

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 149

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Lowenthal)
(Principal coauthors: Senators Jackson and Mitchell)

May 13, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 149—Relative to Femicide and Gendercide Prevention and Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 149, as introduced, Weber. Femicide and Gendercide Prevention and Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim May 2014, and each month of May thereafter, Femicide and Gendercide Awareness and Prevention Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, According to estimates by the United Nations
2 (UN), up to 200 million women and girls are demographically
3 missing, which implies that the number of missing women, killed
4 for gender-related reasons, is of the same magnitude as the
5 estimated 191 million human beings who have lost their lives
6 directly or indirectly as a result of all the conflicts and wars of the
7 20th century; and

8 WHEREAS, The kidnapping by militants of approximately 300
9 Nigerian girls from Chibok Government Girls Secondary School
10 in April 2014 has caused a worldwide outcry for their release and
11 has brought world attention once again to crimes against girls and
12 women; and

1 WHEREAS, This type of gender-related violence has become
2 too common globally and has been identified by the world
3 community by the terms “femicide” or “feminicide.” The term
4 femicide was introduced in 1976 by feminist author Dr. Diana
5 E.H. Russell while testifying at the International Tribunal on
6 Crimes Against Women in Brussels, and means the killing of
7 females by males because they are females, or the misogynous
8 murder of women by men. Another applicable term is “gendercide,”
9 which was first coined by American feminist Mary Anne Warren
10 in her 1985 book, “Gendercide: The Implications of Sex Selection,”
11 and refers to gender-selective mass killing; and

12 WHEREAS, Examples of femicide have been occurring in cities
13 such as Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, since 1992, where more than 1,400
14 women and girls have been killed; and

15 WHEREAS, Examples of gendercide have been common
16 practice in countries such as China and India, where the UN
17 estimates over 200 million baby girls have been killed because
18 they are undesirable and even unacceptable; and

19 WHEREAS, Women live in a very insecure world where many
20 fall victim to gender selective abortion and infanticide; other
21 women do not receive the same amount of food and medical
22 attention as their brothers, fathers, and husbands; other women
23 fall prey to sexual offenders, honor killings, and acid attacks, most
24 often for refusing a suitor; and scores of women succumb to the
25 special horrors and hardships that conflict, war, and postconflict
26 situations reserve for girls and women; and

27 WHEREAS, A shocking number of women are killed within
28 their own walls through domestic violence; and

29 WHEREAS, Rape and sexual exploitation remain a reality for
30 countless women, and millions of women are trafficked, some sold
31 like cattle; and

32 WHEREAS, The State of California commends the Obama
33 Administration for helping the international community, and the
34 Nigerian government, by sending a team of military, law
35 enforcement, and hostage negotiators to do everything they can to
36 recover these young ladies; and

37 WHEREAS, The State of California condemns, and desires to
38 combat, all acts of violence against women, be it femicide,
39 gendercide, sexual exploitation, or rape; and

1 WHEREAS, Educating the public about the evils of femicide
2 and gendercide, including the adoption of a Femicide and
3 Gendercide Awareness and Prevention Month, are effective tools;
4 now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
7 month of May of 2014, and each month of May thereafter, as
8 Femicide and Gendercide Awareness and Prevention Month; and
9 be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
11 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.