

**From:** [Janelle White](#)  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Cc:** [DOSW, DOSW \(WOM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support of the SF Commission on the Status of Women  
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Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued existence of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women as a standalone body with its current powers left fully intact.

For over 40 years the Commission has led on advancing the human rights of women, girls, and gender expansive individuals. In fact, San Francisco has been a pioneer, as one of the first counties to implement a Commission and Department dedicated to gender equity. San Francisco was also the first municipality to enact a local Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Ordinance in 1998. The Commission is charged with ensuring compliance with the CEDAW Ordinance and applying a gender equity lens to city policy, programs, services.

In 1997, the Commission and Department on the Status of Women began funding San Francisco Women Against Rape's work and the work of many other community-based organization addressing gender-based violence. The knowledge the Commission and Department hold with respect to community-wide intervention, advocacy, and prevention efforts is immense and significant. I worry that this deep knowledge will be lost if the Commission were to be dismantled.

Furthermore, I cannot overstate the critical importance of community representation on oversight and policy making bodies. Community members bring essential diverse perspectives and experiences to better inform advocacy, policy, and services.

At a time when women, girls, and gender-expansive individuals are facing an all-out assault on our fundamental rights and bodily autonomy, it is critically important to preserve the sole City & County Commission with oversight powers advancing gender equity.

Thank you for your kind consideration!

Most respectfully,

Janelle L. White, Ph.D.

Executive Director

San Francisco Women Against Rape

3543 18th Street #7

San Francisco, CA 94110

(415) 861-2024 ext 307

[ED@sfwar.org](mailto:ED@sfwar.org)

[SFWAR.org](http://SFWAR.org)

[www.sfwar.org](http://www.sfwar.org)



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