



**SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN**

April 2020

San Francisco Commission & Department on the Status of Women Newsletter

Dear Community,

We hope you are well and staying safe during this time. In San Francisco, Mayor London Breed has issued a Shelter in Place order, directing residents to stay home except to get food, care for a relative or friend, get necessary healthcare, or go to an essential job. The best thing we can all do to reduce the spread of COVID-19 is to stay home and not meet with anyone outside our households. Our staff at the Department on the Status of Women are working from home and doing our part to support the City's response.

However, we also want to acknowledge that home is not a safe place for everyone. Domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse are continuing to happen, and we want survivors to know that help is available. Do not hesitate to reach out if you need help.

Seeking support from violence is an essential need.

With that in mind, we want to offer some resources for survivors of violence. We have produced a webpage summarizing the resources, available [here](#).

We also want to highlight a few hotlines or textlines you can contact:

W.O.M.A.N., Inc.

TEL: 415-864-4777

24-Hour Crisis Line: 415-864-4722

Toll Free: 877-384-3578

www.womaninc.org

La Casa de las Madres

TEL: 415-503-0500

24-Hour Adult Crisis Line: 877-503-1850

24-Hour Teen Crisis Line: 877-923-0700

24-Hour Text Crisis Line: 415-200-3575

www.lacasa.org

San Francisco Women Against Rape

TEL: 415-861-2024

24-Hour Crisis Line: 415-647-7273

www.sfwar.org



The Commission and Department on the Status of Women remain dedicated to serving the City and County of San Francisco, and we are here to support you and the community.

Follow us on [Twitter](#)

and [Facebook](#) @statusofwomensf or connect directly through dosw@sfgov.org.



April is
**Sexual Assault
Awareness Month**

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Unfortunately, in the US, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. This year's theme of sexual assault awareness month is "I ask." The idea to empower all of us to put consent into practice.

Would you like to support raising awareness for sexual assault and end victim blaming?

Participate in Denim Day on April 29, 2020. For more information visit <https://www.denimdayinfo.org/>.

It's important for every member of our community to feel safe and supported; facing sexual assault can be scary, and overwhelming. We want to highlight some organizations that are working to address sexual assault here in San Francisco:

Commission Meetings

April Commission Meeting Canceled.

Our April Commission meeting was originally scheduled for April 22, 2020. However, in consultation with Commission President Breanna Zwart the April 22, 2020 Commission meeting is now canceled. We plan to hold the May 27, 2020 Commission meeting, subject to updates / changes in the COVID-19 health crisis and Mayor's orders.



Census

Do you care about local schools, transportation infrastructure, or job training programs? Great! These are all things that are impacted by the Census, since federal funding to local communities is informed by the results of the past Census. To make sure that San Francisco gets the resources it needs, we all need to get counted. Go to 2020census.gov/ to take the Census now.

Policy Efforts During COVID-19

Policy and Grants Manager, Elise Hansell, is a panelist on Alliance for Girls workshop series, Local Advocacy: Centering Girls in COVID-19 Responses. The series has two more sessions from 1pm-2pm on April 21 and May 5. [More information here.](#)

The Alliance for Girls and Futures Without Violence hosted a successful statewide virtual townhall with Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis on Monday April 13. The townhall focused on how women and girls are being impacted by COVID-19.

Supporting Our Community

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on workers and businesses in our neighborhoods. We have now been given the opportunity to rethink where and how we are investing into our community. Take this opportunity to build up local small businesses and women-owned business that create our community. Mayor London Breed has announced

San Francisco Women Against Rape (SF WAR) provides resources, support, advocacy and education to strengthen the work of all individuals, and communities in San Francisco that are responding to, healing from, and struggling to end sexual violence. SFWAR is a women of color led, volunteer-based organization that has provided rape crisis services to survivors of sexual assault for over 30 years. SFWAR is one of our Gender-Based Violence Grantees and we are proud to support them in the work they do. SFWAR continues to provide services during this crisis—you can call their 24-Hour Rape Crisis Line at 415-647-7273. Website: <https://www.sfwar.org/about.html> .

The Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP Office) at the San Francisco Human Rights Commission works to ensure that city government agencies are responsive to the needs of survivors. They collaborate with City Departments, law enforcement agencies, and community organizations. Website: <https://sf-hrc.org/sharp> .

The Department on the Status of Women has been working in conjunction with the Alliance for Girls, the Women's Building, and the SHARP Office to end sexual harassment and violence against women on public transit. A regional campaign was set to launch in April, however has now been put on hold. The collaborative is currently focused on maintaining relationships with transit agencies around the Bay Area to continue this work when possible.



Child Abuse Awareness Month

April is also Child Abuse Prevention Month. While the rates of child abuse in San Francisco have decreased in recent years, even one child being abused is one too many. We want to highlight a few collaborations we are part of on this topic below:

The Department on the Status of Women

a cap on delivery fees to make it easier to support local restaurants <https://sfmayor.org/article/mayor-london-breed-announces-delivery-fee-cap-support-san-francisco-restaurants-during-covid>.

To support local women-owned businesses visit: <https://sites.google.com/lacocinasf.org/eat-la-cocina/home>.

For resources for businesses and employees visit: <https://oewd.org/resources-businesses-and-employees-impacted-covid-19>.



works to prevent and address child abuse through our Family Violence Council (FVC), a public body consisting of governmental and non-governmental agencies. The FVC works to address domestic violence, elder abuse, and child abuse and is chaired by three community-based organizations: the Domestic Violence Consortium, the Institute on Aging, and Safe & Sound. Safe & Sound is a child abuse prevention organization that provides direct services to children and families, advocates around policies and programs, and collaborates with government and nonprofit agencies. [More information here.](#)

Many people do not know that child sexual exploitation can be considered both a form of human trafficking as well as a form of child abuse. At the Department on the Status of Women, one of the ways we work to address the exploitation of youth and children in the commercial sex industries is through the SF SOL Project. The SF SOL Project was created by a \$9.3 million grant from the California Department of Social Services and is a collaboration of San Francisco government and nonprofit agencies led by the Department on the Status of Women. The project is a new pilot that provides housing options and other services to youth who have been exploited. If the pilot goes well, it could be replicated statewide. [More information here.](#)

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