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January 2026

We See You! We Will Act!



Dear Friends,

Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Day is observed annually on January 11, raising awareness about human trafficking, supporting survivors, and promoting prevention. Additionally, the month of January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

On January 14, the Port held its Fourth Annual Port Allies Against Human Trafficking Breakfast. More than 150 Port employees, tenants, partners, and community members gathered in solidarity and heard powerful remarks from [Shamere McKenzie](#), Chief Executive Officer of the Sun Gate Foundation. Shamere reminded us to acknowledge and validate the experience of trafficking victims and survivors and to take individual, institutional, and collective action to combat trafficking. In other words, [we see you, and we will act!](#)



Human trafficking is defined as the brutal trade of individuals for the purpose of forcing labor, sexual labor, and other forms of exploitation. The number of human trafficking cases in Washington state is increasing rapidly. Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are targeted the most and disproportionately compared to other racial groups.

What began several years ago as an airport-specific awareness and training effort for the Port of Seattle has expanded greatly to include partners across the region and state. The Port mandates anti-human trafficking training for employees to help spot and stop trafficking, and there are more than 300 signs in the restrooms and passenger-loading bridges at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), as well as signs at Port parks and maritime locations to combat human trafficking. Learn more about [trafficking and the resources available to address it](#).

In 2023, to raise awareness and build capacity to combat trafficking across the region, the Port created the Port Allies Against Human Trafficking (PAAHT) Pledge. To date, more than 150 individuals and businesses have signed the pledge, committing to raising awareness, promoting education, and collectively combatting human trafficking.

As we prepare for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and beyond, will your organization [join us in the fight against human trafficking](#)?

In the coming months, we will be hosting several opportunities for organizations and companies in both the maritime and aviation sectors to get trained and receive support in developing strategies to combat trafficking. Be on the lookout for more details. And don't forget, we see you, and we will act!

In Unity,



Bookda Gheisar
Senior Director
Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (OEDI)

Centering Equity and Taking Action

Two exciting opportunities to join the OEDI team!

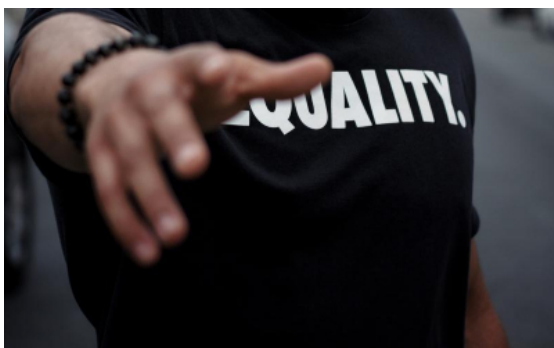


Do you believe that local government has the power to create healthy, thriving communities? Then, apply to become the Port of Seattle's Environmental Justice Program Manager! This critical position will lead the development and implementation of a consistent, coordinated equity approach across Port-wide initiatives that affect near-Port communities, particularly those disproportionately impacted by health and economic disparities. The position closes on February 5, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. [Learn more and apply →](#)

Are you passionate about helping teams run efficiently and effectively, and are you skilled at managing multiple work streams simultaneously? Join the OEDI team as the Assistant to the Senior Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. In this role, you will provide high-level project coordination and administrative

support to the Senior Director of OEDI, with responsibilities spanning across the OEDI team to advance the office's mission and strategic priorities across the Port and the broader community. [Apply by February 15, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. →](#)

Knowing your civil rights



As a public agency and in accordance with our values, Port of Seattle facilities must be free of discrimination and accessible to all. Discrimination is illegal when you are harmed and treated differently from others in a similar situation based on your race, gender, or any other protected class.

If you have experienced discrimination or harassment at a Port of Seattle facility based on your race, national origin, gender identity, or any other protected class, [file a complaint](#). Additionally, if you believe you have been denied access to a Port of Seattle program or service based on a disability, [let us know](#). We will listen, investigate your complaint, or refer you to the appropriate person for help. Lastly, [find information and resources related to immigration](#) and returning to SEA from international travel.

Celebrating the small and diverse businesses supporting Port projects

The Port of Seattle launched its first annual Small and Diverse Business Awards in 2025. The recognition program honors small and diverse firms whose behind-the-scenes work plays a critical role in delivering Port projects, and the large companies that show support for these firms.



These awards align with the Port's commitment to advance equity and level the playing field for socially and economically disadvantaged businesses that have historically faced systemic barriers in public contracting. The program was created and led by members of the Aviation Project Management Group (AVPMG), in conjunction with the Port's Change Team, which focuses on equity, inclusion, and organizational change and includes members of the Diversity in Contracting department and Central Procurement Office. [Read more about the program](#) and the diverse businesses that received recognition.

Deadline for nominations: Sustainable Century Awards



The Sustainable Century Awards publicly applaud the outstanding environmental accomplishments of Port customers, tenants, nonprofits, and business partners of all sizes. Awardees serve as role models and demonstrate exceptional accomplishments and leadership in their operations at SEA and Port of Seattle maritime facilities. [Submit your nominations by Feb 12, 2026, at 5 p.m. →](#)

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