

# ELREC Newsletter



## Edinburgh & Lothians Racial Equality Council

*Promoting Racial Equality and Fighting Racial Discrimination*

### Editorial

Welcome to the twentieth issue of the 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.

#### **BNP in Europe**

On 4 June 2009, 27,174 people, 2.5% of the Scottish voters voted for the British National Party (BNP). In the UK as a whole, 8.38% of voters opted for the BNP.

Sadly, the votes enabled the BNP to occupy two seats in European Parliament.

Regardless, whether we believe in the effectiveness of European Parliament or whether these two seats only represent English regions, we need to take into account that voters from both North and South of the border gave the BNP their votes.

4 June 2009 was certainly a very disappointing day for many of us working in the equalities field. Over the recent years, we have seen many significant changes to the implementation of equalities across Europe. We have experienced more protection in both employment and service delivery for more equality groups. In time, we will find out whether these two seats will have a major negative impact on the road of harmonising equalities in Europe and the UK.

Prior to measuring the impact, I think it is important to understand why some voters

have chosen a political party that promotes racist views. It is essential to note that I am not labelling the people who voted for the BNP as racists. I simply wish to address the possible gaps in communication between organisations like us and those who sympathise with the BNP.

#### Social-economic change

Fascism and racism thrive during times of economic depression. High unemployment will undoubtedly give rise to a sense of insecurity in the nation. People will wish to protect their jobs and be seeking reasons why they have lost theirs.

The slogan created by the Prime Minister, "British Jobs for British People", certainly did not help with bringing the nation together. Instead it legitimised certain workers to protect their jobs to the exclusion of other white Europeans and minority ethnic individuals.

#### Myths about immigration

Many of those who voted for the BNP stated their primary concern was immigration. The BNP, in their manifesto said they will have control over British borders to stop unlimited and uncontrolled immigration and reduce crime and terrorism. However, they failed to explain that more British migrate out of Britain every year than those moving here. They also misrepresented that somehow crime and terrorism are linked to the level of immigration.

The BNP also failed to explain that many people have

migrated to the UK because of the historical migration patterns of Britain and political difficulties of other nations contributed by the British government.

If the British borders were to be closed to other nationalities including Europeans, equally there would be a stop of the British moving freely to other countries. I am certain many people in the UK would not welcome this.

#### Politicians' dishonesty

The coverage of MPs' expenses claims prior to the European Election has certainly damaged the confidence many of us have in our political systems and those who are placed to maintain our democracy.

Inevitably some voters will use their votes as a protest vote to state their dissatisfaction.

#### Ways forward

As a race equality organisation, I believe it is impertinent to acknowledge that we have failed to fully engage with those most vulnerable on the misconceptions about race equality and migration. We have also failed to listen to the concerns of those who are susceptible to racist views.

Despite various national campaigns and the improvement of equality education in schools, we have not yet instilled the anti-racism understanding within the nation.

To move forward, we need to work and listen better along with the Government to help these individuals to understand the BNP is not an alternative nor an answer to their anxieties.

**By Nina Giles  
Director**

**Issue 20  
June 2009**

### **ELREC MANAGEMENT BOARD**

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## Consultation meeting on South Asia Development Programme held in Edinburgh

A consultation meeting on Scottish Government's Development Programme for South Asia was hosted recently by the Scottish Government and Edinburgh & Lothians Racial Equality Council (ELREC), at McDonald Rooms Conference centre, Hanover (Scotland) Housing, 95 McDonald Road, Edinburgh EH7 4NS



ELREC Chair Shami Khan said in his welcome speech "The consultation meeting will bring an opportunity for the BME community to contribute to the new programme, in particular those who are linked with South Asian countries i.e India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Historically, the local South Asian community has made a huge contribution in establishing a bilateral cultural and economic relationship between Scotland and Asian countries.

Ron Cruickshank, Development Manager, International Development unit, said - "the aim of the programme is to enhance

Scotland's contribution to the global fight against poverty through activity which is clearly designed to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and economic growth in developing countries"

Individuals, community groups, charities from Ethnic Minority communities and voluntary organisations linked with South Asia participated in the meeting. In the workshops, most of the participants were agreed that poverty could be a parameter to prioritise issues. Education is the key area for future development in South Asia, as has also been identified by participants. The geographical focus of the programme was hugely criticised for excluding Nepal, while others proposed to extend this programme in Afghanistan and other SAARC countries.

Feedback shows, to ensure involvement of the small charities into this programme, Scottish Government should adopt friendly acceptance criteria, flexibility and partnership opportunities etc. Also a space is needed for local ethnic minorities to have their say at strategic level, beyond this consultation meeting. Many suggested establishing a supporters group for the South Asia Development programme to sustain communication over the period of the programme.

## Edinburgh Colleges come forward jointly to promote equality and diversity

Three Edinburgh Colleges have undertaken a new joint initiative – The Edinburgh Colleges Equality Panel, aiming to promote equality and diversity within the institutions. The inaugural meeting hosted by Edinburgh's Telford College on Tuesday, 2nd June 2009 was held at the college's Zero One restaurant. Participants were from Stevenson College, Jewel & Esk College as well as Telford College. A number of voluntary organisations working on various equality strands participated in the inaugural meeting. The aim of this

panel is to promote diversity and equality through effective communication, partnership working, and engaging with external organisations with similar remits.

If you would like any information about this new initiative or are interested in taking part with this panel, please contact with Barbara Lawson, Associate Principal - Equalities and Collaboration, Edinburgh's Telford College, tel: 0131 5 5 9 4 2 5 2 , e m a i l : edinburghcollegesequalitypanel@ed-coll.ac.uk

## West Lothian 'Race Equality Forum' launched

On 7 May the West Lothian Community Race Forum was launched at a lively event in West Lothian College. Developed to promote and enhance understanding and awareness of race and race equality, the Forum will act as a means for members to communicate with the Council and other Community Planning partners like the NHS, the Police, the Fire Service and Colleges, to raise issues and promote the interests of all cultures in West Lothian.



The Forum is open to anyone that lives or works in West Lothian. Councillor Peter Johnston explained, "As West Lothian becomes increasingly culturally diverse, it is important that communities from all cultures have an opportunity to have their say and get involved in decisions that affect their lives." Sixty individuals attended the event and feedback from attendees was extremely positive. For more information contact Susan Gordon, 0 1 5 0 6 7 7 4 0 3 5 o r [susan.gordon@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:susan.gordon@westlothian.gov.uk)

## ELREC stall @ Stevenson College International Week

To promote ELREC's activities among the student population, an information stall was housed and manned on one of the days Stevenson College celebrated International week between 11 – 15th May. Hundreds of students received information regarding racism and hate crime reporting while visiting ELREC's stall. Student union leaders at Stevenson College welcomed the ELREC team whilst taking part in the celebrations. Many voluntary associations including Edinburgh Interfaith organisations were also attendant at the celebrations.

## Police reassured over major racial incident

To reassure the community Tom Halpin, Deputy Chief Constable and Chief Superintendent Gillian Wood from Lothian & Borders Police made a visit to Edinburgh's Bangladeshi mosque on 8<sup>th</sup> May and attended a meeting with the Mosque's management committee shortly after Friday prayers. Tom Halpin offered his support to tackle racism and all types of hate crime. He announced that one arrest has been made in relation to the recent incident during his speech at the mosque's Friday congregation.

Various media sources say, a Bangladeshi chef (37) was attacked and beaten by racially motivated youths in Hutchison Crossway area on 26 April. The racist youths threw the victim to

the ground and shouted racist abuse while kicking and punching him for around five minutes. He was left with a broken nose, cuts and bruises to his face and an injured knee following the assault. The victim, described how his attackers "kept saying things about black people while hitting me".

Members of Edinburgh's Bangladeshi community is shocked over this incident. 'Many restaurant workers are feeling unsafe returning home late at night by public transport' – says Foyso Choudhury, of Bangladesh Samity.

*By Mizan Rahman*

*Community Development Officer*

## Local Development Project

### Local Development Movements

We're into month six of the Local Development Project (LDP) and LDP staff currently face what is perceived to be the biggest challenge of the project - reaching the BME individuals the project was designed to serve and conducting individual needs assessments. We like to think that the best two ELREC candidates for this particular job are making small work of this task and blazing a real LDP trail through the Lothians.

We are using some key, valuable partner groups to access minority ethnic individuals in the 3 Lothian areas outside Edinburgh; namely West Lothian Race Forum, Malani and ESOL providers in the two other localities

Other organisations using our services now, be it for publicising their activities or making use of our contacts are numerous. East Lothian Tenants & Residents Panel, for instance and ELREC have discussed a number of ways we can work to our mutual benefit. So, watch this space.

Our outreach activities have taken us the mile breadth of the Lothians. Marrying our ideas a plethora of supermarkets, eateries, hoteliers and local indigenous industries such as fish

and other farmers have been valuable in sourcing BME leads.

The project is progressing nicely and we are pleased with our advances to date. We are keen to hear from you with ideas on ways you can get involved with the LDP in a joint working capacity.

### Fond, but hopefully short-lived farewell.

If you've yet to meet Katie Nevans, the placement student who spent some 6 weeks here at ELREC, then you've missed a treat.

Katie, a first year student on Edinburgh University's Community Education course began work with ELREC in late April with a clear remit to assist with the Local development Project. It was not long before Katie became a real asset to the team of two, Wahida and Sandra. Katie's knowledge of East Lothian proved invaluable and her influence and boundless contacts in the Youth Development arena saw many essential ties and leads nurtured for the good of the LDP come to fruition.

Katie delivered Equality Training on ELREC's behalf to fulfil some of the conditions of her placement contract and personal learning needs.

A substantial amount of needs assessments were carried out by Katie also, giving ELREC a much needed and ongoing insight into BME living, working and studying in the Lothian areas out with Edinburgh.

LDP briefings were undertaken with ESOL and Malani classes in the evenings as well as within business hours addressing mainly audiences of East European students and dwellers in Midlothian and East Lothian.

Outreach to discuss who ELREC are and the range of services we can provide and our membership structure.

The three of us worked very well together and will undoubtedly remain in contact for much time to come.

It was with real regret that we said goodbye to Katie at the end of May. But we are hopeful of her return later on in the year one day per week to allow her to complete the required placement conditions of her course.

Cheerio Doll face.

## Community Planning

Capacity Building of various informal community groups is the key area ELREC is focusing on within Community Planning. We aim to support 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.

The Community Planning Project is in full swing now, and having been asked by Edinburgh Council to participate in an event held at the Assembly Rooms called Your City Centre, Your Views 2009 we had a steady influx of people interested in the work and services that ELREC provides. It was an excellent opportunity to engage with members from the public, voluntary and public sector partners. The general consensus from the public was good as they felt they had the chance to voice their opinions and meet a variety of representatives from across the public/voluntary sector.

*By Zeshan Khan*

*Community Development Assistant*



## Welcome

This term has been yet another busy term with Youth Zone. Lots of activities and projects have been undertaken as well as a great deal of work within schools and communities.

## SMART Conference

The SMART conference (Schools Make a difference Attack Racism Together) took place on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at Dynamic Earth, Holyrood.

The conference this year was another great success with 10 schools taking part and almost 100 young people. The aim of the conference was to give the young people the opportunity to work together to put forward realistic ideas to use in their schools and communities to combat racism.

The conference opened with Shami Khan (Chair of ELREC) and Nina Giles (Director) speaking to the young people about racism. Chief Superintendent Gill Wood (Lothian &



Borders Police) then spoke to the young people about hate crime and racist incidents in Edinburgh.

The young people then participated in 2 of the 8 workshops provided, based



around: religion, Gypsy/Travelers, truth about terrorism, drama, barriers to integration, music with a message, youth perspective and refugees and migration. The young people gathered 2 messages from each workshop they attended that they believed could be taken back to their schools.

The young people spent the afternoon session in their school groups with their guidance teacher creating a Anti Racism Plan that will be incorporated into their schools' anti racism policy. From the afternoon session some schools are aiming to deliver peer education workshops on the sessions that the young people attended, other schools hope to have more cultural awareness work in school and some schools aim to have assemblies focusing on anti racism.

## Study Buddies

Study Buddies was busy at the start of May, however the number of young people attending dropped towards the end of May. The reason for numbers dropping was that the major exams such as Maths and English had been completed and the young people were happy to study independently for the other exams.

Study Buddies is not running throughout the summer; however it will start up again in September to support young people with the increase in the workload during their transition onto Standard Grades or Highers.

## Girls on the Move

Girls On The Move round 2 started in April 2009 and we were delighted to welcome eight fresh new faces. The young women have successfully completed 6 of their 8 challenges so far. The first challenge that the young women took on was orienteering in Midlothian. The weather conditions for this day were awful: heavy rain and freezing temperatures. The young women took this in their stride as they worked together in teams and walked through the wet and particularly muddy fields so that they could successfully complete their task. The young women had lots of fun and excitement whilst completing their challenge.

Another challenge that the young women completed was canoeing. This challenge was very demanding for the young women as some of the girls had to face their fear of WATER. During this activity the young women learned to paddle their boats, balance their boats and the skills to maneuver their boats. This challenge was a fantastic opportunity for the young women to work on both their team work and listening skills and increase their confidence.

Other challenges that Girls On The Move have taken on are: break dancing, gorge walking and Capoeira arts. If you are interested to find out more about the challenges and how the young women are getting on please check on the Girlz On Move Blog @ Youthzone.

***New Opening times.....***

***Thursdays 4 to 8 pm***

***Fridays 1 to 5 pm***

***Drop in and see....***

## What's Happening at the Youth Zone

### Bike Project

The Bike Project will be running during the Summer Holidays Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August till Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This project involves a group of six young people building their very own bike from scratch.

The group will spend three days building their bikes with the support and encouragement of trained mechanics and 2 youth workers from ELREC. On the fourth day the group will spend an entire day carrying out a cycling, outdoor activity workshop. On the last day of the project the group will take their bikes to Glentress Forest to spend a day mountain biking, ramp jumping and hill cycling with a trained instructor on the bikes that they have built. At the end of the project the young people get to keep their bikes with the hope that they will continue to cycle.

The project aims to teach the young people lifelong learning skills that will improve their future such as team work, active listening skills and leadership skills, all of which could help them with difficulties they may have at school or in their communities. As well as these skills helping in a school environment, the project hopes that these skills will help the young people during their transition into adulthood and in their future they will hopefully be more confident in tackling cultural barriers and exploring new opportunities in education, employment and generally. The project will encourage healthy living and positive lifestyles in young people.

### *New Opening times.....*

***Thursdays 4 to 8 pm***

***Fridays 1 to 5 pm***

### ***Drop in and see....***

### Breakin Convention

Youth Zone (YZ) activities this term have focused on break dancing. YZ have focused on a mini project on the history of break dancing and what it means to people. This has been a focus not only because the young people have had a genuine interest in this subject but also because YZ were fortunate enough to take part in a break dancing workshop facilitated by a professional break dancer. The young people also took part in the 09 Breakin Conventions at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre. This was a unique and wonderful experience for the young people to take part in. The show had dancers and beat boxers from all over the world perform and also the young people had the opportunity to take part in graffiti workshops.

### What's happening @YZ

As summer holidays are approaching fast, Youth Zone users are putting ideas together for a fun and exciting programme. If you are interested in YZ for summer please contact Maryanne.

*By Maryanne Barclay*

*Youth Development Officer*

### West Lothian Youth Zone



Hooray, finally Youth Zone will open in West Lothian.

It was highlighted with the research

undertaken by the Youth Development team at the MELA that there was a need for BME youth provision in West Lothian. Since then funding has been secured and for the last four months I have been out and about in West Lothian looking for suitable premises. I am delighted to announce that the venue for West Lothian Youth Zone will be Crofthead Farm Community centre, Templar Rise, Dedridge, Livingston.

West Lothian Youth Zone will open on the first Thursday in July. The Youth Zone will offer BME youths aged 14-21yrs a safe space to chill out without fear of harassment.

There will be a wide variety of activities available at the drop in including: sports, computer consoles, arts and crafts. As well as activities, young people can use the drop in for support on a range of issues such as career development, study support, CV support, college and university applications.

The West Lothian Youth Zone is on every Thursday 4pm until 8pm, everyone welcome.

## Lothian and Borders Police



Safer Communities Division update-

Sgt Michaela Kerr, who has been with the Diversity Unit for some years holding the portfolio for Gender and then latterly Disability, has been successful in her promotion to Inspector and will be moving on from the unit. Her replacement is Sgt Martin White, who has been seconded to unit for the last couple of months undertaking a review of the ACPOS Hate crime manual. Sgt White has a wealth of experience in partnership work, community safety involvement and is relishing this opportunity within the department to expand his knowledge.

The Safer Communities department have welcomed an additional two posts within the organisation. These being a deputy head teacher seconded from the educational department from the local authority and a Force PR and Marketing officer. This will strengthen our position in relation to community engagement and conveying this news to the public.

Update from the Diversity Unit

Chief Superintendent Wood of the Safer Communities Department along with the Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Tom Halpin, have recently visited the Central Mosque, Edinburgh Hebrew Synagogue and the Annandale Street Lane Mosque. In doing this they have taken the opportunity in speaking to members of the committees and worshippers addressing any concerns they may have about local Policing issues and surrounding their Faith. These visits and meetings will continue throughout the year.

The first ACT Now (all communities together) has taken place in Edinburgh with a member of ELREC in attendance. This is an interactive event where -by members from the community take the part of the Police during a fast moving table top exercise. This event will be the first of many in the Lothian and Borders Police area and all attendees participated fully and felt they gained something from the event. The event was attended by a good cross section of the community including members of Mosques, the Sikh Community and various Muslim support groups.

Assistant Chief Constable Mike McCormick, along with Chief Inspector Brian Wilson, attended the Bangladeshi Samity Independence Day celebration. This afforded an opportunity for ACC McCormick to address members of the community and to meet and interact with them socially thereafter.

Chief Inspector Wilson, along with Sgt Towler, attended the Thai New Year celebrations at Portobello Town Hall. Over 500 people from all over Scotland who celebrated the Thai New Year attended this event. This opportunity also afforded the officers to engage with the community and offer assistance were required.

Inspector Tom Galbraith has met with members of the Afghani community who are looking to establish a small community group for the Afghani residents of Edinburgh. This avenue of communication has been established and will continue. Inspector Galbraith has also attended a Community Cohesion Conference facilitated by the Scottish Government.

Sgt Towler attended the opening of the Polish Cultural Festival that was attended by the Lord Provost, Minister for Cultural Affairs, the Polish Consulate General and other dignitaries from Poland. The attendance at this event was about 300 Polish new and established migrants. This event started a successful week long cultural celebration culminating in a day long event at Leith Links.

Other community engagements were attended and the Diversity Unit will endeavor to continue to attend community events and welcomes invitations to these.

## Placement @ ELREC

By Katie Nevan

My placement at the Edinburgh and Lothians racial Equality Council (E.L.R.E.C) has truly been an inspirational experience. The work the organisation does is not only worthwhile but extremely relevant in today's global society. I must admit that I had prior to the placement thought that racism was a thing of the past. I had wrongly assumed that the diversity within our schools had dispelled the myths about Black and minority ethnic (BME) people and encouraged inclusion, so I was shocked and disappointed to discover this was not the case. This however means that the work of E.L.R.E.C is as important today as it has ever been.

I have had lots of opportunities to engage with individuals and groups during this placement and I have met some of the most welcoming and genuinely nice people I've encountered from Staff to director and board members, everyone has contributed to making my placement a success. I have had the privilege to be involved in many events from Maryanne's SMART conference which focused on teenagers to Mizan's South Asia consultation which was attended by adults. This has allowed me to experience a variety of community work and there has never been a dull moment. In fact my placement folder is so packed with the things I have been doing that it takes up my full backpack on its own. I have attended meeting, investigated communities, introduced the local development project to groups, conducted interviews, delivered workshops, been to events, compiled reports and helped with the organisation and evaluation of events. Doesn't that sound good for only six weeks and I'm sure I will have missed some things out.

I have worked with the best team of people. Nina has been extremely supportive throughout the six weeks I have been here and the woman's time management skills are to be marvelled at. Wahida has a really good way with the people in the community and it was great to see her in action in West Lothian. She is also good at giving you a laugh to raise your spirits. Sandra has been a rock and is among the most patient people I know, it's not easy putting up with a first year throwing one hundred questions daily and she did this without once losing her temper. Taz has been really helpful and it is great to come in each morning to her smiling face. Maryanne has kept me focused on my uni work and is good at relating the theory to practice. Zeshan kept me laughing with his jokes and witty comments. Mizan has been helpful and is passionate about his role in community planning.

I will always be able to look back on my first year placement as a great experience and one that has allowed me to see there is more to community work than youth work with the council. The organisation is well run and a pleasure to be part of. I wish each and every member of the organisation good luck with the future , but I know they will all do brilliantly.

## Edinburgh Strategy for Parental Involvement

The City of Edinburgh Council Children and Families Department has a new strategy to strongly encourage and support all parents and schools to work together for the benefit of their children.

Parents and carers\* are already involved in supporting learning in many ways. They promote good attendance, help with homework, volunteer, support uniform policy, respond positively to requests for information e.g. on ethnic identity, and get involved in various parents' groups.

Edinburgh's strategy is based on a vision which is broad and aspirational. We want to involve families, schools and communities in improving the lives of children and young people. To support this, we want to create opportunities for every parent and carer to be more involved in their children's learning through supporting learning at home, participating in home/school partnerships and in Parent Forums and Councils.

The strategy is organised around eight priority areas. For each area, we have identified a number of steps to turn this vision into reality.

### 8 Priority Areas

#### 1 Parent Forums and Parent Councils effectively involve parents in schools

All parents are automatically part of the school's Parent Forum. The Forum can then choose to create a Parent Council as a representative body. Most schools now have Parent Councils.

#### 2 Schools develop their parental involvement

This is about the promotion of parental involvement in all aspects of school life, from School Improvement plans to ongoing consultation.

#### 3 Support for parents is developed in home and community settings

To help parents and carers to support the development of confident children, we are creating programmes and developing services for parents' support

#### 4 Parents are engaged effectively and barriers to involvement are removed

To create opportunities for every parent

to be more involved in their children's learning and education, we are producing a toolkit of examples of how barriers to involvement can be addressed. We have also developed a policy to support the involvement of non-resident parents.

#### 5 A complaints procedure which exceeds statutory requirements is in place

A new complaints procedure is in place in line with the Parental Involvement Act.

#### 6 Schools provide useful information for parents/carers

We are developing our communications to improve the information schools provide to parents and carers.

#### 7 Parents are fully involved in the recruitment of senior school staff

Parents will now be involved in the recruitment of head teachers and other senior school staff at each stage of the process, from job adverts to final selection

#### 8. Parent/carer involvement is improved for looked after and accommodated children

We have a new parental involvement policy for carers and parents of looked after children which helps staff and carers, including foster carers and residential staff, to understand their roles and responsibilities.

For more information and to see a copy of the full strategy document, please go to [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parentinvolvement](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parentinvolvement)

*\* The definition of parent includes guardians or any person who is liable to maintain or has parental responsibilities in relation to or has care of a child; carer refers to someone who has current day to day responsibility for care of a child e.g. foster carer or relative carer*

## Grassroots Zimbabwe Theatre company workshops and performances: Aug '09

I am a volunteer who is working to support Grassroots Zimbabwe Theatre company from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Grassroots is a Theatre for development company that uses music, dance and drama to entertain and educate. In Zimbabwe the group works to empower local Zimbabwean people and to challenge taboos. Last year the group was able to hold a successful Children's festival.

Every year the theatre company comes to Britain for a 6 month tour. During this time they engage with local communities by holding workshops with various organisations and schools. This summer will be Grassroots sixth Scottish tour. Previously they have performed at The Scottish Parliament, the Edinburgh Mela, Glenisla African drum village and a whole range of school and community events. We would like to encourage local organisations, community groups and schools to participate in the groups' work while they are in Scotland this year. The group has experience of holding workshops for both adults and children. The topics of the workshops\* vary and can be modified to suit each individual group. An example of previous workshop areas are: Fairtrade and Debt, Racism, Poverty, Democracy, Religion, Dance, Drama and Theatre

\*workshops can be tailored to suit age and group requirements.

Grassroots Zimbabwe will be available in Edinburgh and surrounding areas on selected dates from the

10th of August - 30th of August 2009 to hold workshops and performances.

Prices of workshops and performances can be negotiated:

Grassroots is part of an exchange programme supported by a network of volunteers. The performance and workshop fees cover basic costs of flights, visas etc with any surplus going back to fund projects in Zimbabwe eg Children's festival tackling HIV/AIDS

If you are interested in booking a workshop and getting more information about prices please contact:

email: [jennifer.ba2007@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.ba2007@gmail.com)

phone: 07825641022

if you would like to visit their website please visit:

[www.grassrootstheatre.com/](http://www.grassrootstheatre.com/)

## 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 Rahaman - 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