

From: [Rachel](#)
To: [Zahilay, Girmay](#); [Bowman, Nick](#); [Steadman, Marka](#)
Subject: Treatment of Transgender and Nonbinary People by Law Enforcement in King County
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 9:21:03 AM

Dear Members of the Law and Justice Committee-

I appreciate your service and ask that you please do more to protect marginalized and mistreated communities in King County.

I am distressed about recent treatment of a transgender woman arrested by Seattle Police who was taken to the King County Correctional Facility on June 1st, and imagine her situation is perhaps played out over and over in King County. During Pride month, and with a renewed understanding of the distress marginalized people in our county feel, I am hoping you will act to create a city in which transgender and nonbinary people are treated humanely.

On Sunday, May 31, 2020 a transgender woman named Joan Fochs was arrested during protests in Seattle.

After her arrest, she was housed in the King County Correctional Facility with male inmates for two days, she was sexually harassed, she was ignored by jail staff, and she did not have access to her medications.

Failure to treat a transgender woman as a woman is cruel.

Policy allowing her to be housed with male inmates for 72 hours is inhumane.

Keeping her from her medications is abuse.

Transgender women often do NOT have surgery, have a legal name change or have documents with a legal gender change. Poor people who are transgender often lack access to legal changes and medical transition. The fact that they are poor and transgender or have not undergone medical transition should not result in dehumanizing and cruel treatment. Transgender people and nonbinary people, especially when in the custody of law enforcement, must be treated with dignity and humanity.

The policy allowing a transgender woman to be housed with male inmates for 72 hours must be changed. Preventing access to medications has to be fixed. Vulnerable people cannot be allowed to be injured by policies that harm them.

This is 2020 and this is Pride month. Please understand the toll this treatment takes on struggling people. We should not have policies which cause injury to anyone.

We must end inhumane treatment of trans people and nonbinary people. It is not acceptable. I assume this treatment happens all too often to trans and nonbinary people in our county. It concerns me greatly that people in custody are without medications they need.

I am sad for all suffering people. I'm appalled by policy that allows this. It's time for change.

Please!

Rachel Grutz