

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Department on the Status of Women

Spring 2010 e-News

The Department on the Status of Women has had an eventful spring! Our work to improve the lives and advance the status of women and girls in San Francisco has taken us to New York, Boston, and around the Bay Area. Not only were we a strong presence at the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women's Beijing +15 Conference in March, but we also took tangible steps to improve our City personnel's ability to respond to monolingual victims of domestic violence right here in San Francisco.

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And as always, check out the sidebar for new resources for the public and upcoming meetings and events. Visit our website at www.sfgov.org/dosw for more information about all of our exciting programs.

Department Brings Local Strategies to International Audience

In March, the Department made a splash at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women meetings in New York that marked 15 years since the 4th UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, where women from around the world developed the Beijing Platform to advance women's rights globally. The passage of San Francisco's local [CEDAW Ordinance](#) drew energy from the historic meeting in Beijing, and Executive Director Emily Murase, Policy Director Ann Lehman, and Senior Gender Policy Analyst Anu Menon made 3 presentations to an international audience of women leaders to share San Francisco's experience with CEDAW implementation:

- **"Violence against Women: Perspectives from Bahrain, Ecuador, Iran, and the U.S."** showcased a presentation by Dr. Murase about San Francisco's unique and innovative approaches to [combating violence against women](#)
- **"CEDAW Goes Local -- San Francisco Plus Ten Years"** highlighted San Francisco's creative implementation of the local Women's Human Rights Ordinance

(CEDAW) over the past 10 years, including its innovative partnership with Calvert Asset Management one of the largest families of socially responsible mutual funds, and Verite, a human rights monitoring organization, to [bring CEDAW to the private sector](#).

- **“Gender Responsive Budgeting in the U.S.: A Tale of Two Counties”** compared the [Gender Responsive Budgeting](#) initiatives of Fulton County, Georgia and San Francisco.



Department staff (center) outside of the United Nations with administrators from Fulton County, Georgia, after a presentation about implementing Gender Responsive Budgeting.

The Department’s groundbreaking work bringing the gender analysis tool to the private sector was cited as the impetus for international measures at a parallel conference in New York, **“Equality Means Business.”** Sponsored by the United Nations Global Compact and the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), this conference officially launched the [United Nations Women’s Empowerment Principles](#), a set of aspirational private sector principles based on the Calvert Women’s Principles and the San Francisco Gender Equality Principles. The conference was attended by over 120 representatives from corporations, universities, and policy think tanks dedicated to promoting gender equity in the workplace.

At each of the workshops and conferences, San Francisco was heralded as a leader in developing local policies for the advancement of women, a beacon for other cities in the U.S. and for countries around the globe.

Modern Day Abolitionist Awards Announced

The [San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking](#) (SFCaHT) concluded Human Trafficking Awareness Month with the February 9, 2010 event **“Not In Our Backyards: Recognizing and Combating Human Trafficking in San Francisco.”** With over 100 attendees participating, an expert panel provided tips and tools for community members to use to help end human trafficking. In an awards ceremony, SFCaHT recognized 4

individuals with the First Annual Modern Day Abolitionist Award:

- District Attorney Kamala Harris
- Senator Leland Yee
- Assemblymember Fiona Ma
- Former Assemblymember Sally Lieber



Collaborative Co-Chairs Nancy Kishner-Rodriguez and Nancy Goldberg (center) present Modern Day Abolitionist Awards to Senator Leland Yee and Assemblymember Fiona Ma.

These leaders have helped California take strides to stop trafficking through legislative means. You can stay informed about SCAHT and anti-human trafficking efforts in San Francisco by becoming a fan of SCAHT on [Facebook!](#)

Bridges to Freedom Makes Language Access a Reality

The 16-week *Bridges to Freedom* Language Fluency Project began in March. The Spanish and the Cantonese courses comprise a fascinating cross-section of City and community providers, from police officers, to nurses, to case managers, to attorneys. Participants are improving their fluency in the language while learning terms related to domestic violence and the criminal justice system. **The goal is to improve the ability of City employees to respond to limited-English proficient survivors of domestic violence who are accessing City services.**

In addition to the fluency training, half-day “refresher” courses will be offered in June in order to bring this important program to more personnel. The Department is excited to partner with the **Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs** on this valuable training, developed as a direct result of the Department’s [2006 Domestic Violence Victim Safety and Accountability Audit](#).



The Spanish section of Bridges to Freedom holds up red cards as part of a Spanish campaign to speak out against domestic violence.

Law Students Help Promote Work-Life Balance Policies

In a pioneering partnership, a group of students from Northeastern Law School worked with the Department to provide a comparative analysis of **work-life balance practices in the US, California, and San Francisco** as compared with practices in the European Union. This research and policy analysis greatly enhances the [Gender Equality Principles Initiative](#) and the tools available to companies who have signed on. Private sector human resource professionals can use this information to gain support for and implement work-life balance practices in their companies, creating a better working environment for all employees. These issues were **recently highlighted by the President and First Lady** in the first White House Forum on Flexibility. The Department thanks the students at Northeastern for their detailed and critical analysis!

Writing Women Back into History

March brought another successful Women's History Month with the 2010 theme of **"Writing Women Back into History."** On Tuesday, March 30, 2010, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors acknowledged and recognized leading women of the community.

- Tangerine Brigham, honored by Mayor Gavin Newsom
- Karen Crommie, honored by Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi
- Judy Grossman, honored by Supervisor Bevan Dufty
- Gail Goldyne, honored by Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier
- Fire Chief Joanne Hayes White, honored by Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier
- Bernadette Herrera, honored by Supervisor John Avalos
- Hene Kelly, honored by Supervisor Eric Mar
- Celine Kennelly, honored by Supervisor Sean Elsbernd
- Chang Jok Lee, honored by President David Chiu
- Mujeres Unidas y Activas, honored by Supervisor David Campos
- Rachel Paras, honored by Supervisor Chris Daly

- Lorri Ungaretti, honored by Supervisor Carmen Chu
- La Shon Walker, honored by Supervisor Sophie Maxwell
- Louise C. Winterstein, honored by Supervisor Sophie Maxwell



Women's History Month Honorees (with corsages), Commissioners, and First Lady Jennifer Seibel Newsom (back row, 3rd from left) at the North Light Court reception following the Board of Supervisors ceremony.

The Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women hosted a reception following the Board of Supervisors' special meeting, where First Lady Jennifer Seibel Newsom presented the Mayor's recognition of Ms. Brigham, and the Commission presented resolutions to each of the honorees. The Department is proud of the role this event has in promoting women's leadership in San Francisco.

NEW RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Check out the "Resources" page of our website for all these and more!

Local Tools, Global Impact

This brochure documents the many resources developed by the Department in our 10+ years of implementing the Women's Human Rights Ordinance.

CEDAW 10-Year Report

The Board of Supervisors enacted the Women's Human Rights Ordinance in 1998, charging the Department with its implementation. This report documents the best practices San Francisco has developed in order to support other municipalities in advancing the human rights of women.

Gender Responsive Budgeting – Path to Accountability and Data-Based Decision-Making

Released in February 2010, this report reviews the demographic

data collection practices of City agencies and makes recommendations for moving the City closer to instituting Gender Responsive Budgeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Commission Meetings

5:00 pm, City Hall 408

- May 26, 2010
- June 23, 2010
- July 28, 2010

Justice and Courage Oversight Panel

9:00 am, City Hall 408

- May 5, 2010
- August 4, 2010

Family Violence Council

3:00 pm, 400 McAllister St., Room 509

- May 20, 2010
- August 19, 2010

Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee Hearing about the Department's Budget

June 21, 2010, 10:00 am, City Hall 250

SAVE THE DATE

Women's Human Rights Awards Gala

Luncheon sponsored by the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women
Monday, October 18, 2010

2010 Women's Policy Summit

The Commission and Department join the San Francisco Women's Political Committee in hosting 4th annual event.
Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm



Commissioners, Friends of the Commission Board Members, and Department Staff gather at the Women's History Month Event, March 30, 2010.