

From: [REDACTED]
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Support for the Commission on the Status of Women
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To the Streamining Commission Task Force,

As you approach the October 15 meeting, I urge you to honor the will of the voters who supported the Commission on the Status of Women as a Charter Commission in 1994. The COSW is dedicated to saving women's lives. I served as a COSW Commissioner from 1997-2003, and as Executive Director from 2004-2020. During this time, the Commission and Department had a laser focus on ending gender violence against women. One of our initiatives was the Justice & Courage Domestic Violence Response program where, based on the 2000 Justice & Courage Blueprint for Domestic Violence Response, we pursued a cross-departmental response to ending domestic violence. In 2011, we became the first major municipality to eliminate domestic violence homicides which had been at an all time high of 10 women murdered to ZERO for a record 44 months, almost 4 years. I also joined other leaders in launching the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking at City Hall in 2010, together with then-Mayor Gavin Newsom, then-District Attorney Kamala Harris, and then-Supervisor David Chiu. Today, there is a 24-hour hotline for survivors to access.

Please keep the COSW as a policy (not advisory) body. There is crucial work to be done to ensure that San Francisco is safe for all residents, including its women.

Emily M. Murase, PhD

"Nobody is free until everybody's free." - Fannie Lou Hamer, civil rights leader of the Mississippi Freedom Summer, the seminal campaign to register African American voters before the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.