



April 2021

San Francisco Commission & Department on the Status of Women Newsletter

Dear Community,

April marks Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month, issues with which far too many of us are intimately familiar. Tragically, these trauma-invoking events don't just happen one month out of the year, as survivors live with the emotional and physical scars throughout the rest of their lives.

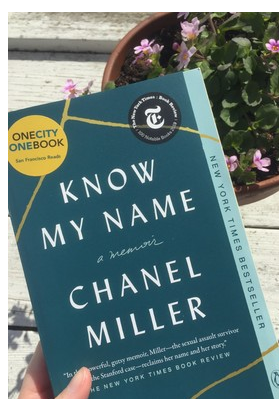
Beyond the pain, we must also never lose sight of the fact that there is - yet and still - hope and light at the end of these dark tunnels. Victims can become survivors. And survivors can become advocates, and advocates, champions. This month, let us honor those incredible survivors and allies who are making an impact by not just changing lives, but by helping to save them.

Let me say to our friends who celebrate it – Ramadan Mubarak! May this Holy Month of prayer, reflection and community be filled with peace and love and safety.

Finally, my heart goes out to those in Minnesota who are living through another wave of civil unrest and for those who are reeling from witnessing another Black life being killed at the hands of law enforcement. You do not have to be Black for this to trigger trauma and pain, but especially for those in the Black community, we stand in solidarity with you.

Black. Lives. Matter.

Kimberly Ellis



Want to engage in broader conversations on sexual assault? Join the Department staff in reading *Know My Name: A Memoir* by Chanel Miller for San Francisco Public Library's One City One Book campaign. One City One Book is a citywide literary event that encourages members of the San

Francisco community to read the same book at the same time. For more information, visit sfpl.org/onecityonebook.

Save the Date

Women in Small Business Roundtable

May 7, 2021 11:00 am

In partnership with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Office of Small Business, and Office of Economic and Workforce Development, we will be hosting a Women in Small Business Policy Roundtable during Small Business Week. Registration information to follow.

Commission Meetings

Wednesday, April 28, 5 - 7 pm [Online](#)

Wednesday, May 26, 5 - 7 pm

Commission meetings are online public events; please check our website for instructions on how to join.

[Commission Meeting Information](#)

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

San Francisco Department on the Status of Women | (415) 252-2570 | DOSW@sfgov.org | sfgov.org/dosw/

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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, "We Can Build Safe Online Spaces", highlights how to practice consent online, keeping kids safe from abuse, as well as facilitating and participating in respectful online communities. Learn more from the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#).

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault, help is available. Do not hesitate to reach out for support. Find online resources at:

- Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention: www.sharp-sf.org/
- San Francisco Women Against Rape: sfwar.org/

Help raise awareness by participating in Denim Day on April 28th to practice solidarity and support survivors by exposing harmful behaviors and attitudes surrounding sexual violence. For more information visit denimdayinfo.org/.

Follow the Department on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to get up-to-date information on Sexual Assault Awareness Month events.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is also Child Abuse Prevention Month. Although the rates of child abuse in San Francisco have decreased in recent years, even one child being abused is one too many.

DOSW works to prevent and address child abuse through our Family Violence Council (FVC), a public body consisting of governmental and non-governmental agencies working to end domestic violence across the lifespan. The FVC 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: sfgov.org/dosw/family-violence-council

Many people do not know that child sexual exploitation can be viewed as both a form of human trafficking as well as a form of child abuse. At DOSW, 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 DOSW. The project is a new pilot that provides housing options and other services to youth who have been exploited with the goal of being replicated statewide. More information here: sfgov.org/dosw/san-francisco-sol-collaborative

Stay home. Save lives.

Help slow the spread of the coronavirus during the holiday season.

Please continue to support our community and reduce the spread of COVID-19 by staying home as much as possible, avoiding gatherings, wearing face coverings, and staying up-to-date on [City and County of San Francisco COVID-19 recommendations](#).