

Gender Equity Commission



Sonya Byers | CHAIR

Sonya Byers is Chief Executive of Women in Transport, a non-profit membership network advancing women working in transport and raising awareness of the opportunities in the sector. Women in Transport provides events, networking, mentoring and leadership development for its members and acts as secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for women in transport. Sonya has been a member of Women in Transport since 2008, became a volunteer board member in 2013 before being appointed to her current role in January 2019. Sonya has had a varied career working in a diversity and inclusion consultancy, global energy and facilities group, multi-brand recruitment agency, transport survey startup, Top 20 accountancy firm and global engineering group.



Hira Ali

Hira Ali is an inspiring leadership trainer, career coach and an acclaimed writer and speaker committed to helping others achieve their inherent potential. Hira is also a successful entrepreneur who has launched several businesses to support her mission. Her work has been featured in *Forbes*, *Telegraph*, *BBC*, *Harpers Bazaar*, *Independent*, *CBC*, *Huff Post*, and *Entrepreneur*, among hundreds of other print, radio and television outlets, and has earned Hira several prestigious honours and awards. She was recently appointed as The Senior Advisory Team member at The Benedictine University Illinois L.E.A.D.S leadership program for undergraduate women and has joined WLG'S Conversations with Men Advisory Council. In 2019, Hira released her first book entitled *Her Way To The Top: A Guide to Smashing the Glass Ceiling* which received outstanding testimonials worldwide.



Dr Leslie Kern

Leslie Kern, PhD, is the author of two books on gender and cities, including *Feminist City: Claiming Space in a Man-Made World* (Verso). She is an associate professor of geography and environment and director of women's and gender studies at Mount Allison University, in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. Kern's research has earned a Fulbright Visiting Scholar Award, a National Housing Studies Achievement Award, and several national multi-year grants. She is also an award-winning teacher. Kern's writing has appeared in *The Guardian*, *Vox*, *Bloomberg CityLab*, *LitHub*, and *Refinery29*.



Jazmin Burgess

Jazmin Burgess is Deputy Director of the Inclusive Climate Action programme at C40 Cities and leads the Global Green New Deal work, which provides in depth programme assistance and policy guidance to cities deliver inclusive climate action and a just transition at local level. Prior to C40, Jazmin worked for Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, leading the team responsible for the Mayor's Green New Deal for London and spent 8 eight years leading climate change and development initiatives with the United Nations, including in Viet Nam, New York and Geneva. Jazmin has also worked on migrant and refugee policy within UK government research projects and women's rights campaigning for Amnesty International.



Ellie Wooldridge

Ellie works predominantly in the transport sector, exploring the interactions between people and automated technologies. She has a passion for inclusive design and promotes this mindset when collaborating with transport enterprises and start-ups through her role as the Human Insights Team Lead at Connected Places Catapult.



Bronwen Thornton

Bronwen is the CEO at Walk21 Foundation and an international expert, facilitator and trainer of walking and walkable communities. She work with global agencies and local communities and professionals around the world to promote walking and to develop and deliver innovative and practical projects, resources and tools to support more walking. Bronwen is Chair of the Board for the Sustainable Low Carbon Transport Foundation (SLOCAT), a board member of the International Federation of Pedestrians (IFP) and Chair of the Africa Network for Walking and Cycling (ANWAC).



Ruth White

Ruth heads up the Place, Environment and Heritage Team at the City of Edinburgh Council which comprises a team of specialists ranging from natural and built heritage, air quality, planning, urban design and transport. She is passionate about placemaking and in ensuring that places are inclusive, accessible, welcoming and safe. Recent projects include managing the finalisation of the city's strategic transport strategy – the 'City Mobility Plan', and progressing the city's Low Emission Zone scheme. Ruth has worked for local government on and off for 13 years and has also worked in the private sector delivering masterplanning and regeneration projects. She trained as a town planner and urban designer, and is a proud Lancastrian.



Sandra Witzel

Sandra has almost two decades of marketing experience, with a major focus on technology-based, disruptive and fast growing businesses. She is currently CMO and board director for SkedGo, a global Mobility-as-a-Service platform provider. Sandra regularly speaks at major transport-tech events around the world and is an active campaigner for accessible, inclusive and sustainable mobility. She is also co-founder of the Women in Mobility UK network and board member of the Mobility Council for the European Technology Chamber.



Wei-Shiuen Ng

Dr. Wei-Shiuen Ng is Advisor on Sustainable Transport and Global Outreach in the International Transport Forum (ITF) at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). She leads the development of transport and climate change policy dialogues, gender in transport research, as well as sustainable transport activities in Asia at the ITF. Wei-Shiuen is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTRS) and co-chairs the Special Interest Group on Transport and Climate Change. She currently serves on the United States Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies Committee on Transportation in the Developing Countries and Committee on Transportation Demand Management.



Christine Hemphill

Christine is an inclusive researcher, designer and innovator. She founded Open Inclusion 7 years ago in order to bring the power of disability- and age-inclusive insight to design and innovation. Prior to founding Open she herself was a designer and innovator. Now she fuels other peoples' projects with insight from those with the lived experience to identify and make solutions that are more consistently and sustainably valuable and delightful for all.