

## Winter 2010 Newsletter

### Department on the Status of Women January 2010 Newsletter

#### New Partnerships to End Slavery

Did you know? Human trafficking will soon become the most profitable crime worldwide, ahead of both the arms and drug trades. On January 11, 2010, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Mayor Gavin Newsom, District Attorney Kamala Harris, State Senator Leland Yee, Supervisor Carmen Chu, the Department, and our partners, including the Human Rights Commission, officially launched the **San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCaHT)** to create safety for the hundreds of thousands of individuals trafficked internationally and domestically each year.

Originating through the partnership between the Department, the Human Rights Commission, and the Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking, **SFCaHT now includes over 20 government, law enforcement, and community-based agencies**, and seeks to raise awareness about the issue, advocate for legislation, and improve data tracking locally. The Department and the Human Rights Commission are housing SFCaHT, and you can find out more at the Human Rights Commission website: [www.sf-hrc.org](http://www.sf-hrc.org).



Mayor Gavin Newsom at the Human Trafficking Awareness Day press event.

#### CEDAW - Local Implementation, Worldwide Attention

In March 2010, the Department will bring the learnings from over 10 years of implementing our local Women's Human Rights Ordinance (CEDAW) to the global community. The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women will meet in New York, and the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Committee on the Status of Women has invited the Department to conduct a panel at a parallel conference. Director Emily Murase, PhD, and Department staff will host the panel "**CEDAW Goes Local -- San Francisco Plus 10 Years**" on March 6, 2010 for an international audience of women leaders.

Additionally, to celebrate International Women's Day on March 9, 2010, the Department will

attend a very special event with UNIFEM and the UN Global Compact to launch the Women's Empowerment Principles – **"Equality Means Business."** These principles were informed by our own [San Francisco Gender Equality Principles](#), building upon the groundbreaking work we've accomplished here in San Francisco.

## As the Economy Slowly Recovers, Are Women Benefiting?

On Monday, December 7, 2009, the Commission and Department on the Status of Women partnered with the Land Use and Economic Development Committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Chaired by Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, to hold a hearing entitled **"The Current Economic Crisis: Impact and Recommendations for San Francisco's Women and Girls."** This important hearing followed up on the Commission's investigation into this issue during the spring of 2009.

**Commission President Andrea Shorter** set the tone for the hearing by calling for comprehensive data collection and oversight of outreach measures for new programs to ensure that Stimulus Act funds are reaching women. Other speakers included:

- **Kate Howard** of the Mayor's Office of Policy and Finance,
- **Jenny Erwin**, of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor, Region 9,
- **Veronica Hunnicutt** of City College of San Francisco,
- **Linnea Klee** from Children's Council,
- **Regina Dick-Endrizzi**, Director of the Small Business Commission,
- **Teresa Sparks** of the Human Rights Commission,
- **Thais Rezende** from Women's Initiative, and
- **Meg Vasey** of Tradeswomen, Inc.

Read the full [summary of the hearing online](#), including a list of proactive recommendations made by participants. Resources for women seeking opportunities are also available on our website.

## Getting the Word out about Gender Equality

The Department's [Gender Equality Principles Initiative \(GEP\)](#) has been featured in a recent publication, ***Embedding Gender in Sustainability Reporting - A Practitioner's Guide*** (October 2009), released by the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group. The guide stresses the importance of enhanced corporate reporting on gender issues related to governance, supply chain, community involvement, and investment. Read this report at IFC's website: <http://www.ifc.org/gender> and find out more about the GEP on the Department's website.

## Grantees Learn How to Ask for the Cash

In these tough times when government budgets are being cut so drastically, nonprofit agencies must reach out to find new sources of support for their critical programs. With this in mind, the

Department hosted its Annual Partner Agency Meeting on January 12, 2010, focusing on fundraising. Bob Zimmerman of Zimmerman Lehman Consulting presented a 3 hour workshop, ***Major Donors – How to Launch a Successful Major Donor Campaign***. Nearly 30 attendees from the Department's [Violence Against Women Grants Program](#), as well as from the Mayor's Office of Housing and the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, learned the ins and outs of finding major donors to invest big bucks in their agencies. Despite the dire budget situation, the Department maintains a commitment to ensuring the sustainability and capacity of our partners and their services.



## **Raising Awareness to End Violence against Women**

November 25, 2009 marked the **United Nations' International Day to End Violence Toward Women and Girls**. The right to live a life free from violence, discrimination, and harassment is one the Department takes seriously, and Commission Secretary Cynthia Vasquez represented the Department at a City Hall press conference highlighting the important anti-violence work the City and the Department conducts on behalf of women and girls. In her remarks, and in a subsequent interview with KTVU for the evening news, Ms. Vasquez provided a glimpse into the hardships that women experience as victims of violence. The press event and interview raised awareness about the year-round work conducted by the Department. Find out more about our [Violence Against Women programs](#) online.

## **Strengthening the Safety Net through Language Fluency**

In a new partnership with the **Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs**, the Department is embarking on the "[Bridges to Freedom](#)" project to train criminal justice personnel in Spanish and Chinese, specifically in terminology commonly used in domestic violence response. The project arose from recommendations of the Department's 2006 [Domestic Violence Victim Safety & Accountability Audit](#). Funded through the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the language fluency program will engage over 100 personnel. If first responders are better equipped to provide services to victims in their native languages, we can create bridges between limited-English proficient and monolingual survivors of domestic violence and the safety that is their right.

## **Upcoming Events**

Human Trafficking Awareness Month will showcase a number of informative and eye-opening events. Below is a brief overview of what's to come. Find locations and additional information at the [SFOAHT website](#).

### **Why is Human Trafficking a Jewish Issue?**

Panel event hosted by the Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking. Tuesday, February 3, 2010, 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

### **What Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation is on the Horizon?**

Panel event hosted by the San Francisco Women's Political Committee. Friday, February 5, 2010, 5:45 pm - 7:30 pm.

### **Not in Our Backyards: Recognizing and Combatting Human Trafficking in San Francisco.**

Final Celebration and Panel hosted by SFOAHT. Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.

## **New Resources for Survivors of Violence**

The San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking has released the 2010 Directory of Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking. With listings of over 35 community providers, advocacy organizations, and local coalitions, the Directory is a useful guide for both service

providers and trafficking survivors. Find it online at the [SFOAHT website](#). Limited hard copies are available at the Department. Contact [dosw@sfgov.org](mailto:dosw@sfgov.org).

LEAP (Look to End Abuse Permanently), a program of the Department of Public Health, has produced a new resource for survivors of domestic violence and advocates. "My Safety Plan" will help a survivor take the steps necessary to protect herself and find safety. Visit [www.leapsf.org](http://www.leapsf.org) to download a copy of the brochure in English or Spanish.