



**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 20 (year) AS HINDU AMERICAN
AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH (HAAAM)**

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 nearly 4 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, Hinduism was officially introduced to the United States by Swami Vivekananda at the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago, IL, and 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/school district/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



WHEREAS, *Ahimsa*, which is the Sanskrit word for noninjury or nonviolence, is a central principle for Hindu Americans in (city/county/school district/state), and it provides the ethical foundation for vegetarianism, environmentalism, and harmonious living; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans throughout (city/county/school district/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/school district/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, Despite their contributions, Hindu Americans face increasing instances of discrimination, harassment, Hinduphobia and anti-Hindu hate crimes, underscoring the need for increased awareness, training and prevention of these incidents; and



WHEREAS, Many Hindus and their families in _____ (*city/county/school district/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

PROCLAIMED by the _____ (*legislative body*) of the _____ (*city/county/school district/state*), that the _____ (*legislative body*) hereby designates the month of October 20____ (*year*) as Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month; and be it further

PROCLAIMED, That the _____ (*legislative body*) recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions made by _____ ans _____ (*city/county/school district/state*) 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

PROCLAIMED, 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

PROCLAIMED, That the Chief Clerk of _____ (*legislative body*) transmit copies of this resolution to _____ (*name of local Hindu temple/organization/school district & address*).