

# ELREC Newsletter



## Edinburgh & Lothians Racial Equality Council

*Promoting Racial Equality and Fighting Racial Discrimination*

Issue 19  
March 2009

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## Editorial

### Scottish Government Race Equality Statement

Scottish Government launched its Race Equality Statement in December 2008. The statement:

- Sets out the key headline issues and our overall approach to achieving race equality; to increase refugee integration and to addressing race discrimination in Scotland
- Identifies broad objectives which provide the basis for action that will be taken in the next three years to make progress on race equality.

This statement will help the Scottish Government in achieving their vision for race equality.

**"Our vision is for a more equal Scotland that is fair and just. A Scotland which embraces diversity whilst also fostering a sense of common purpose and goals. A place where people from all backgrounds - irrespective of their race, faith, belief and place - feel respected, have a sense of belonging and are confident that they can achieve their potential. Where we acknowledge our shared aspirations and common**

goals as we work for the good of Scotland. A Scotland where all of our communities are recognised as threads which make up the tartan of our nation's life."

The vision will be achieved through various areas:

- Race Equality Duty - Single Duty
- Challenging racism and religious intolerance
- Representation
- Community relations
- Identity
- The Race, Religion & Refugee Integration funding stream

Within the funding stream, the Scottish Government will focus on the following:

- Education strategy for Gypsies/Travellers
- Capacity building for inter faith groups
- Representative groups for Scotland's Muslim communities
- Setting appropriate targets to boost employment for people from minority communities, in particular women
- Capacity building for business advisers
- Enhance provision advice services in rural Scotland
- Translation, interpreting and Communication Support Strategic Framework
- Key infrastructure bodies

*By Nina Giles  
Director*

Welcome to the nineteenth issue of ELREC Community Newsletter which aims to bring our readers news and information about our work as well as the latest developments in the race equality field.

### ELREC New Staff

In this issue, you will find out more about one of our new initiatives - Local Development Project. In order to provide a sustainable change in the nearby councils, we decided to invest our resources to help build an infrastructure in those areas to engage with the black and minority ethnic (BME) communities in a meaningful manner.

Sandra Stewart and Wahida Wilson have joint the Community Planning Team in January 2009 with a specific role to reach out to BME in East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian and support those communities to form their own action groups.

Zeshan Khan has also joined the team in January 2009. Zeshan will be responsible for delivering the Community Planning project. The third phase of our community planning project will involve more of neighbourhood partners and equality partners. We want to ensure equalities are promoted at the grassroots and everyone regardless of their background is fully engaged in the community planning processes.

### Inside this issue:

Editorial	1
Community Development	2
Community Planning	3
Youth Zone	4
Lothian & Borders Police	6
Edinburgh Mela	7

**ELREC Launched Local Development Project**

“Working locally for communities” - taking the mission ELREC has launched LDP project funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

The new initiative designed to assist local black and minority ethnic (BME) community in having sustainable participation and marked improvement in the planning and delivery of local services in accordance to their needs. The two year project will be focused on Midlothian, East Lothian and West Lothian region.

Over the next two years ELREC-LDP will support the development of local action groups enabling BME residents to have a focal point and make changes to meet their needs. ELREC will also facilitate partnerships between, statutory public

services, community councils & voluntary sector at the local level. ELREC’s previous work shows that many BME individuals were unaware of the community planning processes and the relevance of them to their daily lives. Furthermore, findings shows BME communities were seldom involved in any consultations or informed of key developments of local services.

Minority ethnic individuals wanted access of services and participate in activities locally relevant to their needs rather than travel into Edinburgh. The reports of both phase 1 & phase 2 can be downloaded from ELREC website.

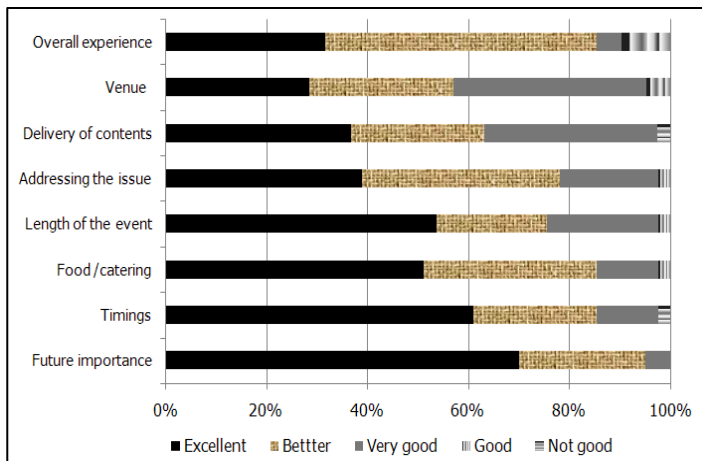
3 LDP launch event held in collaboration with East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian region.

**ELREC-ACT network launched**

**ELREC launched a new network ACT (all communities together) on Monday the 30 March 2009 at the Edinburgh city chambers.**

ACT is a local open forum which will provides a vehicle for communities to debate, discuss, scrutinise, engage, involve and be consulted on in respect of the UK CONTEST – National Counter Terrorism Strategy. The ACT will be facilitated by ELREC and sponsored by SCAVEN (Scottish Communities Against Violent Extremism Network). SCAVEN is a national project sponsored by the SPEVU, Equality Unit, of the Scottish Government to invest in community engagement in the CONTEST agenda. It links together local networks, like ACT, across Scotland. About 60 people attended to the launch; member of different BME community & faith groups, young adults and representatives of voluntary organization and statutory agencies.

Guest speaker Muhammed Idrees Ahmed, media researcher of Stathclyde University highlighted facts and figures in relation to the media and Terrorism. Geroge Kerevan, Associate Editor, the Scotsman spoke about role and policy of the Scotsman newspaper. Most of the people felt that ACT will enable communities’ voice heard. Participants were provided useful feedback to be added onto ACT and important suggestion such as, More ethnic minority and MSP’s engagement to ACT, younger generations more involvement, awareness of good education among community people etc. If you would like to be a member of ACT network please contact ELREC [act@elrec.org.uk](mailto:act@elrec.org.uk)



**Sandra Stewart**

**Community Development Assistant**

**Local Development Project**

It was with a real sense pleasure and pride that I took up post here with Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council (ELREC) on Monday, 5 January 2009.

Now, three months in to my community development post within ELREC I see the role has so many symmetries to some of my past voluntary activities as both tutor co-ordinator within a BME supplementary school and at a more strategic level on the Board of a charitable concern. As a direct consequence of these experiences, I am confident I shall bring much to the challenge laid down before me and the organisation.

over the last few months we have been busy forging alliances with agencies and partners is the 3 Lothians and have formally launched the LDP-related activities we’ve been undertaking. I look forward to the challenge of broadening ELREC’s current equality reach and strengthening somewhat the organisation’s reputation through my and my colleagues’ drive and determination to be visible, professional and create long term, solid partnerships over the next two years.

## Community Planning

**Wahida Wilson**

**Community Development Assistant**

**Local Development Project**

My first two months at ELREC have passed by very quickly and I've thoroughly enjoyed being part of the team. Having been employed to work as part of the Community Development Team over the next two years, I have been tasked with facilitating a Local Development Project (LDP) along with my colleague Sandra Stewart. During the last few weeks, although my main contact initially has been with our partners and service providers I have also spoken with BME individuals in and around West Lothian who confirm we have a long way to go in the fight against inequalities, they are, however, reassured by our project and have offered their commitment and support in the months ahead. My background in media sales & business development has enabled me to utilise my previous skills in a constructive & informative way. I remain enthusiastic, excited and passionate at being part of the ELREC team, together striving for change and continuing to build & strengthen our reputation.

My name is Zeshan Khan, I am a Community Development Assistant here at ELREC, joined the team at the beginning of the year.

The Community Planning Project was initiated in its first phase in February to June of 2007. During this time many focus group sessions were carried out throughout Edinburgh and the Lothian's to engage with the BME communities. The objectives of these focus group meetings were to identify the issues faced by individuals from black, minority and ethnic backgrounds.

My aim is to further expand on these issues and raise awareness of community planning structures and processes to black and minority ethnic communities living across Edinburgh and the Lothian's. I plan on working jointly with our beneficiaries and partners to challenge racial injustice and dismantle barriers which deny individuals as well as communities equal access to life opportunities in Edinburgh and across the Lothian's.

As a Community Development Assistant I have the opportunity to deal with service providers and the council on a strategic level which allows me to have input into policy implementation.

ELREC-Community Planning Partnership Project:

- Better understanding on current status of equalities within the Community

Planning Partnership and process across Edinburgh and Lothian

- Raise awareness of the inequalities experienced by marginalized communities and the potential benefits to those communities and community planning partners for their engagement with community planning

- To strengthen relationships with local community planning partners to engage with CPP and the CEHR (Commission for Equality and Human Rights) oncoming process

Capacity Building of various informal community groups is the key area where ELREC is focusing on. We aim to support these groups to become self-sustaining and independent as we believe this is the only means to a long-term goal.

In order to achieve these long-term goals I will continue to engage with BME individuals and communities to raise awareness of the Community Planning Project and bridge the gap between service providers and BME people across Edinburgh and the Lothian's.

For any further information on the Community Planning project please feel free to contact myself or the team on: 0131-556-0441. Alternatively details can be found on our website: [www.elrec.org.uk](http://www.elrec.org.uk)

*By Zeshan Khan*

*Community Development Assistant*



## Welcome

This term has been extremely busy for the Youth Development team. Lots has been going on for young people throughout the services.

## Anti Racism Talent Show/ Poetry

ELREC'S annual Anti Racism Talent show took place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at Portobello High School. This year the show was judged by ELREC's very own Chair Shami Khan, Chief inspector Jeff White. Councilor Marilyn McLaren and Edinburgh's famous children's author Janey Jones.

The Talent show was funded this year by Show Racism the Red Card and an extremely generous donation from William Balfour (friend of ELREC). Lothian and Borders Police provided all the trophies and medals for the show. I would like to say a huge thank you to all these kind donations because without this support the show would not have been possible.



The Show was judged in four categories: Best Imagination, Best overall performance, Best performance and Best Message. There were 13 excellent performances with a total of 90 children from over 10 primary schools in Edinburgh that took part. It was tremendously difficult for the judges to decide on only 4 winning acts. However the Best Performance trophy went to Duddingston Primary School, The Best Message trophy went to Leith Primary School, Best Imagination trophy went to Sikh Sanjog and finally the Best Overall performance trophy was awarded to Brunstane Primary School.

The aim of the talent show was to encourage primary age children to raise awareness of anti racism, diversity and equality to their friends and family. The young people hopefully gained some confidence from the talent show to challenge racism in their schools and communities. I believe that it would be fair to say that the show certainly exceeded its aims.



Young people from Sikh Sanjog with their Best Imagination trophy for their fantastic posters.

This year as part of the Anti Racism Talent Show the Youth Development team decided to introduce an Anti Racism Poetry Competition. The idea of the poetry completion was so that all young people could be involved in the show even if they did not wish to perform on the stage. The poems were judged by Janey Jones and the winner was announced at the talent show. There

were over 100 young people that took part in the poetry completion. The standard of poems that we received was outstanding. It is obviously from the poems that the children worked so hard on their poems. Unfortunately there could only be one winner and that was Mohasin Ahmed P7A.

## Fettes Open Day 17<sup>th</sup> January 2009



Youthzone attended Lothian and Borders Police (LBP) open day at Fettes head quarters in January. 13 young people from Youthzone attended the day and took it as an ideal opportunity to chat and ask any questions that they had regarding recruitment to Police Officers, Special Constables, Station Assistants, Custody and Security Officers and media relations Officers.

On this occasion the young people took on the challenge of the Police fitness test and took part in a presentation on the recruitment process of LBP.

There was masses of activities for the young people to get involved with and the young people gained a lot from the day.

I am currently working with LBP recruitment department to organise a day where Youthzone have the unique experience of visiting Fettes and finding out about each department in the force through hands on encounters.

## What's Happening at the Youth Zone

### Youth Zone Study Buddies

Study Buddies @ Youthzone is Wednesday afternoon 4pm – 6.30pm. Study Buddies offers study support to all young people that could benefit from a little extra help especially at this stressful time (run up to exams).

Study Buddies has been proving popular as it has been created due to the demand from young people. Everyone is welcome if you are interested please pop along to ELREC on Wednesday afternoon's or contact Maryanne.

### Youth Zone Activities

Youthzone has had a wide variety of activities this term including:

Youthzone took a trip to Edinburgh's King's Theatre in January to see a fantastic 3D version of Aladdin. Young people really enjoyed the show. Comments from young people: 'Aw it was so good' 'it was so funny, I was fallen off my seat'.

Youthzone has continued to celebrate culture events throughout this term.

Youthzone celebrated Robert Burns Evening with the famous tradition Scottish dish of Haggis (vegetarian), neaps and tatties being served and famous Burns poems and music. Young people got pleasure from learning about their Scottish traditions.

Youthzone celebrated Chinese New year with various activities. One in particular that the young people were intrigued with was



Robert Burns 1759-1796

### New Opening times.....

**Thursdays 4 to 8 pm**

**Fridays 1 to 5 pm**

### Drop in and see....

making fortune cookies and learning about the Chinese calendar.

For Valentines the young people discovered the history of St Valentine and the historic traditions accompanied with St Valentine. The young people did this through Arts and Crafts and team quizzes.

#### Other activities:

- Racism discussions
- Debates
- Chat with Police
- Quizzes
- Arts
- DVD Nights

### Drugs and Alcohol Poster Launch

Youthzone's Urdu Drugs and Alcohol Posters were launched on 18<sup>th</sup> February at the Edinburgh City Chambers. The posters are now available in Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi and English. Please contact Maryanne if you would be interested in receiving a copy of the posters.

Zain Qureshi and Huma Afzal represented Youthzone with wonderful and uplifting speeches about their experiences when working on the posters. Big congratulations to you guys for having the courage to speak at the event, Thank you.

### Up and Coming Events

ITS BACK! Girlz on the Move: Girlz on the Move is starting again end of March. Activities include white water rafting, hip hop dancing, kayaking and lots more. Please contact Maryanne to sign up.

*By Maryanne Barclay*

*Youth Development Officer*

## Lothian and Borders Police



New Lothian and Borders Head of Diversity-Chief Inspector Brian Wilson  
I have recently taken over the helm of driving Diversity within the Force from Chief Inspector Jeff White. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking Jeff for the sterling work and community engagement that he has strived for during his tenure in post as Head of Diversity.

Having worked in various Community Safety Departments during my career I am looking forward to building on the strong relations with our partners that already exist and meeting new communities. I have already visited ELREC Youthzone, amongst others, and I have been extremely impressed with the excellent work that is being carried out, although I may have to sharpen up my pool skills for my next visit.

### Update from Diversity Unit

The Diversity Unit, part of the Safer Communities Department at Police Headquarters, assisted in a Police Recruitment Open Day at Fettes in January. This event was particularly well attended with a number of persons from BME communities showing interest in all aspects of Police work. If other persons wish any further information please do not hesitate in contacting the Force recruitment office or the Diversity Unit itself and we will be delighted to assist.

Chief Superintendent Wood of the Safer Communities Department along with senior officers from the Diversity Unit have visited the Sikh Gurdwara, Roxburgh Street Mosque, ELREC Youthzone and Edinburgh Synagogue. In doing this she has taken the opportunity in speaking to members of the committees and worshipers addressing any concerns they may have about local Policing issues and surrounding their Faith. These visits and meetings will continue throughout the year.

The Deputy Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police, along with Chief Supt Wood, attended the Saturday morning Madrassa held at Craigmount High School. The officers found this both extremely useful but also enjoyable, as the children were engaging freely with them and their teachers. Inspector Tom Galbraith accompanied the City of Edinburgh Council Education convenor to the school where she was delighted to see the on-going good work.

Lothian and Borders Police continue to build on their own cultural/religious awareness training. To this extent twenty officers have just completed, voluntarily, a 10-week evening class facilitated by Edinburgh Inter-faith 'An Introduction to the Heart of the World's Faith'. The feedback from these officers has been excellent and we hope that their knowledge can be cascaded to their colleagues.

A number of other community engagements were attended by Diversity Unit staff to ensure awareness of all issues affecting the communities of Lothian and Borders police.

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## Scottish Government: Consultation Seminar on Indian Subcontinent Program

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The Scottish Government has been speaking with stakeholders about a new international development programme for the Indian Subcontinent. It would welcome the opportunity to speak to individuals and organisations from local communities in Scotland who have links with the Subcontinent to hear their views about the new programme including what the geographic and thematic focus should be as well matters around funding. ELREC has been asked to help with arrangements for a consultation meeting to be held at the Scottish Government, Victoria Quay on 2009. The meeting will take place 14:00 -16:00. If you would like to book a place please contact Mizan Rahman by email : Mizanur.Rahaman@elrec.org.uk

## Edinburgh Mela

Introducing, Out-land-ish

The Edinburgh Mela is collaborating with Edinburgh based Wave Theatre to create a series of exciting new multi-cultural arts and performance evenings.

Live Music + Theatre + Food + DJ + Spoken Word + Visuals + Dance +

ArtSpace @ 11 Harewood Rd Craigmillar Edinburgh EH16 4NT

Thursday 2 April, 7pm - 10pm Chill out and relax or dance to the beats, the choice will be yours!

Offering you the opportunity to enter a new land of sound and sight sensation. Delight the eye and expand the mind in this totally immersive experience; exciting and innovative. £5 on the door

They are currently keen to hear from artists who may wish to participate.

Out-Land-ish offers artists; ·

- The opportunity to perform new work and get critical feedback
  - Free publicity
  - A network with other artists
  - The chance to help to build audiences for culturally diverse work in Edinburgh and Scotland
- £30 expenses payment

To find out more and register your interest in being part of this and future events and to share with us what you have to offer; email [ekua@wavetheatre.co.uk](mailto:ekua@wavetheatre.co.uk) with examples of your work, jpegs, mpegs or links to your online material or leave a message on 0131 659 4709.

Interested in developing specialist skills in Communication and Mediation?

SACRO Community Mediation is offering a five day certificated Mediation course. (On the basis you pass the assessment)

The training course will be: **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May**, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> of June and concluding on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

All course materials and lunch on each day will be provided. Each day runs from 9:30am until 4:00pm.

Venue : Abercromby Place, Edinburgh

*The right individual will be selected to participate in the training free of charge (worth £600), if they are willing to become a volunteer mediator with Edinburgh Community Mediation Service*

*Edinburgh Community Mediation Service has worked across Edinburgh since 1995 helping neighbours in dispute come to agreement . Mediators work with the neighbours in order to help facilitate this process.*

Further details can be obtained from [Info@edincm.sacro.org.uk](mailto:Info@edincm.sacro.org.uk)

*Applications to be received by noon on 16 March*

*Selection interviews on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March.*

## Back Page Information



### ADVERTISING

We welcome organisations to advertise in ELREC Community Newsletter, for example:

- Promoting services
- Disseminating flyers
- Advertising
- Vacancies
- Consultations
- General marketing

This service is available for a contribution of £100.

To find out more, please contact Nina Giles on 0131 556 0441 or [admin@elrec.org.uk](mailto:admin@elrec.org.uk)

The newsletter is available on a quarterly basis.

### CONFERENCE ROOM

You can book our 20-seat meeting room on an hourly basis for £10 per hour

Tea & Coffee £1 per head

Please contact the office for any bookings

### DONATIONS

ELREC is a registered charity in Scotland. We welcome donations however small, from individuals or organisations to help us to pursue our goal - *racial equality and justice for all*.

If you would like to share any interesting fundraising ideas with us, please give the office a ring.

### SERVICES

**Edinburgh & Lothians Racial Equality Council (ELREC)**, founded in 1971, is a voluntary body and charitable company made up of individual members and representatives from a wide range of organisations. ELREC has a remit to work across the areas of City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils.

#### We aim to:

- Work towards the elimination of racial discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups
- Promote and organise co-operation of the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations

#### We pursue our aims through:

- Individual Complainant Aid Service
- Education and Training
- Campaigning
- Publications
- Consultancy and Signposting

#### To contact us:

Edinburgh & Lothians Racial Equality Council  
14 Forth Street  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3LH  
(T) 0131 556 0441  
(F) 0131 556 8577  
(E) [admin@elrec.org.uk](mailto:admin@elrec.org.uk)  
(W) [www.elrec.org.uk](http://www.elrec.org.uk)

Charity Number: SC007896  
Company Number: SC183419

### OUR TEAM

**Nina Giles - Director**

**Tasneem Ahmed - Administrator**

**Mizan Rahman - Community Development Officer**

**Sandra Stewart - Community Development Assistant**

**Wahida Wilson - Community Development Assistant**

**Zeshan Khan - Community Development Assistant**

**Maryanne Barclay - Youth Development Officer**

**Kay Richardson - Youth Zone Support Worker**

**Abu Yakuba - Youth Zone Support Worker**

**Elizabeth Ely - Youth Zone Support Worker**