

Resolve 11- 10/11

Passage 8-0 (Coyné out) 3/7/11

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CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

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**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE
DISPARATE IMPACTS OF POVERTY AND HUNGER ON WOMEN**

WHEREAS, more than 925 million people, about one-seventh of the world's population, suffer from chronic hunger; and

WHEREAS, three-quarters of the planet's hungriest people live in rural areas, where most of them work as farmers, herders or fishers; and

WHEREAS, many of the world's poorest are surrounded by the means to produce food, and yet many go hungry; and

WHEREAS, fertile land and water are becoming scarce; and

WHEREAS, erratic growing seasons, water shortages, and rising temperatures caused by climate change are already hurting farmers; and

WHEREAS, according to Oxfam America, by 2015 more than 375 million people, most of them poor, will be affected each year by climate-related disasters like hurricanes and floods; and

WHEREAS, in many countries, women are the primary food producers, yet they face hunger and poverty more frequently than men; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition in childhood carries lifelong consequences affecting cognitive, emotional and physical development that contributes to a cycle of poverty; and

WHEREAS, girls account for 67 percent of all children denied primary education; and

WHEREAS, seventy-five percent of the world's 876 million illiterate adults are women; and

WHEREAS, as society's primary food providers and caretakers, women often have invaluable knowledge about adapting to shifts in the climate and are often on the forefront of innovative solutions; and

WHEREAS, women worldwide are finding solutions to hunger and poverty in their communities, including cooperatives, new technologies and sustainable growing techniques; and

WHEREAS, women around the world are speaking out in solidarity and raising awareness about climate, hunger, and other crises facing women and using their influence to change systems that keep people poor; and

WHEREAS, March 8, 2011 is the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements and aspirations of women around the world and a day to recognize the obstacles that women still face in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities and their central role in creating positive change;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council:

- (1) Supports the goals of International Women's Day;
- (2) Recognizes that the economic growth and empowerment of women is inextricably linked to the potential of nations to generate economic growth and reduce hunger and poverty;
- (3) Believes the United States can play a vital role in helping women around the world in finding solutions to hunger and poverty;
- (4) Recognizes and honors the women in the United States and in other countries who have fought and continue to struggle for gender equality and women's rights;
- (5) Reaffirms the commitment to end gender-based discrimination in all forms, to end violence against women and girls worldwide;
- (6) Supports Oxfam America and its *Sisters on the Planet* initiative of powerful women (and men) who are teaming up to raise awareness about climate change, hunger, and other crises facing women in poor countries and using their influence to fight poverty and hunger now and for generations to come; and
- (7) Encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.