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STREET SHEET IS SOLD BY HOMELESS AND LOW-INCOME VENDORS WHO KEEP 100% OF THE PROCEEDS.

STREET SHEET IS READER SUPPORTED, ADVERTISING FREE, AND AIMS TO LIFT UP THE VOICES OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

STREET Sheet

A LESSON FROM
WOOD STREET

2

UNITED STATES
CASTE SYSTEM

3

HOW "HELP" IS
WEAPONIZED

4

SURVIVING
VIOLENCE

6

THE TRUMP TRAP
AND FEAR

7



THIS ISSUE IS
DEDICATED TO
THE MEMORY OF
GEORGE SHIEMAN,
STREET SHEET
VENDOR

THE GREATEST LESSON I'VE LEARNED OUT HERE

FREEWAY

A former resident of the Wood Street tent community, which the city of Oakland swept last year, muses about events surrounding the eviction.

We're finishing up the park clean-up today. This event was quickly pulled together because some neighbors bonded together to try to demonize us, particularly the people in those condos across the street. They are in some glorified hate groups. They even complained about the sawdust from the wood art my husband creates!

We'll be doing this again. The city hasn't responded to appeals for help. just in the works to get a contract with a company for trash removal. Carroll Fife, the Oakland council member and founding member of Moms 4 Housing, has a community organization that comes to the camps to help with cleaning, rather than the Department of Public Works destroying and stealing property. This poster hanging came as a result of some people who just wanted us out of sight. I've learned so much living out here. There's no college course that could have taught me what I learned.

The greatest lesson I've learned out here is gratitude. The bad things are something to be grateful for too, because they grant us a point of reference to compare.

We had to deal with some tragic losses. I've come to the reality that people are complaining because they feel uncomfortable. Your comfort should not come at the expense of my safety. It's no

different than the racism of the 1950s. They even complain about the people who feed our children!

We did a bike ride to Sacramento to get the government to push through some good legislation. The East Bay Community Law Center is working with us, trying to put together proposals to help the situation, not continue to traumatize us.

There was an established community on Wood Street, and they dispersed us. I was in one of the tiny cabins they set up for some of us, but I got assaulted there, with no help, then I was back out on the street. They showed up and said, "We only have a place in East Oakland," but I would have to move without my husband. There are no shelters for clean and sober living, so shelters are no answer for people trying to avoid drugs. People are traumatized over and over again. We have no access to resources or services. It's a wonder people are as peaceful as they are and not burning the city down!

All these sweeps and evictions cost the city \$100,000 a day, minimum. They had just about every cop in the department down there. The City of Oakland has been given \$34 million to "deal with" us. The cops and poverty pimps are getting it all. The director of the cabins project drives a Maserati to the site, but he's notorious for saying "We don't have money for this or that" to help the people.

Originally published in the People's Tribune December 2023 edition.

**HELP KEEP
STREET
SHEET IN
PRINT!**



coalition.networkforgood.com

**COALITION ON
HOMELESSNESS**

The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition's work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: they bring their agendas to us.

**STREET
SHEET
STAFF**

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

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Street Sheet is published and distributed on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples. We recognize and honor the ongoing presence and stewardship of the original people of this land. We recognize that homelessness can not truly be ended until this land is returned to its original stewards.

ORGANIZE WITH US

**HOUSING JUSTICE WORKING GROUP
TUESDAYS @ NOON**

The Housing Justice Workgroup is working toward a San Francisco in which every human being can have and maintain decent, habitable, safe, and secure housing. This meeting is in English and Spanish and open to everyone! Email mcarrera@cohsf.org to get involved!

**HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP
WEDNESDAYS @12:30**

The Human Rights Workgroup has been doing some serious heavy lifting on these issues: conducting direct research, outreach to people on the streets, running multiple campaigns, developing policy, staging direct actions, capturing media attention, and so much more. All those down for the cause are welcome to join! Email lpierce@cohsf.org

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN OUR WORKING GROUP MEETINGS!



HOW TO HELP 12,000 LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS IN SACRAMENTO

ISIDORE MIKA SZÉKELY
MANES-DRAGAN

The Community Summit on Homelessness, held in September 2023, provided many ways to elevate the voices of the homeless community. The event was coordinated by the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC) and its many supporters and allies. Representatives from the Sacramento and Oakland homeless communities came together to attend. One of the functions of the event was listening booths, where filmed interviews with the homeless community were conducted by members of Black Zebra Productions and Praxis Organization of Leftist Queers and Allies.

Laurie Funaroff was one of the people who was interviewed at a listening booth. When Black Zebra interviewers asked her what she believed to be the root of homelessness, she identified what she described as the racist and economically classist caste system of the United States. Here is her story.

When the City and County of Sacramento ran out of funding to help with her eviction, Laurie Funaroff and her multigenerational family of three found themselves at the mercy of a complex tapestry of failing systems.

Funaroff, a former teacher, is now retired. When the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted her ability to make rent payments, she applied for relief through the Sacramento Emergency Rental Assistance (SERA2), a program run by Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, whose purpose was to prevent evictions

resulting from the pandemic.

According to Funaroff, she could not afford her rent at the time, but her landlord waited to evict her until she was chosen off the waiting list. “In September 2022, they decided it’s time to evict,” she said, adding that someone from the property management company came to her door in December 2022 to talk about preventing her eviction. Funaroff said she was told that the landlord would retain a lawyer to ready its case, so she prepared to fight the eviction.

What came of the discussion was she had five days to get her response to the eviction into the courthouse to the Superior Court of Sacramento County. By that time, the statewide eviction moratorium had already ended on June 30, 2022. Funaroff said, “I went to the third floor help desk and asked to talk to the supervisor, and I said, ‘Look here, there’s this paragraph in bold.’” The mandatory cover sheet of the paperwork regarding the eviction of a plaintiff declares that if the tenant has any compensation pending, such as that from SERA2, that the landlord must not evict the tenant. But Funaroff said, “The supervisor on the third floor in the superior court says ‘That’s irrelevant, the eviction moratorium is over.’”

Funaroff was unable to get a lawyer in time. She chose to litigate in a jury trial. By January 2023, she discovered the shocking information that

she was disqualified from SERA2 due to the program running out of city funding and no longer accepting new cases. In December 2023, SERA2 began to only use its funding to focus on people actively facing eviction, and then if it had any remaining resources it planned to help with eviction protection.

On the first day of the case, Funaroff asked to reschedule the case. “It was me, my daughter and my little granddaughter,” she said. “They gave us a mediator—we didn’t really want one, but they gave us one. And guess what? The mediator was the same person up on the third floor.”

Funaroff brought up the mandatory cover sheet again. “The mediator says to me again, and he uses this big strong body language, and he says again, ‘That’s irrelevant.’”

“He says to my daughter, ‘You’ve been quiet, do you have something to say?’” Funaroff recalled that when Funaroff’s daughter spoke up, the mediator tried to belittle her. Funaroff said that her family was told that if they signed a stipulation that she would pay a few months of rent and then be evicted on August 21, 2023, her outstanding rent—a total of \$18,902—would be waived. If she did not sign it, the sheriff would put their things on the street within ten days.

The family was left without any option but to become homeless.

“The courthouse itself is a barrier to

justice, to put it mildly,” she said.

According to a press release Attorney General Rob Bonta issued on March 31, 2022, warning letters were sent to 91 law firms representing landlords that they were potentially in violation of various state policies as well as perjury. Eviction lawyers were alleged to have deceived landlords into thinking their tenants have no rental assistance pending. Funaroff said, “This was an illegal eviction,” one which left her and her family struggling to finish their education. According to Funaroff, 12,000 applicants have been denied health benefits or did not receive SERA2 funding, citing a statistic from the Poor People’s Campaign. Funaroff added that low-income tenants shouldn’t be burdened with increased rents.

“When 40% of the population is [over the] poverty level, and if there was a law that says that percentage of the population makes low enough income, that there shall be no rents in this city above 25% of the income of the lowest income earners,” she said.

Funaroff calls for publications of this information, public service announcements, and getting the word out however possible.

“We should not trust the courts all of the time,” she said. “There are some great rulings, like civil rights rulings, but when you know the courts are against you, we need other methods.”

SUP. DORSEY SURPRISES ALL WITH ASK FOR PSH HEARING

JORDAN DAVIS

On February 6, I was at the Board of Supervisors meeting, getting ready to make moderate supervisors wince with my acerbic comments once again, when I heard District 6 Supervisor Matt Dorsey introduce a hearing on permanent supportive housing (PSH). The hearing was to focus on security procedures and safety inside and outside such housing. He cited neighborhood concerns about conditions around these sites as a reason to schedule this hearing.

Immediately, alarm bells went off in my head. In my public comment, I briefly touched on the issue, but when I got home, I emailed a bunch of tenants and other people involved in PSH issues about how we were not consulted, and about how this could lead to more draconian rules in our housing, and their responses validated my concern. But the most enlightening part was that neither

the supportive housing providers nor Supervisor Dean Preston’s office—whose district includes multiple PSH sites—were consulted for the hearing before it was introduced.

It’s widely known that Preston and Dorsey belong to two different political factions: the former is a Democratic Socialist who aligns with the progressives and has a tenants’ rights background, and the latter is a conservative copagandist. If Dorsey had contacted Supervisors Preston, Hilary Ronen, and Aaron Peskin, who all have significant site-based permanent supportive housing in their districts, and offered to put up a united front for PSH and providers, I wouldn’t be writing this column. But in San Francisco in 2024, “bipartisanship” is dead and giving way to polarization, pettiness and political one-upping.

Now, Dorsey has thrown down the

gauntlet, and the door has closed on cross-factional collaboration and the community needs to respond in kind.

Just to be clear, this is only an informational hearing with no new laws on the table, and it will likely just be departmental presentations and questions from supervisors, along with public comment. After that, the hearing will be continued, either to a date yet to be determined or at the committee chair’s choice, or it will be filed. For better or for worse, hearings do lead to concrete policy.


What do PSH tenants think about this? On balance, I believe that we have nuanced views on safety. We are concerned about crime both inside and outside of our buildings, but we also don’t want police boots on our neck. The hearing references on-site security policies for PSH sites, but, as a trans person, I am

circumspect about security officers at any PSH site since Banko Brown, an unhoused Black trans man, was killed by an armed security officer at a Walgreens in Dorsey’s district.

And for those people who are concerned about security around permanent supportive housing? There are 2,000 permanent supportive tenants living all over the city, and even if you live far from the Tenderloin, they might be in your neighborhood. That is because the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing has a scattered site housing program, where tenants rent private units with a subsidy and mobile services. The fact of the matter is, permanent supportive housing is an asset to our communities, and that we don’t hear enough about success stories, and that the problems in PSH currently are due to dilapidated buildings and mismanagement.

**HARMFUL
COMPASSION:
HOW "HELP" IS
WEAPONIZED
AGAINST PEOPLE
LIVING UNHOUSED**

"CARE COURTS," IN CALIFORNIA, ARE THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH CARE + COMPASSION ARE WEAPONIZED. CARE COURTS CREATE A SEPARATE COURT SYSTEM FOR POOR + UNHOUSED PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITIES. IF PEOPLE REFERRED REFUSE TO ACCEPT "VOLUNTARY SERVICES," A JUDGE CAN ORDER A CLINICAL EVALUATION + FORCED TREATMENT. CARE COURTS ARE JUST ANOTHER WAY TO MAKE PEOPLE INVISIBLE.



FLOODING

RV CAMP

DRUG USE

SHELTER

TRASH

TOXIC SOIL

Encampment poses public health risk

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

SERVICE RESISTANT

WILDFIRE

EMERGENCY

Homeless crisis: a public health emergency

Homeless campers moved due to hazards

Newsom's CARE Courts: bringing services to those who need them most

"The camp was high risk," says police chief. "Moving it was for residents' own good."

A GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE ADVOCATING FOR A "COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE" TO HOMELESSNESS. YET CONCERN, COMPASSION, CARE, + HELP TOO OFTEN END UP DOING SERIOUS HARM.

FOR INSTANCE, CONCERNS ABOUT "PUBLIC SAFETY" FREQUENTLY JUSTIFY SWEEPS, IN THE MINDS OF CITY OFFICIALS.

SLEEP ^{ON} SWEEPS

EVEN THOSE WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS CAN END UP DOING HARM. BY FOCUSING ON THE INDIVIDUAL AS IN NEED OF CHANGE, RATHER THAN TARGETING LARGER SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION, PEOPLE GENUINELY INTENDING TO HELP CAN END UP PERPETUATING THE PROBLEM.

I don't need service providers telling me what to do. I don't want a shelter. I'm an expert at surviving. I need a safe place to be. And we need people to join this movement for HOUSE KEYS NOT SWEEPS!

I don't need service providers telling me what to do. I don't want a shelter bed. I'm an expert at surviving. I need a safe place to be. And we need people to join this movement for HOUSE KEYS NOT SWEETS!

FALSE + DISEMPOWERING CONCERN, COMPASSION, + CARE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACT PEOPLE ALONG INTERSECTIONAL LINES OF RACE, GENDER, DISABILITY, IMMIGRATION STATUS, + SO FORTH. THIS KIND OF STATE-SANCTIONED, SYSTEMIC VIOLENCE HABITUALLY TARGETS OUR COMMUNITIES. BUT WE WILL NOT DISAPPEAR.

An illustration at the bottom of the page shows two figures from behind, walking away. They are wearing beanies and carrying bags. The figure on the left is wearing a red beanie and a green bag with a 'HOUSE' tag. The figure on the right is wearing a pink beanie and a pink bag with a 'BLACK TRANS LIVES MATTER' tag. There are small yellow arrows pointing to the right, suggesting movement or direction.

THE SOLUTION??? THOSE HARDEST
HIT BY HOMELESSNESS +
OPPRESSIVE SYSTEMS HAVE
BEEN SURVIVING, THRIVING
+ FIGHTING FOR THEIR
COMMUNITIES FOR
GENERATIONS.
LISTEN DEEPLY.
BELIEVE WHAT
YOU HEAR. WORK
IN SOLIDARITY

THE SOLUTION?

HIT BY OPPRE

WE KEEP US SAFE

HOUSE KEYS NOT SWEEPS

BLACK LIVES MATTER

ABOLISH THE POLICE

ABOLISH ICE

HOMES FOR ALL

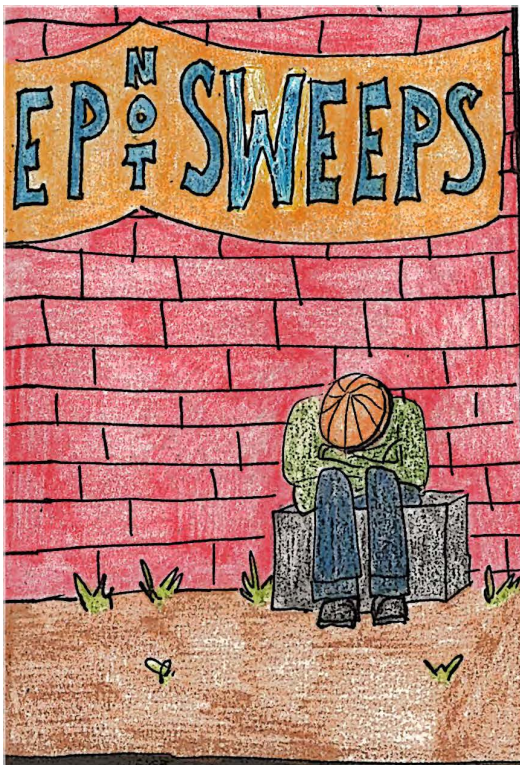
LAND BACK

BLACK TRANS LIVES MATTER

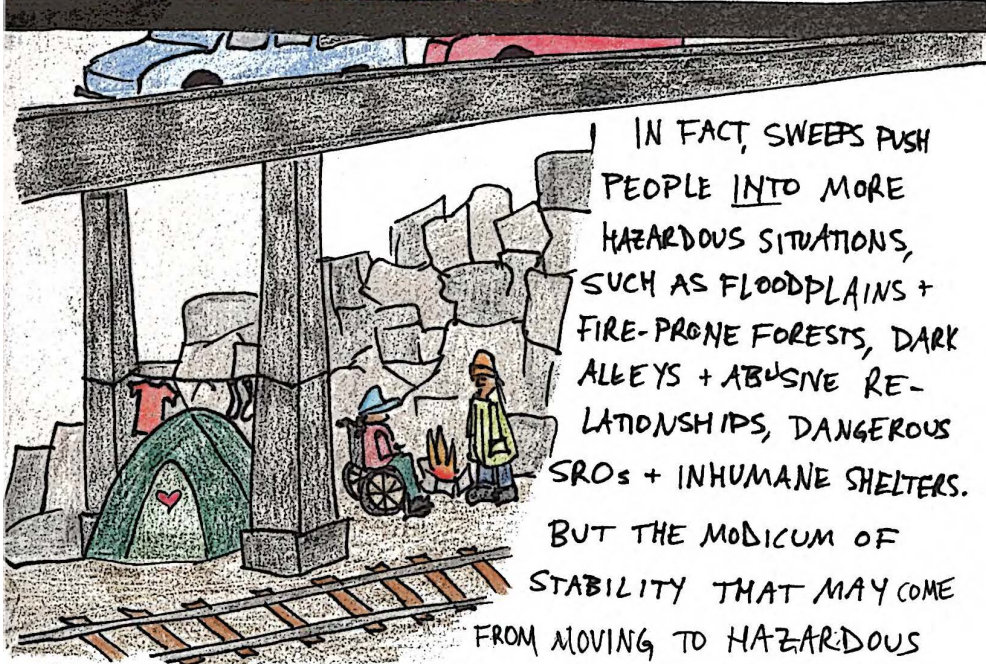
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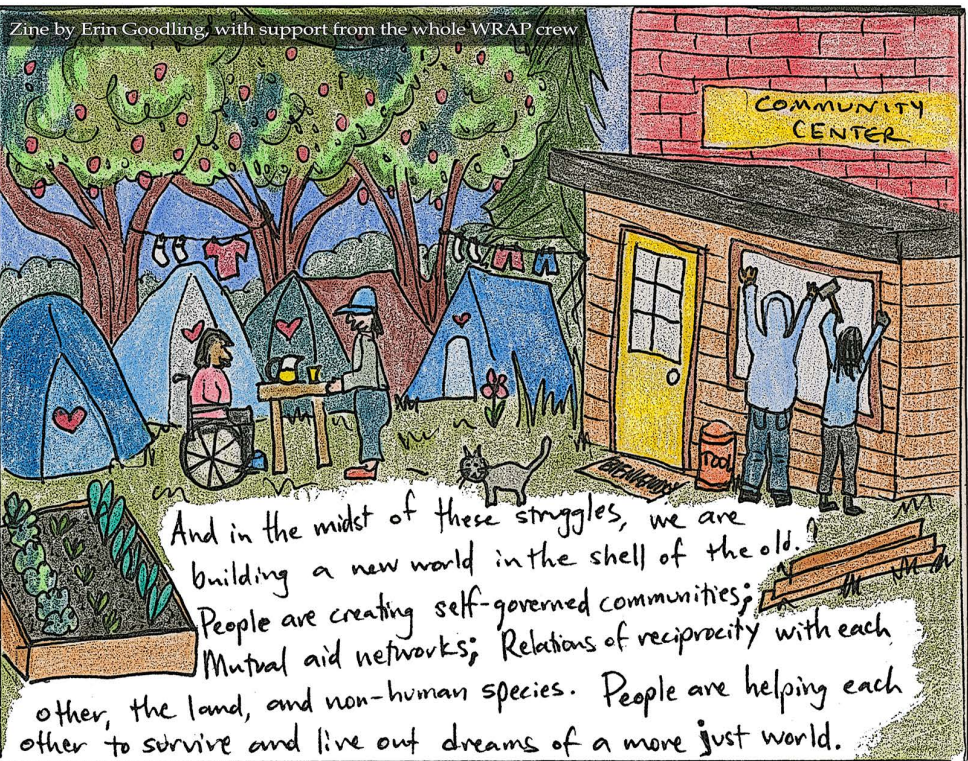
④



SWEEPS-EVICTIONS-BANISH PEOPLE LIVING UNHOUSED FROM THEIR COMMUNITIES. THEY CAUSE PEOPLE TO LOSE SURVIVAL GEAR, MEDICINE, ID, TREASURED MEMENTOS. TRAPPING PEOPLE IN AN ENDLESS CYCLE OF DISPLACEMENT, SWEEPS ARE INCREDIBLY TRAUMATIZING + DESTABILIZING. THEY DO NOT MAKE ANYONE SAFER.



BUT THE MODICUM OF STABILITY THAT MAY COME FROM MOVING TO HAZARDOUS AREAS IS OFTEN SHORT-LIVED, WITH CONCERNS ABOUT HEALTH + SAFETY USED TO JUSTIFY EVEN MORE SWEEPS. ②

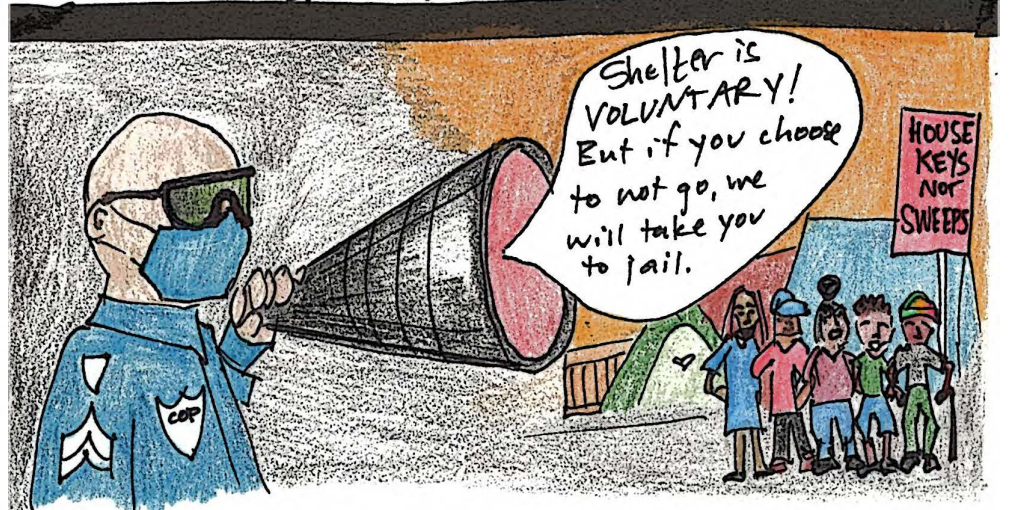


House Keys Not Sweeps Campaign Demands

1. End the practices of sweeping encampments, towing vehicles, and stealing and destroying belongings and structures houseless people create to keep themselves and their communities safe from the elements.
2. End the criminalization of houseless people, without justifying other types of criminalization, by ending the practices of move along orders, harassment, ticketing and arresting houseless people for existing outside.
3. Immediately halt government support of the hate and violence perpetuated by vigilante groups.
4. Create and fund access to sanitation and hygiene infrastructure that adequately and quickly responds to the growing number of houseless people.
5. Create and fund a full array of health care treatments, including harm reduction resources that appropriately respond to the needs of poor and houseless people.
6. Create affordable housing units for poor and houseless people, providing adequate funding for the development and maintenance with long term subsidies.
7. Overturn unjust policies and procedures that deny access to deeply affordable housing based on economic status and lived experiences of extreme poverty including homelessness.
8. Stop all revenue collection and public funding of BIDs.
9. End all funding of and support for hostile architecture that limits people's ability to access and utilize public spaces.



RECOGNIZING THAT SWEEPS ARE EXPENSIVE + INEFFECTIVE AT HIDING HOMELESSNESS, SOME OFFICIALS CALL FOR A "COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE", ADVOCATING FOR MORE SHELTERS + SERVICES.



YET, SUCH SERVICES ARE TOO OFTEN COERCIVE, INHUMANE, + PATRONIZING. THEY GIVE COVER TO CITIES TO CRIMINALIZE ANYONE WHO DOESN'T PARTICIPATE. AND THEY DO LITTLE TO PROVIDE ACTUAL HOUSING. ③



WWW.WRAPHOME.ORG

WESTERN REGIONAL
ADVOCACY PROJECT

FREEDOM FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE: “HOW COULD I LOSE MYSELF LIKE THAT?”

CHRISTIANE ROSENMUTH

My name is Christiane. I'm married, still, and have three grown children. And this is one thing I've learned: leaving my husband was the only decision, the only right one that I could make to come into myself and finally, at just over 60, create a worthy life for myself.

I wanted to emigrate – to spend my twilight years in my husband's home country, which had become my second home over the course of our 30 years together. But when the time came, we only managed eight months. Then we separated, at long last.

For almost 29 years, our marriage was defined by physical and psychological violence and my husband's narcissism.

I used to be a teacher. Ever since I was signed off from therapy and recovered from an operation on my hip, I have been supporting disabled people and studying social work. I want to help children and young people to learn to love themselves, to acknowledge their feelings and take them seriously.

We were hitting each other, no longer holding anything back

3 January 2022. It was one of those nights: drunk, stoned, coked up and full of Bazooka [a dangerous cocaine paste]. My husband had already snorted it all, and I was pumped full of alcohol and coke too – it had become the only way to make it through these nights.

But this night, he was more violent than the others; there were so many of them in our marriage. I don't remember how it happened this time – we were fighting, hitting each other, no longer holding anything back. I hit back. This is something I had “learned” in the last few months: to stop putting up with everything, to stop being scared and silent.

I too had crossed the line, and we were about to go over the

precipice.

Eventually, he fell asleep, and I prayed: “God, if you want all this to end, let me go without waking him up.” I left. My packed bag had been waiting for this moment for months.

I grabbed a few more things and headed out into the dark, with just enough money to pay for the bus to Quito, the capital of Ecuador. Our daughter, who was 10,000 kilometres away, stayed on the phone with me the whole time and paid for the first hotel remotely.

THE DECISION TO LEAVE

It would take another two weeks until I could leave behind my old life of emotional and physical hell. You couldn't just up sticks and leave like that. There were documents I needed to leave the country, and I had forgotten them.

Besides, I couldn't really let go yet. The few times we met before I finally left him and the country I'd come to know as my second home were filled with last ditch attempts to save what was no longer savable.

There were fears and threats of death, and a final embrace with my husband that is burned into my mind. It was perhaps the only embrace in which our souls felt our pain, our sadness and also the little love we had left for each other, for a few minutes in our 30-year marriage.

I was fortunate to have help from some selfless, kind people, without whom I would not have been able to leave.

AN UNCERTAIN FREEDOM

19 January 2022. Back in the winter of Germany. From the warm equator to the sub-zero temperatures of Frankfurt. I had my suitcase and a backpack; nothing else was left from those 30 years. I didn't want anything else.

For a long time, the only feelings I had were loneliness, of having uprooted myself: of not belonging anywhere and no longer wanting

to belong anywhere. Our children had already given up a long time ago. They couldn't watch it, couldn't stand it anymore.

Quito – Madrid – Frankfurt – Stuttgart. A 40-hour journey. Suddenly, a muddled thought flashed through my mind: “My vaccinations aren't valid in Germany. What now?”

I stood at the Frankfurt railway station with only €20 in my pocket. I didn't see anywhere to warm up until the train left. The station's charitable mission was the only place I could go. The young woman at my table gave me a piece of chocolate cake.

I felt like a failure then, just like everyone who walks through those doors. And that's exactly why I was so grateful to be there. I knew that I had exchanged the false security with my violent husband for freedom – but it didn't seem to offer me any support.

Loneliness, emotional turmoil, feelings of guilt towards the children who themselves had suffered so much from his violence, feelings of guilt towards my entire family. Why did it take so long to open my eyes? And at the same time, I felt an almost inexplicable yearning to be with him, to go back to the old cycle of violence and regret.

FINDING YOURSELF AGAIN

The next 18 months led to an inner journey that sometimes caused just as much terrible pain as my previous life. Inpatient therapy, facing up to my life, to my failure, to myself.

It wasn't just the hellish years of my marriage that needed to be looked at, but mainly the 30 years that preceded them. I realised that I had drifted through life for 60 years without any self-worth. I hadn't learned to recognise, appreciate and take myself and my feelings seriously.

Loss
How could I lose myself like that?
Wasn't I on the right path?
That old fear of not feeling loved

Was stronger and was leading me onto a dangerous bridge that broke beneath me
Hope and illusion – two powerful drugs –
until I fell apart
But they carried me through pain and torment
The voice saying stop fell on deaf ears
I haven't felt like myself for a long time.

STARTING LIFE ANEW

12 September 2023. I have an appointment with a lawyer in a few days. I'm filing for divorce. And I'm trying to forgive myself.

The responsibility never lies with just one person. That will never justify his violence, but I also had my reasons for staying and maintaining the relationship for so long, and for not sparing my children the misery much earlier.

I am well on my way to coming to terms with my past and becoming a part of society again. But it's not over yet. I have to slowly nurture a new relationship with my children and rebuild the trust that we destroyed. It will be a long and painful process. But I dream of one day sitting down at a table with them and laughing together warmly, happily.

We have a long way to go, but I know that this moment will come. That's what I'm working for, and it will only happen like this:

When I've managed
To overcome all my fears
To find myself and appreciate her
To no longer walk in his footsteps
But rather follow my heart.
When his blood no longer flows in my veins
only then will I be free
and we can talk again

3 November 2023. I no longer need him to know who I am.

Translated from German by Sarah G Robinson

Courtesy of Trott-war / INSP.ngo

RULE BY FEAR

AND WHY WE SHOULD OVERCOME IT

JACK BRAGEN

Bullies love to instill and weaponize fear. A common tactic is malevolent sarcasm: They think it’s funny that they can harm us. Bullies will assume they can scare anyone. Many criminals rely on fear as a survival tool. This essay will discuss fear, and how Donald Trump and governments employ it.

Evolution gave human beings the capacity for fear. We are not alone in this. I have seen insect life exhibit fear. In one instance, I witnessed a beetle fleeing a small lizard, doing the best sprint it possibly could. The reptile caught up to the bug and got it in its mouth, with only the head of the beetle exposed, and started chomping. I could really see that the bug was in great agony, its head sticking out of the reptile’s mouth while it faced its death. And insects are invertebrates, considered far lower on the evolutionary scale.

Fear in human beings is arguably the least pleasant of our emotions. When we were young, fear helped us survive, because there were a lot of things that we did not understand, and we needed the fear either to do as we were told by parents, or we needed the fear to stay away from something we didn’t understand.

Being afraid sucks eggs. As adults, we probably have much less of a need for this emotion. It could help in some situations. But often, it gets in the way.

Fear is an emotion that often is

used against us by our enemies and by predatory people and organizations. Fear paralyzes. Fear works against us more than it does for us.

We also see fear in nature. A lioness roars and gives chase, striking fear into a herd of zebras, then choosing the weakest-looking of the bunch, and giving slaughter. If all of the zebras collectively fought back, it would change the entire picture.

I am familiar with the emotion—in fact, overly so. But I’m not going to use the space here to speak of my personal struggles. Instead, I’d like to speak of how governments, politicians, dictators, and other thugs, weaponize fear, using the other person’s fear against them.

The U.S. government is guilty of this. As a recipient of Social Security, I am well aware of governmental intimidation tactics. This occurs across the board, and it will happen no matter who we vote into office. The Social Security Administration uses people’s fears to keep us from becoming too ambitious. If you fail to show up for an examination, whether it is medical or monetary, kiss your benefits goodbye. I have been interrogated by a Social Security employee. It is by intent that contact with them for any purpose will bring up fears.

Donald Trump: a multimillionaire-turned-politician who, in large part,

commands through fear. He caused many nominally responsible and ethical Republicans to jump ship. Only those fully loyal are allowed. Former House Speaker Paul Ryan said, “This is no longer the party of Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan.” Although I’m quite bothered that Ryan spoke both names in the same breath, it shows me that with Trump, we are dealing with something sinister, and something that could send the U.S. over the edge.

Trump has nearly full command of the Republican Party, largely through what people call “rule by fear.” If a Republican politician in Congress opposes Trump, it signals that they will soon be leaving politics. Trump can either frighten them enough to make them resign or ruin their chances of re-election. The outcome? They’re gone.

This is not the way our government was intended to work. Congress must be free of fear from whomever is president to function independently, and make its decisions based on its constituents’ needs.

Ryan surprised me by speaking up about Trump because I’d always thought of him as one of the bad guys. But let’s think of this in terms of degrees. Do you want an unfair democracy with a vastly immoral wealth disparity and an unjust system of laws, or do you want Emperor Trump and his successors taking over, eliminating all civil rights,

jailing or assassinating anyone who disagrees openly with the government, eliminating freedom of speech, freedom of thought, and all freedom, and wiping out those “crazies” who supposedly don’t have a right to exist?

Many Americans and foreign leaders dread what will happen if Trump regains the office of President. This is reality-based fear. Yet, it also mobilizes many, many people to create opposition. Trump is not one man—he is the figurehead for a large segment of people in the U.S. who have been fooled and conned by lies, fabrications and distortions. There are millions of Americans who support Trump, and that’s what makes him have power.

Unfortunately for Planet Earth, Donald Trump has a lot of appeal and can put on a great show. There are many readers who probably won’t be happy with me for writing this work that opposes Trump. That possibility could enter many people’s minds when they set out to criticize Donald Trump: “Will someone come out of the woodwork and come after me, if I openly oppose Trump?”

If you are afraid of where the U.S. could be going, you are not alone. Millions of Americans are afraid of another Trump presidency. We all need to speak out—even when we could be afraid to do so.

Jack Bragen is a writer in the East Bay, and author of several indie books available on LULU.com.

BECOME A
VENDOR

MAKE MONEY
AND HELP END
HOMELESSNESS!

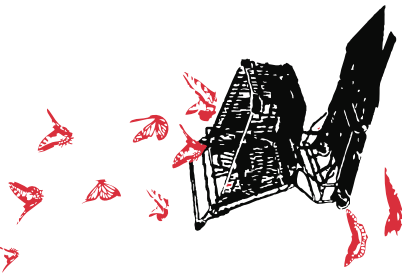
STREET SHEET IS CURRENTLY RECRUITING
VENDORS TO SELL THE NEWSPAPER AROUND SAN
FRANCISCO.

Vendors pick up the papers for free at our office in the Tenderloin and sell them for \$2 apiece at locations across the City. You get to keep all the money you make from sales! Sign up to earn extra income while also helping elevate the voices of the homeless writers who make this paper so unique, and promoting the vision of a San Francisco where every human being has a home.

TO SIGN UP, VISIT OUR OFFICE AT 280 TURK ST FROM 10AM-4PM ON MONDAY-THURSDAY AND 10AM-NOON ON FRIDAY

Coalition On Homelessness
280 Turk Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.346.3740
www.cohsf.org
streetsheetsf@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Homelessness
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END HOMELESSNESS NOW

RALLY AND ART ACTION

Sat. March. 16th,
12pm - 2pm
California State Capitol West Side
(10th Street, between N & L Street)
Sacramento

Demand real funding for NEW and
existing permanent & emergency
housing! Stop harassment of the
unhoused!!
Food!! (Provided by Food Not Bombs) Music!!
1550 "prayers and blessings" painted on
fence planks will get displayed in
solidarity with unhoused youth.

For info. contact Tiny Village Spirit--Host at 510-282-0396

Co-Sponsors: Food Not Bombs
Home Bridge Connect
Homeless!Poor!Magazine
Poor People's Campaign
Union of the Homeless
Wood Street Commons