

More than 75% of sexual assaults are never reported to police — and men report at even lower rates — because our system forces those who do come forward to face a long, invasive, and dehumanizing process as the cost of surviving a traumatic, dehumanizing experience. As a woman, none of this is abstract to me.

San Francisco's record is unacceptable: SFPD cleared 14% of rape cases last year, half the national average and the worst of any large California county in five years. Almost 80% of victims who endured hours-long forensic exams at SF General had their cases quietly marked "inactive" and shelved.

Survivors deserve a city that believes them on the worst day of their lives. Solutions are necessary, and none are new or complicated:

- Survivors should have an advocate at every stage of a police or DA interaction unless they opt out, not opt in.
- Officers must receive trauma-response training before responding to special victims crimes, follow a co-responder model on dispatch, and be held to a code of ethics that mirrors what we already demand of social workers and mental-health professionals.
- City Hall must fully fund SHARP and the Office of Victim and Witness Rights so they can fill their staff vacancies.
- The SFPD, the DA, and victim services need a secure system to share information, so a survivor only needs to relive their story once, not five times.

The city's failure isn't ignorance, it's indifference.