



**voices of
tomorrow**

MEET THE POLICY AND ADVOCACY TEAM



Iftin Hagimohamed

EXECUTIVE



Zamzam Mohamed

EXECUTIVE



BACKGROUND STORY

Since 2012, Voices of Tomorrow (VOT) has worked to create space and amplify our community's voice within and around governing systems. As a trusted community partner, VOT consistently works with government and nongovernment institutions alike. We take part in advocacy and sit at tables where immigrants and refugees are the topic of conversations. When we are sitting at those tables, we are often the ONLY representation for immigrants and refugees there that see the harm caused by shutting our community out from the spaces where decisions are made. We need policymakers to know it is crucial to engage communities when developing solutions meant to include or serve them. The higher the sphere of influence, the whiter the table gets. The decision-makers are not reflective of the community being impacted.



SARAH LOEFFLER



Sarah Loeffler Joined Voices of Tomorrow (VOT) as a Graduate Student consultant at the University of Washington. She was drawn to VOT because of our work in the immigrant and refugee community with a focus on language and identity preservation. Having spent much of her childhood being uprooted from her home time and time again, losing one's identity and community connection resonates with her. After completing her Master of Public Administration degree, she joined VOT full time and spent her first three years helping to build a robust department of wrap around support services for parents and caregivers. With passion and expertise in the realm of public policy and advocacy, Sarah has helped lay the groundwork to build a new department entirely focused on this work. The Public Policy and Advocacy department is intended to empower and amplify community voice, so the decisions that govern the health and wellbeing of our children and families are designed by those representatives of the lives who are impacted. Outside her career, Sarah and her husband welcomed their baby boy Dylan into the world in October 2022! Dylan is looking forward to watching his mama work and getting to know his VOT family.

DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY

SUMAYA ALI



A first-generation Somali immigrant that learned from a young age that vulnerability will take you places resilience can't, which is why she has a passion for understanding people and empowering them to achieve more through embracing and cultivating their own identity. Sumaya has pursued a bachelor's degree in Global Studies and Political Science at Arizona State University and is currently at University of Washington School of Law pursuing a Master's in Jurisprudence to get insights into the legal system and its influence on local, national, and international policies because the world we live in is interconnected and considers herself to be a global citizen. She also strongly believes in centering the East African community in advocacy and legal education in hopes that it will lead to policies that advance economic justice for everyone. She is so excited to join Voices of Tomorrow Policy and Advocacy Department to empower, promote, and protect the rights of the same east African immigrant community she too identifies with.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY MANAGER

SAMANTHA GRONO



Originally from Arizona, one of the lowest ranking states in America for public school funding, Samantha has always been aware of and interested in tackling the inequities of the education system. After studying speech language pathology and disability studies at Northern Arizona University, Samantha went on to be a literacy tutor for young students in Austin, Texas. This experience inspired Samantha to seek out her master's degree in education policy while she was also working at a preschool in Snohomish County. She resonates deeply with VOT's cultural and language preservation mission, as she has many family members who only speak Spanish. Samantha is so excited to be a part of the Voices of Tomorrow community and put her newfound policy to knowledge to work. Outside of work, she loves to bake, try new foods, and spend time getting to know Washington. Samantha has joined Voices of Tomorrow in partnership with the Pathwaves WA Fellowship.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY SPECIALIST

WHAT IS OUR VISION



The vision for VOT is to elevate our presence as a trusted community partner in the realm of Public Policy throughout Washington state. We seek to be fully integrated into decision-making processes at the beginning of early learning policy development and throughout the policy process, rather than informed about decisions at the end of the road. Only when true partnership with policymakers happens will we chip away at the structural inequities in the systems and institutions that affect the families we serve.



**GET IN
TOUCH
WITH US
TODAY**



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