



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Katie Sophie Gonser*

Board or Commission Name: *Seattle Human Rights Commission*

Position Title: *Member*

☐ Appointment ☒ Reappointment

***Term of Position:** 7/23/2026 to 7/22/2028

☐ *Serving partial term (eligible for full terms thereafter)*

Appointing Authority: ☐ City Council ☒ Mayor ☐ Other: *Commission*

City Council Confirmation Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Residential Neighborhood: *Brighton, District 2*

Appointee brief overview:

Commissioner Gonser would like to continue on the commission because this is work that she's very excited about and wants to continue to make an impact! Katie's work includes improving Seattle's Welcoming City policies, notably considerations of how we can better support detained immigrants, support for non-traditional family structures to be recognized by the City and improving safeguards around City use of surveillance. Commissioner Gonser feels very inspired and motivated by her fellow commissioners and would be honored to continue to work alongside them. Katie has found it very rewarding to connect with local communities; she has learned so much during her time on the commission and looks forward to continuing this work!

Appointing Authority Signature:

Date Signed: 6/24/26

Appointing Authority Printed Name and Title:

Mayor Katie Wilson

Katie Sophie Gonser

SUMMARY

- 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

Instructor January 2020 - Present

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.

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.

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.

SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

21 Members: Pursuant to 3.14.920, 21 members subject to City Council confirmation, with 2-year terms.

- 8 City Council-appointed
- 9 Mayor-appointed
- 4 Other Appointing Authority-appointed: Commission

Roster as of June 10, 2026

<i>Position Number</i>	<i>Position Title</i>	<i>Appointee Name</i>	<i>Term Begin Date</i>	<i>Term End Date</i>	<i>*Term Number</i>	<i>Appointed By</i>
1	Member	Bryennah Quander	7/23/25	7/22/27	2	City Council
2	Member	Trevor Duston	7/23/25	7/22/27	1	Mayor
3	Member	Amy Bailey	7/23/25	7/22/27	1	City Council
4	Member	Gwen McCullough	7/23/25	7/22/27	1	Mayor
5	Member	J. Queen Adams	7/23/25	7/22/27	1	City Council
6	Member	Kyle Tibbs	7/23/26	7/22/28	1	Mayor
7	Member	VACANT	7/23/26	7/22/28	1	City Council
8	Member	VACANT	7/23/25	7/22/27	1	Commission
9	Member	Beverly Smith	7/23/26	7/22/28	2	Mayor
10	Member	VACANT	7/23/26	7/22/28	1	City Council
11	Member	Brandon Monson	7/23/26	7/22/28	1	Mayor
12	Member	Terry Lin	7/23/26	7/22/28	1	City Council
13	Member	Zoe Bailey Stylianides	7/23/25	7/22/27	1	Mayor
14	Member	David J. Isaak	7/23/25	7/22/27	1	City Council
15	Member	Kim Kkwafkwao	7/23/25	7/22/27	1	Mayor
16	Get Engaged	VACANT	9/1/25	8/31/26	1	Mayor
17	Member	Phillip Lewis	7/23/26	7/22/28	2	City Council
18	Member	Katie Sophie Gonser	7/23/26	7/22/28	1	Mayor
19	Member	VACANT	7/23/25	7/22/27	1	Commission
20	Member	Nicholas Leydon	7/23/26	7/22/28	1	Commission
21	Member	Miranda Catsambas	7/23/24	7/22/26	1	Commission

Self-identified diversity chart

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Transgender</i>	<i>Non-Binary</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>Black/ African American</i>	<i>American Indian/ Alaska Native</i>	<i>White/ non-Hispanic</i>	<i>Hispanic/ Latinx</i>	<i>Pacific Islander</i>	<i>Middle Eastern</i>	<i>Multi-racial</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Mayor	3	5					2		4					2
Council	3	3				1	1		1				1	3
Other	1	1		1					1					1
Total	7	9		1			3		6				1	4

City Council districts represented

<i>Council District</i>	<i>District 1</i>	<i>District 2</i>	<i>District 3</i>	<i>District 4</i>	<i>District 5</i>	<i>District 6</i>	<i>District 7</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Total	2	2	1	3	2	1	5	0

**For most boards and commissions, the term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*