



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

December 2020

San Francisco Commission & Department
on the Status of Women Newsletter



Department Director, Kimberly Ellis



Still We Rise

**You may write (us) down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod (us) in the very dirt
But still, like dust, (we)'ll rise.**

These immortal words by American Poet Laureate and luminary Maya Angelou speak to the essence of the human spirit - one that transcends race, gender and nationality. It's our biological legacy of grit and determination.

We find ourselves concluding 2020 amid a global pandemic with infection rates going up and the number of available hospital beds going down. If there was ever a holiday season when we needed to invoke inspiring words and profound wisdom, that time is now.

And though we enter this month with a spark of hope

Commission Meetings

Last month, the Commission passed a resolution affirming its commitment to racial equity and supporting the development of the Department's Racial Equity Action Plan. The resolution recognizes structural racism and acknowledges government's and the women's movement complicity in perpetrating racism and white supremacy. [Read the Department's resolution here.](#)

Join us for our upcoming December Commission meeting to learn more about gender representation in City-owned property and the Department's Annual Report.

December 16 [Online](#) 5 - 7 pm
Watch (via WebEx): <https://bit.ly/35Ba7V2>
Public Comment Call-In: 415-655-0001
Access Code: 146 348 0225

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chapter will soon be behind us, we cannot forget that a vaccine will not address the profound effects this period has had on all of us - including and especially our BIPOC community, women, children, non-binary and trans people.

As San Francisco's new Director of the Department on the Status of Women, I come into this role with a tremendous passion to continue the important work of the Commission and our staff. But I also arrive clear-eyed that any problems facing our non-cis male communities before this pandemic have only been exacerbated - and in many instances – exponentially. From housing insecurity to domestic violence, we know it is the DOSW-focused communities that have borne the worst outcomes of this past year, and they will continue to do so in the months and years ahead.

We rise together knowing that these circumstances, systems of oppression and patriarchy are malleable - not fixed. The conditions facing the communities the Department and the Commission serve are not permanent, and we collectively have the power and means to change them. But in order to do so, we must harness our energies, refocus our attention, and yes, find that grit and determination so clearly embodied in Maya Angelou's watershed poem.

So let 2021 be the time when, as our foremothers and elders did generations ago, we pull ourselves up from the dirt, dust ourselves off and join hands, because...Still, We Rise. Together.

Have a safe and happy holiday season, wear your masks and I look forward to seeing you (fingers crossed, in-person!) in the New Year.

All my best,

Kimberly

Stay home. Save lives.

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

The City and County of San Francisco has issued a [Stay at Home Order](#) which limits any gatherings to members of the same household, even if outdoors, closes outdoor dining, playgrounds, and outdoor museums. 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](#).

February 24, 2021 Online 5 - 7 pm

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

[Commission Meeting Information](#)

Please note that Commissioner Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz resigned from the Commission in November.

The Commission now has one vacant seat.

Leadership Opportunities on Boards and Commissions. You can find Commission and Board openings at the following links:

1. [311 List of Boards and Commissions](#)
2. Board of Supervisors List: [Vacancies on Boards and Commissions](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

2021 SFC AHT Press Conference to Launch Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January 8, 2021 at 11 am

12th Annual Press Conference of SFC AHT as leading anti-trafficking advocates, service providers, survivors and Bay Area top government and law enforcement officials announce their priorities for the year in fighting modern-day slavery. The 2021 recipients of the Modern-Day Abolitionist Award will be honored. Opening remarks will be delivered by San Francisco Mayor London Breed.

[Register Here](#)

2021 Teen Power Summit and Closing of the Annual Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign

February 24, 2021 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Youth from across the Bay Area will gather to share their experience in anti-trafficking advocacy and prevention. At this event, we will also honor the winners of the 2021 Teen Poster and Writing Contest. Parents, teachers, local politicians, and top government officials will speak about their work to free our communities from child

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse are continuing to happen, and we want survivors to know that help is available. Find online resources at: sf.gov/information/domestic-and-family-violence-resources.

Do not hesitate to reach out if you need help. To talk to someone, 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

To participate in the contest entry submission deadline is February 18 at 5pm. [See SFCAHT for Details.](#)



SPOT LIGHT

Commissioner Sophia Andary participates in Portal Interview Series:

Reflections on Feminist Leadership Through Crisis.

[Read it here.](#)

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.

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

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