



October 2, 2025

Via Email Only

Commission Streamlining Task Force
commissionstreamlining@sfgov.org

Re: Support for the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force:

The San Francisco Women's Housing Coalition (WHC) is a coalition of women-serving organizations representing a wide range of issues, including homelessness, domestic violence, trafficking, and justice-involved women. Our members are united in their commitment to supporting vulnerable women and gender-diverse individuals in San Francisco, and we work together to push for systemic changes that provide women with the resources they need to build safe and stable futures.

We are writing today in strong support for the continued existence of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women as a standalone body with its full powers intact.

While the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls plays a vital role at the state level, San Francisco needs its own commission that specifically addresses the unique needs of women in our city. The Commission on Status of Women (COSW) provides a direct voice for women's concerns, ensuring that policies and programs reflect the distinct challenges women face, from housing and healthcare to employment and safety. Without such a body, women risk losing focused attention and leadership on issues that directly affect their lives. It is critical that women's issues receive the necessary advocacy, funding, and urgency at the local level, and only a dedicated commission can guarantee that.

Thank you for appointing Dr. Diana Aroche as the new Director of the Department of the Status of Women; we look forward to working with her as we continue our work. However, if DOSW is merged with the Human Rights Commission (HRC), it will remain under the leadership of an agency headed by a man. This raises a serious concern: decisions impacting women should be directed by those who understand our lived experiences. While HRC plays an important role in advocating for human rights, women's issues require leadership by women, particularly those

who are most marginalized. The Commission on the Status of Women provides a vital, autonomous platform for women to advise HRC on policies affecting them, ensuring their voices are heard and prioritized.

Eliminating the Commission on the Status of Women would be a profound act of erasure and undermines the only body in San Francisco dedicated to fighting for women's rights and needs. In a time when women's rights are under direct attack at the federal level, it is more important than ever to reinforce our city's commitment to gender equity. Disbanding the COSW would not only signal a lack of priority for women's issues, but also reinforce the dangerous notion that women's voices and rights are dispensable. This is something we cannot accept.

Now, more than ever, we must protect and amplify the voices of women, ensuring their place in decisions that affect their lives. We urge you to support the continued independence and vitality of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women.

Respectfully,

/s Rebecca Jackson

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