




## City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> Katie Sophie Gonser		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> Seattle Human Rights Commission		<b>Position Title:</b> Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Appointment</b> OR <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reappointment</b>		<b>City Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Fill in appointing authority		<b>Term of Position: *</b> 1/23/24 to 1/22/26 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b> Brighton	<b>Zip Code:</b> 98118	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> Business phone # - NOT personal phone #
<b>Background:</b> Katie has spent more than eight years working towards social justice at smaller NGOs, at larger INGOs like the Red Cross and Amnesty International, at the United Nations, and her local South King County mutual aid. Most recently, she completed her PhD with the goal of deepening her knowledge of innovative policy approaches to systemic inequities and is now eager to return to more actionable human rights work.		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b>  <b>Date Signed (appointed):</b> May 12th, 2025		<b>Appointing Signatory:</b>  Bruce A. Harrell  Mayor of Seattle

*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*

# *Katie Sophie Gonser*

## **SUMMARY**

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- Over 7 years of experience advocating for, researching, and teaching about human rights issues.
- MA in Social Work & Human Rights and PhD in Human Rights/International Studies.
- Strongly motivated to contribute to equity and social justice in my local community.
- Excellent communication skills, adept at fostering collaboration, strategic problem-solving, building relationships with diverse stakeholders, and report-writing.
- Fluent in English and French, with intermediate Spanish and Swedish.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office, G Suite, SharePoint, Teams, database management, R, and able to learn new software programs quickly.

## **EXPERIENCE**

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### ***Project Manager, Research Lead***

June 2020 - June 2024

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

- Managed and led a team of 10 researchers a multi-disciplinary NSF-funded project focused on COVID-related misinformation on Twitter through full project cycle.
- Adapted quickly to changing priorities and deadlines while keeping team members motivated.
- Co-wrote applications for and won multiple grants, totaling over \$200,000.
- Liaised between and ensured collaboration across computer science and social science teams. Maintained consistent communication with both teams; provided regular updates and facilitated brainstorming sessions.
- Cultivated relationships and collaborated with Microsoft, Louisiana State University, the eScience Institute, and the Global Disinformation Index on various research projects.
- Communicated results in a variety of formats, including at conferences, in journal articles, and through an [online dashboard](#) outlining data metrics for the overall project.

### ***Instructor***

January 2020 - March 2024

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

- Taught courses in the International Studies and the Law, Societies, Justice departments.
- Encouraged collaborative problem solving around social issues, including structural and institutional oppression around diverse racial, gender, and sexual identities and how they relate to the classroom.
- Distilled complex concepts to a diverse group of students and fostered an open environment where questions and debate were encouraged.
- Managed conflict between students with poise, considering all perspectives and identifying appropriate supportive measures, including directing them to relevant resources where needed.
- Designed and adapted curricula for remote instruction, supported and guided students through the transition.

### ***Research Lead***

June 2020 - September 2020

Global Research Group, University of Washington | Seattle, WA

- Led a research team of five undergraduates in the drafting of the Cybersecurity Policy Evaluation Report commissioned by Microsoft.
- Analyzed policy data to propose a checklist for assessing cybersecurity policy proposals and applied this checklist to policies in the United States and European Union.

**Program Coordinator**

January 2019 - August 2019

The Freedom Fund | London, UK

- Ensured compliance with international transactions and sanctions by conducting checks on staff in partner organizations across multiple regions, including Northern and Southern India, Rajasthan, Ethiopia, Thailand, and Nepal.
- Conducted research with the program team on slavery prevention and outreach initiatives, contributing to the development of effective strategies.
- Acted as a point of contact for team members, partner organizations, and external stakeholders.

**Intern**

October 2017 - April 2018

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights | Geneva, Switzerland

- Drafted the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in North Korea's statement for the Human Rights Council and his report to the General Assembly.
- Conducted research and compiled reports on the Right to Health, conflict in Fiji and for the Working Group on Business and Human Rights.
- Assisted the Human Rights Council by preparing briefs and drafting summaries.

**Intern**

June 2016 - August 2016

Database Center for North Korean Human Rights (NKDB) | Seoul, South Korea

- Coordinated NKDB's Monthly Briefing & Discussion on North Korean Human Rights, a monthly invitation-only event for foreign diplomats and staff of international organizations.
- Expanded NKDB's network of foreign contacts with relevant international organizations.
- Identified funding opportunities for NKDB's future activities.
- Conducted media monitoring of news articles related to North Korean human rights and compiled weekly reports.

**EDUCATION**

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**University of Washington** | PhD in International Studies

2019 - 2024

- Proposed and executed extensive research on humanitarian and human rights NGO activity in North Korea.
- Wrote and won grant proposals supporting research, totaling over \$30,000.
- Cultivated relationships with activists, policymakers, reporters, scholars, humanitarian workers, and United Nations staff.
- Presented research at professional conferences and to public audiences.

**University of Gothenburg** | International Masters in Social Work & Human Rights

2014 - 2016

- Trained in case management, conflict management, and person-centered care.
- Researched sex workers' human rights in Sweden.

**University of Edinburgh** | Bachelor (hons) in Sociology

2010 - 2014

**VOLUNTEERING**

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**South King County Mutual Aid**

2020 - ongoing

**Amnesty International Sweden**

2017

**Red Cross Sweden**

2015

**Community support for people with disabilities**

2014 - 2017

# Seattle Human Rights Commission

21 Members: Pursuant to *SMC 3.14.920*, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 2-year terms except for the Get Engaged member who will serve a 1-year term pursuant to *SMC 3.51*:

- 8 City Council-appointed
- 9 Mayor-appointed (includes 1 Get-engaged Mayor position)
- 4 Other Appointing Authority-appointed: Commission-appointed

## Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
	F		1.	Member	Bryennah Quander	7/23/23	7/22/25	1	City Council
	M		2.	Member	Trevor Duston	7/23/23	7/22/25	1	Mayor
	F		3.	Member	Amy Bailey	7/23/23	7/22/25	1	City Council
	F		4.	Member	Gwen McCullough	7/23/23	7/22/25	1	Mayor
	M		5.	Member	James Munger	7/23/23	7/22/25	1	City Council
	M		6.	Member	Kyle Tibbs	1/23/24	1/22/26	1	Mayor
	F		7.	Member	Mariam Sulayman Koss	1/23/24	1/22/26	1	City Council
	M		8.	Member	Calvin Lassiter	1/23/24	1/22/26	1	Commission
	F		9.	Member	Beverly Smith	7/23/24	7/22/26	1	Mayor
	F		10.	Member	Koumudi Phadake	7/23/24	7/22/26	1	City Council
			11.	Member	VACANT				Mayor
	F		12.	Member	Anika Khan	7/23/24	7/22/26	1	City Council
	F		13.	Member	Kristina Sawyckj	1/23/24	1/22/26	1	Mayor
	M		14.	Member	Ali Khan	1/23/24	1/22/26	1	City Council
	F		15.	Member	Diana Ortega-Chance	1/23/24	1/22/26	1	Mayor
	M		16.	Get Engaged	Avery Hultgren	9/1/24	8/31/25	1	Mayor
	M		17.	Member	Phillip Lewis	7/23/24	7/22/26	1	City Council
	F		18.	Member	Katie Sophie Gonser	1/23/24	1/22/26	1	Mayor
	M		19.	Member	Goutham Putta	7/23/24	7/22/26	1	Commission
	M		20.	Member	Nicholas Leydon	1/23/24	1/22/26	1	Commission
	F		21.	Member	Miranda Catsambas	7/23/24	7/22/26	1	Commission

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART					(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Male	Female	Transgender	NB/ O/U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	3	4											
Council	3	5											
Comm	3	2											
Total	20												

List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9) \*\*G L ist gender, M= Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, NB= Non-Binary O= Other U= Unknown \*\*RD Residential Council District number

Key: \*D 1 through 7 or N/A -Diversity info is self-identified and voluntary.