans are on the rise, as evidenced by the 8 anti-Hindu hate crime incidents reported in 2019 and the 11 incidents of anti-Hindu hate crimes reported in 2020; and

WHEREAS, one out of three Hindu American students reported that they have been bullied in school for their religious beliefs according to the Hindu American Foundation's 2015 study on bullying and bias against Hindu students; and

WHEREAS, Hinduphobia, defined as a set of antagonistic, destructive, and derogatory attitudes and behaviors towards Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism) and Hindus that may manifest as prejudice, fear, or hatred, is also increasing in the U.S., especially on college campuses, in parallel with the rise of anti-Hindu hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, Many Hindus and their families in (CITY/COUNTY/STATE) and the United States face an uncertain future in this country due to inequitable immigration policies and decades-long backlogs for green cards; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans promote the ideals of tolerance, pluralism, and religious freedom, which are inherent to their beliefs and respect the diversity of all faiths, and the Vedas, the 5,000-year-old texts of Hindu Americans, provide the basis for these core principles: "Truth is one, the wise call it by many names" (Ekam sat viprah bahudha vadanti); now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the (LEGISLATIVE BODY) of the (CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT/STATE), that the (LEGISLATIVE BODY) hereby designates the month of October 2022 as Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month in (CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT/STATE); and be it further

Resolved, That the (LEGISLATIVE BODY) recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions made by (CITY/COUNTY/STATE)-ans of Hindu heritage to our (CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT/STATE), and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to increase awareness and understanding of the Hindu American community; and be it further

Resolved, That the (LEGISLATIVE BODY) will transmit copies of this resolution to (CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT/STATE) administrators and educators, and encourage incorporating relevant teaching materials to advance knowledge and education about Hinduism and Hindu Americans; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of (LEGISLATIVE BODY) transmit copies of this resolution to the Hindu American Foundation, 910 Seventeenth Street NW, Suite 316A Washington, DC 20006, the (NAME OF LOCAL HINDU TEMPLE/ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL DISTRICT & ADDRESS).