



“Think SM:ART”

(Schools make a difference: attack racism together)

REPORT ON ELREC’S S3 ANTI-RACISM CONFERENCE

The event took place on Monday 23rd April 2007, 10am - 4pm at The Hub in Edinburgh. One hundred young people from 13 different schools took part (*Broughton High school, Trinity High School, Leith Academy, Drummond Community High School, Wellington School, St Nicholas’s School, Firrhill High School, Portobello High School, Kingsinch High School, James Gillespie’s High School, Royal High School, Craigmount High School and St Augustine’s High School*). The children were of mixed ability and staff were encouraged to bring as representative a group of young people as possible from their schools. They were accompanied by one teacher, often from the Guidance or Equalities team.

Aim of the Conference:

The aim of the conference was to encourage young people to confront racism rather than deny or ignore it and to give them the opportunity to work together to come up with practical measures that would enable them to challenge racist behaviour in their schools and communities. A simple pack is currently being compiled containing all the activities and ideas that were produced so they can be used by pupils and schools as a resource to help implement (with support) some of the suggestions.

Programme of the day:

The event was opened by Nina Giles (*ELREC*), Yasmin Zemmoura (*Radio Forth*) and Alistair Dinnie (*City of Edinburgh Council*).

Following this The Scottish Youth Parliament and Young Scot conducted a live poll, designed to garner information about racist attitudes amongst young people and their knowledge of the issue. The results are attached. Then, in groups, the young people were given discussion cards and asked to feed back their views and arguments.

During the lunch break Edinburgh Youth Council, ELREC and the Scottish Youth Parliament had stands displaying information about their services and activities so the young people could find out about the different organizations they can get involved with in order to have their say on issues that are important them.

If they wanted to have their say there and then, there was the chance to be interviewed by Forth One and/or to take part in the Young Scot Podcast.

We had 8 workshops in the afternoon. These were designed to be hard hitting and thought provoking; tackling a wide range of issues such as globalization, community tension, media, religion, terrorism and immigration.

Organization	Title and description of workshop
Pakeeza Women's Group	<p><u>'PRIDE AND PREJUDICE; BEYOND THE VEIL'</u></p> <p>A brief introduction about themselves and their group. A questionnaire and talk about "Pride and Prejudice - Beyond the Veil." Analysis of headlines from newspapers to start a discussion.</p>
Peer Educators Save the Children	<p><u>" Who we are"</u></p> <p>Young Gypsy Travellers help young people find out more about their lives. In an interactive session which include quizzes, DVDs and a photo game .</p>
John Morrison PhD Candidate, School of International Relations University of St. Andrews	<p><u>"The truth about TERRORISM"</u></p> <p>Brief introduction to the history of terrorism. People were then divided into small groups, with about four in each group, where they discussed exactly what they think of when they hear the word terrorism. There was a discussion about the associations that each group made. This led the workshop down many avenues. The workshop had an emphasis on how all cultures have been affected by terrorism in some form and how the problem must be solved in different ways in each culture. There was then a look at different initiatives that have been put in place to combat terrorism around the world. The workshop ended with an open discussion on the role young people can play in the 'fight' against terrorism and peoples viewpoints about terrorism.</p>
Glasgow Anti-Racist Alliance	<p><u>"Racism - A Barrier to Integration?"</u></p> <p>"Racism is one of the major barriers to integration. The workshop focused on what integration means to young people and how they can work together to bring about change. Participants watched a DVD on challenging racism, which formed the basis for the discussion. Participants were then given the opportunity to discuss how best Scotland's communities can be made safer and better integrated.</p>

<p>Alison Ritchie Save the Children</p>	<p><u>Globalisation and Interconnectedness</u></p> <p>We are increasingly connected with people across the world in so many different ways: technologically, politically, but above all economically.</p> <p>This workshop explored aspects of this globalised, interconnected world and its impact on migration around the world. Students were invited to take part in an activity which looks behind the newspaper headlines, to learn more about the circumstances which lead to migration and to reflect on prejudice and the arguments that surround immigration.</p> <p>A very brief intro with some facts to 'explode' myths, clarifying some terminology, and asking about historical knowledge of immigration to and from Europe/Scotland over the ages. Then an activity where the participants investigated a fictional murder of a migrant, piecing together info about this person's life and experiences.</p>
<p>Youth Action Team; Lothian and Borders Police</p>	<p><u>Racism - A Youth Perspective</u></p> <p>The material for this workshop was based on victim impact statements and scenarios where youths are the accused persons.</p>
<p>Professor Geoff Palmer</p>	<p><u>Abolition of the British Slave Trade, 200 years ago in 1807</u></p> <p>Slave ships sailed from Scotland (Britain) to Africa, collected slaves and then sailed to the slave colonies where the slaves were sold. Millions of slaves died from cruel treatment during the Atlantic crossing and on the slave plantations. Slave ships were then loaded in the West Indies and the Americas with goods produced by the slaves such as, sugar, coffee, cotton, tobacco, spices and rum before sailing back to Scotland (Britain). In 1807, Britain abolished the slave trade. Today, the trafficking of people all over the world is called "modern slavery". This is very different from slavery in the West Indies and the America which was Chattel slavery. A Chattel slave was legally owned and had no right to life and was not regarded as a human being. That is why British slavery had to be abolished legally after protests and petitions in Britain and rebellions by the slaves.</p>

These workshops ran twice for 45 minutes each. The young people chose the two workshops they most wanted to go to and were then allocated accordingly.

The facilitators came from a variety of different organisations, backgrounds and professions.

The last session was entitled "Can one person make a difference?". The young people worked in their groups again and decided on three actions that they could take forward in their schools.

Suggestions were:

- Put posters up around the school
- Sell anti-racist t-shirts

- School Concerts
- Make a personal commitment to report racism
- School Assemblies
- Peer education sessions with the younger year groups
- Establish a confidential service for people suffering from racist abuse to go to
- Raise awareness of racial discrimination and broaden understanding of different backgrounds
- Hold an equalities day

Young People's Feedback

At the end of the day the young people were asked to take part in a human evaluation. They were asked 4 questions and had to move to different corners of the room, marked BRILLIANT, GOOD, AVERAGE, BAD.

The results were:

How did you rate the morning session?

Brilliant:	9
Good:	30
Average:	30
Bad:	0

What did you think of the workshops?

Brilliant:	15
Good:	45
Average:	25
Bad:	0

Has coming to the conference made you feel you can challenge racism now? How good was it at doing this?

Brilliant:	28
Good:	38
Average:	11
Bad:	9

What did you think of the conference overall?

Brilliant:	16
Good:	41
Average:	18
Bad:	6

Facilitator feedback

Those leading the workshops all said that they had been successful and in some cases were surprised by how engaged and thoughtful the young people were. They felt that the young people had definitely gained an understanding of the workshop subjects, even though they were quite complex issues

Teachers Feedback

Teachers were asked to fill in a short questionnaire about racism in their schools, the results are attached.

Appendices 1

Staff questionnaires

Would you say racism was a problem in your school?

- All of the schools said that racism does exist in their schools.
- 4 schools didn't view it as a huge problem, although 2 schools said they felt it was probably underreported.
- 1 school is in the middle of a survey about racist bullying.
- 1 school said racism was a problem in their schools, but it was dealt with well.
- 2 schools said that racism was a very big problem, 1 of these said that even teachers were targeted and 1 commented there was a particular "anti-polish feel".

How do you tackle racism in your school?

- 5 schools said that racism was addressed through the curriculum, however only two of these schools suggested this was the only method.
- 6 schools have clear policies and guidelines for dealing with racist behaviour and incidences, 1 school is in the middle of reviewing this process.
- 2 schools mentioned one to one work and support.
- 1 school specified that students were actively encouraged to report racist behaviour.

Do you think this is satisfactory?

- Only 2 schools thought their responses were satisfactory
- 5 schools thought that there was a lot more they could do.
- 1 school admitted it was however difficult as "pupils say all the right things in class, but still have those views"

- 1 school suggested that staff have special training as they find the issue very difficult to talk about.
- 1 school was unsure about their method of tackling racism.

Does it create the atmosphere that racism is not to be tolerated?

- 5 schools said yes.
- 1 school said yes, but thought that students may see this differently.
- 1 school said no and described the need for “whole school approach”
- 1 school suggested that sometimes staff were a problem and that “changing mindsets is [very] difficult”.

Does your school encourage its young people to challenge racism themselves?

- 4 schools either said no or not directly.
- 1 school said they did try but it was hard for the young people to feel “empowered” enough to do so.
- 4 schools said they did.
- 1 school said this was “very hard indeed” to do.

Appendices 2

Scottish Youth Parliament/Young Scot Live Voting Pad Survey

Section 1- Who are you?

		# Votes	Percent	<u>Scotland said...</u>	
Are you a...?	Teacher	8	13.11%		
	Youth Worker	1	1.64%		
	Young Person	43	70.49%		
	Other	9	14.75%		
	TOTAL	61	100.00%		
Gender	Male	34	43.59%	141	45.34%
	Female	44	56.41%	170	54.66%
	TOTAL	78	100.00%	311	100.00%
How old are you?	12	1	1.47%	46	15.13%
	13	3	4.41%	43	14.14%
	14	30	44.12%	40	13.16%
	15	18	26.47%	63	20.72%
	Older than 15	16	23.53%	112	36.84%
	TOTAL	68	100.00%	304	100.00%
Where do you live?	Edinburgh West	19	23.17%		
	Edinburgh East	9	10.98%		
	Edinburgh South	15	18.29%		
	Edinburgh Central	13	15.85%		
	Edinburgh North & Leith	26	31.71%		
	TOTAL	82	100.00%		
What is your ethnic group?	White	63	73.26%	315	90.78%
	Any mixed background	6	6.98%	7	2.02%

Asian	8	9.30%	22	6.34%
Black	5	5.81%	1	0.29%
Other ethnic background	4	4.65%	2	0.58%
TOTAL	86	100.00%	347	100.00%

Section 2- The Survey

If you are from a major ethnic background, do you know anyone who is from a minority ethnic background (eg. someone with a different skin colour or from a different country?)

	# Votes	Percent	<u>Scotland said...</u>	
Yes	70	82.35%	214	76.43%
No	15	17.65%	66	23.57%
TOTAL	85	100.00%	280	100.00%

How much prejudice do you think there is in Scotland against people from a minority ethnic background, particularly those who look like they are from a different background

A great deal	21	23.60%	36	11.29%
Quite a lot	39	43.82%	151	47.34%
A little	18	20.22%	111	34.80%
None at all	3	3.37%	8	2.51%
No answer	8	8.99%	13	4.08%
TOTAL	89	100.00%	319	100.00%

Have you heard people make or shout racist comments at/to someone?

Yes	70	90.91%	243	78.39%
No	7	9.09%	67	21.61%
TOTAL	77	100.00%	310	100.00%

Have you ever seen someone being violent towards someone else because of their race or skin colour?

Yes	50	59.52%	95	30.84%
No	34	40.48%	213	69.16%
TOTAL	84	100.00%	308	100.00%

Have you ever been a victim of racist abuse, verbal or physical, because of your nationality, skin colour, racial, ethnic or cultural background

Yes	28	36.36%	53	17.21%
No	49	63.64%	255	82.79%
TOTAL	77	100.00%	308	100.00%

If yes, did you tell anyone?

Yes	14	33.33%	30	56.60%
No	28	66.67%	23	43.40%
TOTAL	42	100.00%	53	100.00%

If you told someone, did anything happen as a result?	Yes	12	38.71%	17	56.67%
	No	19	61.29%	13	43.33%
	TOTAL	31	100.00%	30	100.00%
Being impolite or verbally offensive to people from other ethnic backgrounds?	Yes	72	87.80%	19	6.19%
	No	10	12.20%	288	93.81%
	TOTAL	82	100.00%	307	100.00%
Speaking negatively about people from different backgrounds to your family and friends in private?	Yes	26	32.50%	47	15.41%
	No	54	67.50%	258	84.59%
	TOTAL	80	100.00%	305	100.00%
Using terms such as 'chinky' or 'paki' when talking about food shops etc.	Yes	21	26.58%	85	27.69%
	No	58	73.42%	222	72.31%
	TOTAL	79	100.00%	307	100.00%