



October 3, 2025

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.

The Commission was established in the 1970s, at a time when women, girls, and gender-expansive people were fighting for basic rights and justice. Decades later, the work and mission of the Commission remain as relevant as ever. Women, girls and gender-expansive individuals are seeing their fundamental rights attacked, an all out assault on diversity, equity and inclusion measures and regulations, and the erosion of protections for safety, equal pay, bodily autonomy and more. Just this month, the president dismissed domestic violence as a “tiff” and questioned whether it was a crime.

We need institutions specifically dedicated to advancing equity to help protect our communities and to fight for our rights. The Commission on the Status of Women plays a critical role in ensuring San Francisco lives up to its values of inclusion, transparency, and justice. As an organization that has served transgender Latinas in San Francisco for over 30 years, El/La’s programming has been buoyed by the support of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women.

San Francisco has been a pioneer on gender equity, being one of the first counties to have 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 and funding. Transparency and civilian oversight regarding city and county operations matters.

The Commission on the Status of Women brings together diverse leaders, experts, and advocates who reflect the communities they serve. It provides a platform for public participation and a necessary counterbalance within our local government structure.

I urge the Task Force to preserve the Commission’s independent voice, governance authority, and nominating power. These are not optional features, they are fundamental to real democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Santamaría, Executive Director, El/La Para TransLatinas