



### 1947 PARTITION REMEMBRANCE DAY

**WHEREAS,** we remember that what should have been a moment of crowning triumph after years of anticolonial struggle in South Asia was indelibly marred by unimaginable violence and bloodshed with up to two million people losing their lives in the most horrific of manners; and

**WHEREAS,** we remember that the 1947 Partition of the Indian subcontinent into the independent nations of Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan was accompanied by one of the largest mass migrations in human history and communal as well as political violence on a scale that had seldom been seen before; and

**WHEREAS,** we remember the 1947 Partition as a world-historical event and a life-shaping experience for 14 million people who were displaced, many directly into poverty as they left their homes in the middle of the night never to return to them again, and victims of unprecedented sectarian and communal violence; and

**WHEREAS,** we remember that the divided landscape bore silent witness to trains laden with dead, decapitated bodies, limbs strewn along the sides of roads, and wanton rape and pillaging; and

**WHEREAS,** we remember that there was nothing that could have prepared the approximately 14 million refugees for this nightmare and a sudden, complete breakdown of governance; and

**WHEREAS,** we recognize that the Berkeley-based 1947 Partition Archive is devoting its work to serving these refugee witnesses and others, some of whom are Berkeley residents along with their families; and

**WHEREAS,** we remember the millions who died or were displaced for who they were, how they may have worshiped, what they believed, and who they loved. Victims included Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, Parsis, Jews, Dalits, Buddhists and others; and

**WHEREAS,** we remember, to preserve this shared history of anguish, to keep it vivid and real, so that hatred, persecution, and prejudice can be combated and contained; and

**WHEREAS,** we remember the Partition survivors and their families who live in Berkeley, the Bay Area and the United States, so that we can educate others on the history of Partition and create a more empathetic and historically informed world; and

**WHEREAS,** we remember those who survived immeasurable, atrocious acts, and today are living witnesses for younger generations who may not know their history; and

**WHEREAS,** we remember this is the 74th Anniversary of Partition, and by memorializing the past we help give ourselves the resolve we need to prepare for tomorrow's challenges including displacement and migration brought on by ongoing threats of climate change and political instability.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we the people of Berkeley will always remember the suffering victims, their families, and always treasure the survivors who are still with us in Berkeley. We join in the worldwide chorus of hope and activism to say never again and to proclaim June 3, 2021 as

**PARTITION REMEMBRANCE DAY IN BERKELEY**



*Jesse Arreguin*

Jesse Arreguin  
Mayor

June 3, 2021