

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**

The newsletter is available on a quarterly basis.

CONFERENCE ROOM

You can book our 20-seat meeting room on an hourly basis for £20 per hour (reduced rate for small charities and community groups)

Tea & Coffee £1 per head

Please contact the office for any booking

DONATIONS

ELREC is a registered charity in Scotland. We welcome donations however small, from individuals or organisations to help us to pursue our goal - *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 Regional 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 discrimination.
- Promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different equality groups.
- Promote and organise co-operation of the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations.

We pursue our aims through:

- Advocacy for victims of discrimination and harassment.
- Support for communities in influencing change.
- Consultancy on equality policies and procedures.
- Delivery of customised training on equality matters.

To contact us:

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council
14 Forth Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3LH
(T) 0131 556 0441
(F) 0131 556 8577
(E) admin@elrec.org.uk
(W) www.elrec.org.uk
Charity Number: SC007896
Company Number: SC183419

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE AT ELREC - 14 FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH EH1 3LH

Office space available within the ELREC Building. Prime location for any business, own privacy by way of buzzer system at main entrance of building available.

Competitive rate of £300.00 per room per month for more information or to arrange a viewing please contact Nina Giles on 0131 556 0441.

ELREC Newsletter



Issue 28
June 2011

ELREC MANAGEMENT BOARD

Honorary President
Prof Geoff Palmer OBE
Chair

Foysoyl Choudhury MBE

Vice Chair

Shami Khan

Treasurer

Ishrat Sharif

Company Secretary

Amjad Chaudhry

Ordinary Board

Members:

Tamara Mhura

Noonu Miah

Ijaz Nazir

Parmjit Singh

Chris Wigglesworth

Inside this issue:

Editorial	1
Pride Scotia East Lothian Diversity Network	2
City of Edinburgh Council	3
Lothian and Borders Police	4
Minority Ethnic Achievement Awards 2011	5
Volunteering Opportunities	6

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council

Promoting Equality and Fighting Discrimination

Editorial

Welcome to the twenty eighth 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.

Building a fairer Britain: Reform of the Equality and Human Rights Commission

The UK Government is currently reviewing the functions of Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) as part of their programme of reducing the number and cost of quangos.

The Government emphasised that Equality and human rights are fundamental to building a strong economy and a free and fair society. They added that we need an approach that recognises people's complex identities and individuality, and promotes equality of opportunity and greater freedom for all. However they are critical of the new approach of EHRC which brought together in October 2007: the Commission for Racial Equality, the Disability Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

The Government criticised that EHRC struggled to deliver against its remit and provide value for money. The sheer breadth of the Commission's remit, combined with errors made in the process of setting up and

the transition agreements put in place by the previous Government, have contributed to the underperformance of the Commission to date.

The Government took the decision to retain the Commission but substantially reform it to focus it on the areas where only it can add value, to increase accountability to the Government, Parliament and the public, and to improve its effectiveness and value for money.

The Government propose to amend the Commission's core equality functions:

- Promote awareness of equality legislation so that individuals, employers and others understand their rights and obligations.
- Working in partnership with organisations to highlight good practice and build their capacity to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.
- Monitoring compliance with equality legislation and, in partnership with civil society organisations, holding Government and public bodies to account for their performance on equality, for example on their compliance with the new public sector Equality Duty.
- Intervening to address non-compliance including by bringing or supporting individuals to bring strategic test cases to clarify and enforce the law.
- Maintain a robust evidence base to inform and drive

improvements in equality practice and against which progress towards a more equal society can be monitored.

- Helping the Government to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of the Equality Act 2010.

The Government also decided to stop funding the Commission's provision of its helpline and grants programmes from 31 March 2012. Instead the Government will consider the following:

- General information and advice for citizens
- Provision of legal and strategic grants programmes to voluntary organisations

The Government propose to make legislative and non-legislative changes to improve EHRC's use of taxpayers' money, increase its efficiency and effectiveness, and secure appropriate accountability both to Ministers and Parliament.

The Government is inviting views on how best to implement these reforms.

The consultation will end on 15 June 2011. The response proforma is available for download from the Government Equalities Office website at <http://www.equalities.gov.uk>

Responses should be sent by email to

EHRC.Reform@geo.gsi.gov.uk or by post to: Louise Sutton, Government Equalities Office, Zone G10, 9th Floor, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU

**By Nina Giles
Director**



Pride Scotia is Scotland's national LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) pride festival. Every year a pride march and a community based festival is organised to celebrate diversity and personal identity. The traditional pride march and rally provides a platform for politicians, community activists, celebrities and most importantly individuals turn out to march through the city centre to celebrate pride.

This year's event was held on Saturday 7th May 2011 and the Gay Police Association, ACPOS, British Transport Police and all Scottish Police Forces arranged to participate in this year's march and community festival, along with colleagues from other Emergency Services.

As the chair of the ACPOS Equality and Diversity Business Area, DCC Steve Allen of Lothian and Borders Police represented both Lothian and Borders Police and ACPOS on the march.

He said, "for the police to be effective we need officers and staff from across all of Scotland's communities. Pride is an opportunity to demonstrate support for and recognition of the contribution made by LGBT colleagues and to encourage others from these communities to consider the police service as a career."

Below is an excerpt from one of a number of letters the Force received following this demonstration of support and recognition of the contribution made by LGBT staff.

"I was walking alongside you on the Pride Scotia yesterday and I just want to write to say how marvellous I feel it is to have you with us on our march....."

"as a 64 year old gay man I am always mindful of the difficult years when I was young. It gives me great pleasure to not only be able to have our Pride parade nowadays but to have my police force represented in our midst."

Comments from members of the public will hopefully go a long way in encouraging others from these communities to consider the police service as a career.

For Volunteering Opportunities please visit:

<http://www.pride-scotia.org/>

'Walk With Me' Guide Dog Information session

Tuesday 28th of June
4.30pm
Port Seton Community Centre,
South Seton Park,
Port Seton,
East Lothian.
EH32 0BQ



All welcome & Refreshments will be provided.

This event will be an opportunity to find out about Guide Dogs in Scotland, how they operate and who can use a guide dog.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Spillane on 01620 827134 or email equalities@eastlothian.gov.uk



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



Do you want to make a difference and learn new skills?

Then why not volunteer for Parentline Scotland?

Parentline Scotland 0800 028 2233 is the free confidential helpline and email service for any adult caring for a child in Scotland to contact about any problem big or small.

They now need more volunteer call takers. No previous experience is necessary as full training is provided along with excellent support and supervision. Further development opportunities are available.

So if you really want to make a difference and want to learn new skills and are able to offer 4 hours per week either during the day, evenings or weekends then contact Parentline now on 0131 446 2333 or email us at parentline@children1st.org.uk



Do you have a background in UK Law? or are you a graduate in Law or currently studying Law and looking for some hands on experience?

ELREC is seeking an individual who fits into one of the above and can offer a minimum of 10 hours per week.

You would be working alongside the Director helping with advising and providing information on, in particular, Discrimination Law.

For more details contact the ELREC office on 0131 556 0441.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



Festival of Spirituality and Peace 2011 6th August - 29th August

A Call to You

FOSP is looking for motivated and engaged volunteers from all over Edinburgh and beyond to come and help them to deliver Festival events and get involved in the debate and dialogue. The Festival of Spirituality and Peace is a celebration of our unity in diversity and they therefore encourage volunteers from all faiths, cultures, traditions, nationalities and backgrounds to get involved and help make this Festival one to remember.

If you have any additional support needs they will do everything they can to meet them and provide you with the support you need to get the most out of your time as a volunteer.

Each year FSOP recruit 20 - 30 volunteers of all backgrounds and ages from across Edinburgh and beyond to help take the tickets, staff the box office and prepare the stage. If you are interested in volunteering this year between 6th August - 29th August at St John's Church?

Please contact Katherine on: katherine@festivalofspirituality.org.uk Or 0131 221 2273



EDINBURGH MELA 2011 - 2nd to 4th SEPTEMBER 2011

Edinburgh Mela is the city's celebration of diversity.

An energetic festival that presents a fusion of contemporary culture alongside the heritage and traditions of Edinburgh's diverse communities. The programme is a showcase for multi-cultural Scotland and features a vibrant mix including contemporary, world and traditional music; classical and contemporary dance; food; fashion; street theatre; workshops and children's activities.

Edinburgh Mela is a popular event that revels in its international outlook and is proud of its local connections. The Mela is inspired by South Asian culture and, this year, in a very visual statement of that inspiration and of its Scottish identity the site will be transformed by the work of artists from Scotland and from West Bengal. Their prints and designs and innovative decorative structures will adorn Leith Links and welcome all to Edinburgh's most friendly and diverse festival.

Volunteer Opportunities at the Edinburgh Mela Festival 2011

Edinburgh Mela is looking for enthusiastic and friendly volunteers to come along and be involved in the Mela weekend Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th September as stewards, front of house, at the information point and to generally help out at the festival.

If you're looking for an exciting, fun way to spend a weekend and gain some experience volunteering at a festival, then this is the opportunity for you. Just drop Karen an email to let her know you're interested and free over that weekend.

Edinburgh Mela can provide travel expenses, food and refreshments, a ticket for the Mela closing party, a volunteer thank you event and a reference.

Please email Karen Veitch volunteer@edinburgh-mela.co.uk



City of Edinburgh Council

Fostering Good Community Relations Workshops

The Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council is holding two events in June. The workshops are open to members of the Edinburgh Equalities Network and any other individuals / organisations who have an interest in advancing equality and fostering good community relations in Edinburgh.

The purpose of the workshops is to give participants:

- Better understanding of the Equality Act 2010 and the implications for community relations.
- Better understanding of barriers and how these can be overcome to foster good community relations

- Better awareness of how to gather equality evidence.
- Being more confident in raising equality issues.
- Being more confident in engaging with individuals of protected characteristics.

The workshop programme will include:

- Exercises on the themes of "Who do we think we are?" and "Equality dilemmas"
- An update on the Equality Act 2010 and what are the legal obligations for public sector organisations.
 - Small group discussions on identifying practical ways of removing barriers.
 - Discussion on understanding the common fears of participation and how to tackle those fears.

The workshops will take place on:

Thursday 9 June - Business Centre, City Chambers from 5.30pm to 8.00pm (Buffet refreshments available from 5.00pm)

Thursday 16 June - Business Centre, City Chambers from 2.00pm to 5.00pm (Buffet refreshments available from 1.30pm)

To book a place for either of the workshops contact Anne Elliot on 0131 469 3764. If you have any access/communication/transport/dietary needs please let Anne know when booking your place.



Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC) is working in partnership with Edinburgh Equalities Network to promote its functions and encourage more organisations and individuals to participate in the Network.

The Edinburgh Equalities Network aims to:

- give individuals and organisations opportunities to be involved in and influence policy development to tackle inequalities in Edinburgh
- gather information and viewpoints on strategic equalities issues
- promote equality of opportunity, reduce discrimination and harassment and promote positive attitudes towards and across equalities communities of interest
- foster good community relations by sharing information and improve awareness of equalities issues and publicise events.

The Edinburgh Equalities Network is supported by The City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, Lothian and Borders Police Service and the Crown Office

and Procurator Fiscal Service. Membership is free and any group, organisation or individual can join. Members receive regular updates about equalities events and information.

For further information about the Edinburgh Equalities Network please contact anne.elliott@edinburgh.gov.uk or 0131 469 3764 or see the Network website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/equalitiesnetwork.

As well as wanting to encourage more individuals and organisations to participate in this Network, ELREC also hoping to speak with you directly to find out the key equality concerns for yourself or the people you provide service to. This information will help inform our work and may also provide feedback to the Edinburgh Equalities Network partners.

If you wish to discuss ngiles@elrec.org.uk or 0131 556 0441.



British Sign Language

In order to obtain a qualification which enables British Sign Language (BSL) Interpreters to work within the criminal justice system, interpreters must complete a years course which is additional to their BSL interpreting qualification.

Much of the training given in this respect is given at Deaf Actions premises in Albany Street, administered by Heriot Watt University.

In previous years this course has consisted mainly of language aspects and anecdotal experience from other trainers who have previously worked in the criminal justice system.

As a result of becoming involved in other aspects of work within Deaf Action, Sergeant Martin White, Force Disability portfolio holder, was asked if he could provide a police input for the 2011 group of BSL interpreters to guide them through the police processes of detention and arrest.

Consequently, on 6th April 2011 Sergeants White Majid attended at Deaf Action, Albany St, Edinburgh where they delivered a presentation on police powers and processes relating to witness statements, statements under caution, arrest, detention and the cells/custody procedure - all of which are likely processes that BSL interpreters will become involved in.

Following that, the group were taken to the cells complex at Gayfield Police Station where they were given a tour of the facilities and further aspects were discussed in relation to drink driving procedures, medical examinations and taped or recorded interviews.

In the afternoon Sergeant White took part in some practical role playing with a member of staff who is deaf, going through the interview, detention and arrest procedures, enabling the BSL interpreters to use their skills.

As a result of the training several interesting aspects were identified in relation to language used in several

police processes, notably the drink driving procedures, where there are no existing terms to accurately express the words used. Further work is now being carried out to progress these issues.

The training day was extremely well received and gained excellent feedback from the trainees who all found the police participation useful and realistic.

Equality Act

In response to the recent Equality Bill 2010 Lothian and Borders Police are in the process of establishing Force and Divisional 'outcomes' in relation to Equality. This will see the Force not only meet it's legal duties under this act but also enable it to re-affirm it's Community Commitment and enhance engagement with new and established members of all communities.

SAFER COMMUNITIES - YOUR OPINION MATTERS

In order to know local communities' views about policing, safety and what it is like to live in their local area, we would like people living within Lothian and the Borders to complete our online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/YourPolice

The online version of the survey will remain open until 30th June 2011.

The results of this survey will help to inform policing priorities and influence how we engage with local communities in future. A good response to the survey will ensure that results are representative at a local level. We would therefore like to encourage as many people as

possible living within Lothian and the Borders to complete the survey.

As this survey will form an important part of planning the future service Lothian and Borders Police deliver, we would appreciate your assistance in promoting and encouraging people to complete the survey. We have promotional cards available which give information about the survey and provide the website address. We can send paper copies of the survey to people who do not have access to the Internet and make it available in other languages, large print, Braille or audio.

In addition to the online survey, we are also sending a postal

questionnaire to a random sample of 3000 residents within Lothian and the Borders.

We thank you in advance for your support and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Safer Communities
Lothian and Borders Police
0131 311 3131

MINORITY ETHNIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2011



KRAYA CHAMPION EDINBURGH AT THE MINORITY ETHNIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BY WINNING TWO AWARDS FOR: BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AND BUSINESS MALE OF YEAR GOING TO SHRIRAM SHRIKUMAR.

Kraya was founded in 2000 and since have grown rapidly with a wide range of clients from local SME's to Multinational household names such as Stagecoach, Edinburgh Fringe, Historic Scotland and The National trust for Scotland.

OTHER WINNERS OF THE NIGHT INCLUDED:

Community Champions Awards

- ⇒ **Equality and Social Justice** - Najimee Praveen - Director of Path Scotland
- ⇒ **Education, Employment and Training** - Path Scotland
- ⇒ **Sport** - SEMSA
- ⇒ **Arts and Culture** - Radio Kilmanjaro
- ⇒ **Housing** - Southside Housing - Saffron

Spotlight Award - African Caribbean Network

Small Business of the Year - Assams

New Horizons Awards -

Male - Omar Raza

Female - Nyakio Kim

Life Time Achievement Award - KA Javid

5th Annual Minority Ethnic Achievement Awards were held at Celtic Park and hosted by Team 11 India.

The awards are a testament and celebration of Scotland's diversity. They offer a prestigious arena to reward all of us who now call Scotland our home and who have evolved our lives to contribute to the Scottish Landscape.

Team 11 pride themselves in encompassing all of Scotland's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in one place and are proud that the Scottish Minority Ethnic Achievement Awards continue to fulfil this role and are maintaining the trust of Scotland's BME communities to showcase the very best of their contribution to Business, Arts, Culture and to the wider society.

The evening was opened with a colourful performance by Punjabi Number 1 and the National Anthem, followed by an introduction and welcome speech by Councillor Bob Winter - Lord Provost Glasgow, the evening continued with nominations and awards to all the achievers within the community with the evening closing with a meal catered by Cafe Asia and an After Party hosted by DJ Vips and Crew.

The Event was sponsored by: Sony Entertainment Television, Jaguar, Kingfisher and Skills for Scotland.



SCOTTISH MINORITY ETHNIC
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
INVESTING IN DIVERSITY

