



ELREC Newsletter

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council

Promoting Equality • Fighting Discrimination • Fostering Good Relations

ISSUE 48: September 2016

From the Chair

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N Greener

True Colours Worker

U Dosen

Youth Zone Coordinator

C Nicoletti

Research Assistant

H Lawrence

Bright Choices Officers

N Currie, M Rostami, A Arabzadeh

Routes to Roots Project

Coordinator

Neil Ogilvy

Work Space Maintenance

D Panton

Communities for Conservation:

Coordinator — J M Gaunard

Link Officers — D Tai, E K Lukaszek,

P Ishaq, A Ibrahim, A Kassim, M Diaz

Hello and welcome to our September newsletter, and Eid Mubarak to all those who have celebrated Eid al-Adha.

I would like to start with a short note regarding the attack that took place on Sunday 18th September at Edinburgh Central Mosque, where a petrol bomb was thrown against the Mosque. It caused minor damages to the door, but fortunately no-one was injured. This action has been treated by the police as hate crime. ELREC has already released a statement on this despicable



attack, but I would like to restate our strong condemnation of any action that aims to spread hate and division within our society. I would also like to reaffirm that our Support and Advice Service is available to anyone who feels they need support.

As for our work, after the visit from the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, we hosted the Cabinet Secretary for Justice of the Scottish Government, Mr. Michael Matheson MSP, who met people from the community in order to discuss their ideas, experiences and concerns about policing. This meeting was organised in view of the recent consultation that has been launched on revised strategic police priorities for Scotland. The meeting was a success and ELREC is proud to support the Government and local communities.

Since July ELREC has seen the beginning of the new project Routes to Roots, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which explores the heritage of migrant communities in Edinburgh and how it contributes to shape the wider Scottish heritage landscape. In July, also True Colours and Diversity in Public Life have started again, thanks to the renewal of the funding from the Scottish Government and Voluntary Action Fund. I am pleased to confirm that all our projects are going strong and keep making a difference in the community they serve. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all ELREC staff and volunteers for their hard work and for ensuring that our projects are successful.

Over the last year ELREC has had many contacts with regards to equality and race issues. It is therefore important that ELREC has survived to be able to help and deal with these issues.

Finally, after the success of its first edition, I am pleased to announce that ELREC is hosting another Equality Champions' Gala Dinner, which will be held again at Heriot Watt University, James Watt Centre, on the 20th November 2016. If you would like to attend, or wish to nominate someone who has distinguished themselves in promoting equality and

From the Chair—continued

human rights, please get in touch with ELREC office for the tickets. For more information you can find the brochure of the event in this issue of our newsletter.

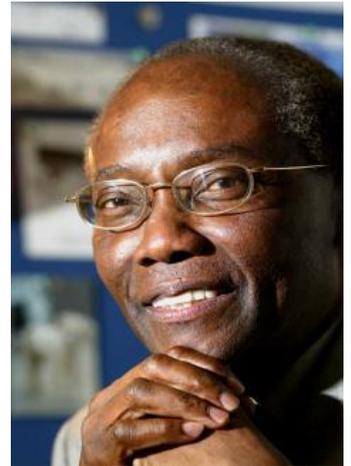
Foyso! Choudhury MBE Chair

From the Honorary President

A



statue to Mary Seacole, the now famous Jamaican-born (1805) black nurse, who served and saved the lives of British soldiers in the Crimean War (1853 - 1856), was unveiled in London on the 30th June 2016. Professor Sir Geoff Palmer who served as an ambassador to raise funds for the statue is also Jamaican-born. He attended the unveiling of the imposing statue of Mary Seacole which stands in the grounds of St Thomas' Hospital and looks at the House of



Commons. Although Mary was rejected when she volunteered to serve in the war, she, with great determination, found her way to the war. Florence Nightingale also served in the same war. She was remembered but Mary was forgotten. However, with the help of many donors a statue to a great woman now exists as a permanent reminder to us all that service matters and should be recognised equally.

Prof Sir Geoff Palmer DSc OBE



From the Vice Chair

Dear all,

Welcome to our September's newsletter. It is a pleasure for me to write here.

I would like to thank ELREC staff and volunteers for all their work, dedication and commitment. All our current projects have been funded again, two new projects have started since June 2016, and ELREC staff has consequently grown too.



Our very own Neil Ogilvy has been appointed as Routes to Roots Project Coordinator and he has enthusiastically started in his new role in early July. We have hired an Administrator and a Finance Officer to replace him. Didem Kaner Ural is ELREC new Administrator and Adrian Barbascumpa is our new Finance Officer. They have both started working from the end of July and they are doing very well. I would like to wish Neil, Didem and Adrian my best wishes for their work with us.

Shami Khan

Vice Chair and Convenor of the Personnel Subcommittee

ELREC's Support and Advice Service

If you've been discriminated against; need assistance or are looking for housing and benefits advice, we're here to help. We offer free and impartial advice for individuals who have suffered discrimination, need to report hate crimes or need assistance in working with public bodies. If we're unable to help, we'll help you take your case to an appropriate organisation who can.

If you would like to come and see us, please call and book an appointment first, and also write down details of the incident, paying particular attention to dates. We'll listen to your case and make an assessment, helping you to identify your options and decide on the best course of action.

To report an incident or get more information contact us at: ELREC, 14 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH1 3LH. (T) 0131 556 0441 (F) 0131 556 8577(E) admin@elrec.org.uk (W) www.elrec.org.uk

Information on how to report online can be found here:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/hate-crime/>

From the Project Lead Officer and Fundraiser

Dear all,

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter!

Since our last issue I am happy to announce that all our projects from last year have secured funding for one more year. In June we have received confirmation from the Scottish Government and Voluntary Action Fund – Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund, that our two projects, True Colours and Diversity in Public Life have received funding again. Both projects have successfully concluded their 2015-16 funding with good reports and started the new year's funds on 1st July. You can read more about them further on in the newsletter.



July also marked the beginning of our new project Routes to Roots, thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This new exciting project will look at mainstreaming migrants' stories and contributions to Scottish's heritage with the purpose of portraying migration under a more positive light. You can read more and learn about how to get involved in the update from the Project Coordinator in this issue.

With the beginning of the project ELREC has seen some changes in its staff. Neil Ogilvy, former Office and Programme Coordinator, is Routes to Roots Coordinator. I would like to thank Neil for all his hard work and best of luck for his new role! To replace him, we have hired an Administrator, Didem Kaner Ural, and a Finance Officer, Adrian Barbascumpa. They have both started at the end of July and they are doing a good job! Their update in this issue will tell us more about their background and expectations in working at ELREC.

In the remaining pages of this issue you can read the updates also from the other projects, with their exciting news and events coming up. As for my work, I will continue preparing and submitting funding applications in order to strengthen our organisation. Our applications will target core funding as well as existing and new projects. This summer I have been supported by a number of committed volunteers who are helping me with the applications. I am very grateful to all of them for their time and their commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ELREC staff, Board members and volunteers for their hard work, support and dedication.

Elisabetta Spano

espano@elrec.org.uk

From the Administrator

Hello everyone,

I am delighted to join ELREC as the Administrator and be a part of a very dynamic team.

My family and I moved to Edinburgh last year from Istanbul, Turkey. My previous experience is mostly in international trade, procurement and logistics. I also worked as a volunteer teacher to primary school students, participated in community projects of the companies I worked for, organised handcraft courses for people with visual impairment in Turkey. I also volunteered for Canongate Youth Project in Edinburgh.

I hold a BSc in Geological Engineering from Middle East Technical University in Ankara and an MBA from Istanbul Technical University.

Looking forward to working together.



Didem Kaner Ural

didem.kaner@elrec.org.uk

From the Finance Officer

Hi all,

I am Adrian Barbascumpa, I am originally from Romania and I have recently joined ELREC as the new Finance Officer.

I joined ELREC as a volunteer last year, I volunteered for a while with the Support and Advice Service. I have enjoyed very much this experience and I am happy to keep being part of ELREC.

I have a solid experience in working in finance, consultancy and in managing accounts and administration in my previous jobs. My experience is made even stronger by my educational background in economics and international law.



As said above, I am very happy that I can give my contribution to ELREC's work by managing their finances and supporting staff with their projects. I would like to thank everyone in the organisation for their warm welcome and for their constant support.

Adrian Barbascumpa

adrian.barbascumpa@elrec.org.uk



Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council's
EQUALITY CHAMPIONS' GALA DINNER

To Celebrate Excellence of Achievement &
Promoting Equality Across the Lothians
2nd year of success



Dress Code: Smart & Traditional

- Multicultural Live Entertainment
- Networking & promotion
- Three-Course dinner
- Awards and Raffles

This landmark event aims to acknowledge the contribution of our equality Champions have made to equality over the 46 years of ELREC's existence as an equality organisation.

Ticket Price:

- Adult £30pp
- Children £15pp (8-15)
- ELREC Members £25pp
- ELREC Volunteers £20pp

20 SUNDAY 6.30 PM
NOVEMBER

VENUE Heriot Watt University
James Watt Centre, Riccarton, EH14 4AS

All proceeds will go to the ELREC Support & Advice project
To book ticket contact Didem at ELREC: Tel: 0131 556 0441, Email: admin@elrec.org.uk
www.elrec.org.uk | facebook.com/ELRECUK | twitter.com/ELRECUK

Equality Champions' Gala Dinner November 2016

Dear Friends,

ELREC is organising an Equality Champions' Gala Dinner to celebrate excellence of achievement and promoting equality and sustainability across the Lothians.

This celebration dinner will be held on **Sunday 20th November 2016**, 6.30 pm at the **James Watt Centre, Heriot Watt University**, Riccarton, EH14 4AS

This 2nd year landmark event aims to acknowledge the contribution our equality Champions have made to equality over the 46 years of ELREC's existence as an equality organisation.

A list of Equality Champions will be announced at the dinner. If you know someone who is promoting equality and human rights in the community and is deserving of this award, please let us know by 1st November.

Specialist events will include brilliant multicultural live entertainment, raffles and 3-course dinner. The event will bring an excellent opportunity of networking among key equality stakeholders i.e; members of diverse communities, third sector and public agencies.

Ticket prices: Adult £30/Person, Children £15/Person (8-15), ELREC Members & Volunteers £20/Person.

You can buy your tickets paying by bank transfer (Sort Code: 80-02-34, Account Number: 00552000) and e-mail admin@elrec.org.uk with your name and address details and number of tickets requested. Cheque payable to: 'Edinburgh & Lothian Regional Equality Council'. Payment can be made via PayPal. Please reference your payment 'gala + [your name]'. To book online: <https://equalitychampionsdinner.eventbrite.co.uk>

Dress code: Smart and traditional. All proceeds will go to the ELREC equality projects. If you have any questions or comments regarding the event, to book tickets, please do not hesitate to contact Didem Kaner Ural at ELREC Tel: 0131 556 0441.

We look forward to welcoming you at the dinner on 20th November 2016.



From the past Equality Champions' Gala Dinner in January 2016

Cabinet Secretary for Justice visit to ELREC, 12 July 2016



On the 12th July ELREC has hosted an event with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice of the Scottish Government, Mr. Michael Matheson MSP.

The Cabinet Secretary had launched a public consultation on revised strategy police priorities for Scotland and in light of this, he wanted the communities to get directly involved. The event was therefore organised to allow the Cabinet Secretary to meet members of the public to discuss their experiences of policing and aspirations. ELREC worked as a platform for the community and the

Scottish Government to meet and discuss the role of police and for the public to have their voices heard.

The event was a success, well attended and well received by both the Government and the public who participated. ELREC staff, volunteers and Board members attended the meeting in high number. Part of the discussion revolved around the problem of Hate Crime and the fact that it is underreported due to concerns around the effectiveness of the police response to issues impacting minority communities. Other topics of discussion included the need for the police to be adequately resourced and have an inclusive approach, taking into account the needs of ethnic minority groups. The meeting provided a good occasion for the Cabinet Secretary to reaffirm the support of the Scottish Government to EU nationals living in Scotland in the aftermath of the EU Referendum that has caused anxiety and uncertainty among European citizens living in the UK.

Finally the Cabinet Secretary praised ELREC's work, by stating that "the strength of ELREC is important" as a community organisation and encouraged ELREC to apply for funding to maintain the good work it does in informing the police and the Government of the needs of local communities.



From the TRUE Colours Coordinator

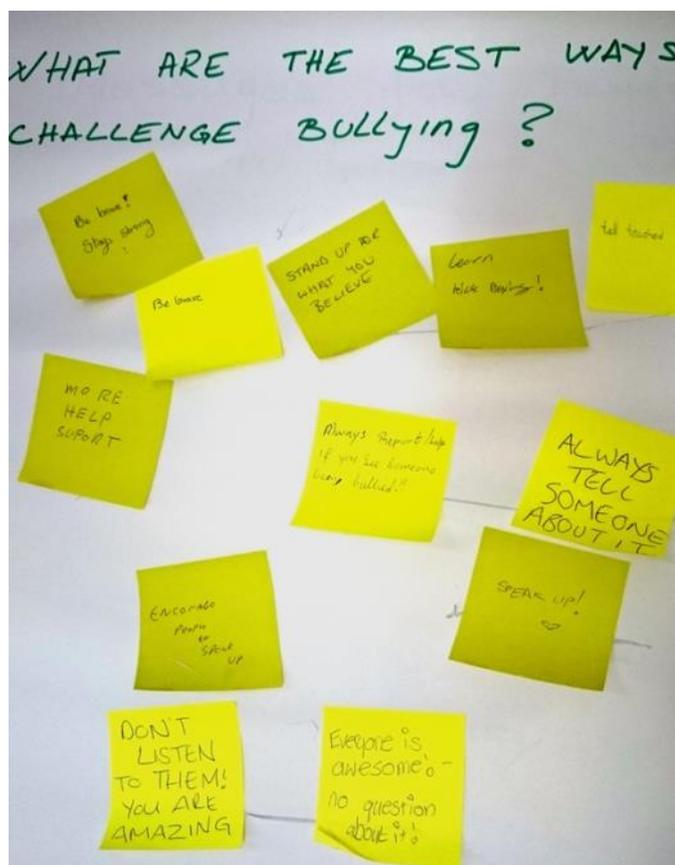
Hello,

First of all I would like to welcome our new volunteers Keiran, Sara and Lauren to the team. We are always happy to have new faces in the group and they are doing crucial work in our continuing fight for equality.

The new project year has started and we are ready for the new term. This year we are focusing on more detailed and comprehensive peer education programme as well as an Edinburgh wide spread campaign focusing on promoting diversity and challenging stereotypes.

We are delighted to announce that the Anti-Bullying toolkits are finished and published. The main aim of the toolkits is to help schools be more informed about bullying behaviours and how to challenge these behaviours, but also to help our new volunteers to create their

own peer education programme and to promote the work we do with young people. The toolkits will include research findings regarding bullying in schools, examples of good practice, personal stories and a guide on how to build a successful workshop. The research reached just over 400 students and 20 teachers – they all shared their opinions on what bullying behaviour is, their personal experiences with prejudice-based bullying and what would be the best way to tackle it. Both publications are available on our website – TRUE Colours Anti-Bullying Research – goo.gl/8JJQty, and TRUE Colours Peer Education Toolkit – goo.gl/qcLQts.



During the Edinburgh College Fresher's week, we asked the visitors how to best tackle and challenge bullying in schools.

Una Dosen
TRUE Colours Project Coordinator
UDosen@elrec.org.uk

From the Youth Zone Coordinator

Hi everyone, here come the latest news about the Youth Zone once again.

The Youth Zone is becoming more and more popular! Over 30 young people have participated in our group sessions and individual support activities in the last 3 months.

Lately we have been busy improving our skills thanks to several trainings, in particular on Goals Setting, Active Listening and Social Media.

We also had the pleasure to host a Police Constable who provided us with an overview of the recruitment process to start a career with Police Scotland.

We had the chance to visit our friends at the Central mosque in occasion of the Careers' Fair and we strengthened our partnership with Skills Development Scotland to provide young people with high quality employability advise service.

The Edinburgh College also welcomed us during their Freshers' Week to talk about all our great projects.

Looking at the future, there is some interesting news: ELREC has now become Eurodesk UK Partner!



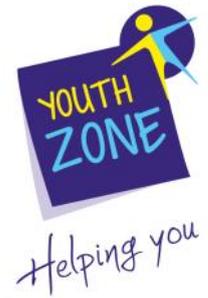
Eurodesk UK is an information and support service to help young people and youth organisations find out about opportunities in Europe. During the Youth Zone drop-in sessions you will also find plenty of information on opportunities for young people at European level!

So do not forget to join us on Wednesdays from 4 to 7 pm. Everyone is welcome. You can have a chat and some fun in a relaxed atmosphere and those who wish can get some support in looking for a job, higher education or volunteering opportunities.

There is a lot more coming up for the next months, so follow us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/youthzoneedin>) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/youthzoneedinburgh) to keep up to date!

Cristiana Nicoletti

Youth Zone Coordinator



Volunteer Profiles



I spotted the ELREC volunteering opportunities on the Volunteer Edinburgh website and was attracted by the opportunity to get some experience doing research and although I have only been volunteering at ELREC for some months, it has been much more than I could have expected. I am currently involved with the Communities for Conservation project, doing work on video podcasts and assisting with the organisation of the Multicultural Eco Event. I am also getting involved with the budding Routes to Roots project, exploring heritage and multiculturalism.

The focuses of the projects are wide ranging and there is a lot of flexibility and variety in the volunteering roles so it is easy to find something to fit your interests or gain experience in a new area. Aside from the skills I have gained from my participation in the projects, I have also taken part in several training sessions, learning about topics ranging from restorative justice to social media, which will prove useful in my role at ELREC and beyond. If you have the time to give volunteering at ELREC, it is certainly a role you can get a lot back from.

Aileas Pringle



Namaste!

I am Arati Chavan from Pune, India. I moved to Edinburgh 6 months back. It was a big change for me and my family! After coming here, it took me couple of weeks to settle down, get my kids admitted to school, get acclimatised, and get hang of this wonderful City of Edinburgh. As the summer vacation came along, I started enjoying the beautiful summer in Edinburgh... did some walks in Pentlands, Arthur Seat, explored cycle paths etc. As the kids were home, I found myself having a lot of free time. I was thinking about utilising my free time in the best possible way and that's when ELREC happened to me! I was very excited knowing about the different projects and community work that ELREC has been involved in. I found ELREC and its staff to be very humble, friendly, and passionate, and committed to the work they do. I immediately signed up as a

volunteer to help them in whatever way I could.

I was born and brought up in Pune. It was once known as the Cycling City as cycle was the primary mode of local commute. I used to cycle to school every day and always enjoyed riding around the city. So when I came to know about ELREC's cycling activities, I was very excited and thrilled!

My first cycling activity was with Jean-Matthieu and Larissa to Portobello beach and from there on, my bike journey with ELREC started. I attended a Bike Ability training workshop through ELREC and joined many cycling trips during the summer. ELREC supported me at every step of the journey. I met many people from different backgrounds, most of whom are my very good friends now. Everyone at ELREC is very supportive, committed, and energetic!

ELREC has reignited my passion for cycling. It is also helping me fulfil my wish of contributing to the community in my own way. In the coming weeks, I'm planning to organize a big cycling event for my community with the able support of ELREC. I'm very proud to be associated with ELREC! I will cherish this experience of working with ELREC throughout my life, and it is surely going to help me immensely in my future. THANK YOU, ELREC! Cheers!

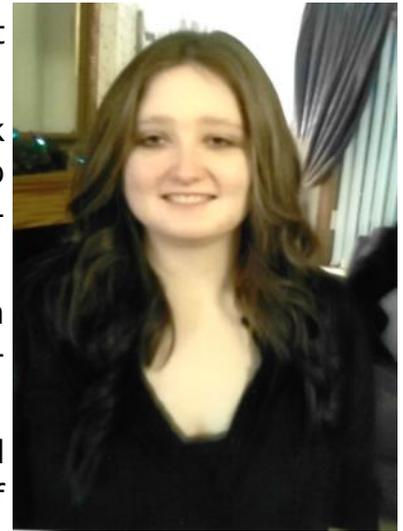
Arati Chavan

I have been admin volunteering at ELREC for over a year and I have just graduated from Edinburgh College with an HND in Business.

I decided to volunteer at ELREC due to the fact that I would like to work in an office environment. This has provided me with experience as to what this would be like. As well as this, I have an interest in equality issues so that side of things has also been eye opening.

I helped to organise activities for a film screening of Regeneration: An earth saving evolution, including topics for discussion and debate regarding the issues raised in the film.

As previously stated, I would like to work in an office environment and many vacancies would like candidates to have experience in this type of workplace. Volunteering with ELREC has been a great help in providing this experience.



Stephanie Smith

Calling for new members at ELREC!!

ELREC strives to embody the principles of transparency; integrity; equity; mutual co-operation; and participatory democracy.

ELREC welcomes all individuals and organisations who share our aims, visions, and values to join us as members. As a member you will have the opportunity to shape ELREC policy direction; participate in ELREC's annual Management Board election; and attend ELREC events and lectures. Our members also act as links to various communities. You will receive a copy of the ELREC Quarterly Community Newsletter and receive information on equality related events.

We welcome membership from individuals from diverse groups as this results in the better representation of all protected characteristics. We would be much obliged if you would consider joining us, as well as helping us by encouraging individuals and organisations known to you to join ELREC.

More information regarding membership, application forms as well as full copies of ELREC's Memorandum and Articles of Association, can be viewed by visiting our membership webpage or contacting our office:

www.elrec.org.uk/member.htm

Volunteer to Achieve

The couple of months the project has been running in full speed. We have designed and finalised the training programme for ELREC volunteers until the end of the year. Goal setting and Active listening, the Disability Awareness training, Digital Promotion Course, Disability Awareness training, Social Media training and transgender awareness training are just some of the sessions we are hosting this year.



Chun Tai, a student from University of Edinburgh Business School conducted a research on ELREC volunteers and reasons why people decided to volunteer for with us. Chun did this as a part of his dissertation, during which he carried out face to face interviews with the staff and volunteers. The results of his research will be available to us by the end of September. This will be very beneficial for the project but more importantly for ELREC, as we will have an insight in why people choose to volunteer with us and how can we improve our work with volunteers.

We had a great week attending the Edinburgh College Fresher's week (5-8 September). Additionally we will attend the Volunteer Edinburgh's Volunteer Recruitment Fair (21st September) and Edinburgh University Students' Association Volunteering Fair (5th October).

We are happy to say that on average we have 8 volunteers joining our volunteer team each month.



Una Dosen
Volunteer Development Coordinator
UDosen@elrec.org.uk

Young People Against Hate



Hi from all the staff and volunteers involved in the Young People Against Hate (YPAH) project. The summer has been really enjoyable, we've done some great new research, met new young people and chatted to them about racism, we've attended conferences on racism, conflict resolution and had a great time at some summer youth events.

The YPAH has launched its new four week racism awareness and empathy program. This program was developed by one of our volunteers, Holli Kerr. We decided to put together a new pack of workshops that will deal with current events, using "Brexit" and the recent rise in Refugees across Europe, and allow young people to engage with those topics. The YPAH has just completed the first four week program and we've had fantastic feedback and have just booked two further sessions. I'd like to thank Holli and all the volunteers who were involved in creating the program and facilitating it.

The summer always gives us a good opportunity to do in-depth research that we may not always have time for throughout the year. This summer has been particularly fruitful, we've had volunteers working on LGBTI policy, Multiculturalism research, racism and islamophobia youth programs, Equality implementation research and Gender based violence in relation to hate crimes. The volunteers working on these specific topics have been amazing, everyone at ELREC is grateful for the hard work that has been put in the results due to that dedication. One of the highlights of the research we have done is a piece by Emma Buchan, "Confronting violence against woman as a hate crime: outlining the debate". Emma has looked into the current debate of Gender based violence being classified as a hate crime, the short report can be found on our website or you can pick up a copy in the office. Like all our research we are hoping to explain it, speaking to experts and people with in the community to find out their views.

The next three months are filling up fast. We have workshops booked in throughout October, conferenced organised for November and the Human Rights week planned for December. We are all looking forward to the next three months, if you know of youth group who would benefit from a workshop or a young person who may be interested in getting involved; don't hesitate to get in touch.

Have a lovely Autumn, all the best



youngstart

Delivered by



Young People Against Hate



Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council

ELREC

Young People Against Hate (YPAH):

A project within ELREC, which brings young people in Edinburgh together to raise awareness about the hate crime in their community and encourage others within the community to do more to tackle problems such as racism, homophobia and islamophobia. Our aim is to provide the tools and develop the skills for young people to challenge discrimination and become peer educators. The project delivers free interactive workshops for young people, on topics such as racism:

RACISM WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 1

Discrimination & Racism

WORKSHOP 2

Tackling Stereotypes

WORKSHOP 3

Empathy: The Experience of Racism and Bullying

WORKSHOP 4

Racism in the UK: Brexit, Immigration & Syrian Refugees

Nick Greener
ngreener@elrec.org.uk
 0131 556 8577

ELREC
 4 Forth Street
 EH1 3LH

COMMUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION

We are delighted to announce that ELREC has received the Climate Challenge Fund development grant of £1,500. This grant will enable us to assess how likely the communities that we work with are to 'switch to green electricity suppliers'. The results of the survey and consultation will help us determine whether this pilot project will be eligible for a future climate change project. A big thanks to Keep Scotland's Beautiful - Climate Challenge Fund for supporting our work with the communities.

Our Community gardens have been flourishing throughout the summer season.

GROW YOUR OWN – COMMUNITY GARDENS

The Greenkeepers group at the Royal Botanics has been growing wheat as well as many other vegetables. The children group in Niddrie have learnt about sowing and the seasons for planting. The BBQ in our Wester Hailes garden was a great success. In short, the past months have been thoroughly enjoyed by all participants.



ENERGY ADVICE

Our team has now honed their energy advice skills, so much so that we have started to provide energy advice training. Since April 2016, our team has already helped over 90 households from minority communities to reduce their energy bills and become more energy efficient. Thanks to our successful collaboration with Home Energy Scotland many households who lived in fuel poverty have received a new more efficient heating system through the Warmer Home Scotland scheme.

WORKSHOP & SESSIONS

We have run 6 climate change workshops at Milan Senior Welfare Organisation to over 50 people, and 2 workshops at Shakti Women's Aid. We



discussed climate change and the food industry and how to grow your own food. We are planning many other workshops with Asociación Española Alba and Polish schools.

We had the honour of welcoming the Scottish Government and our funders on 23rd August 2016.



SCOTLAND



Communities For Conservation

With the delivery of the shipping container, the ELREC cycling bike is now officially launched. The Cycling club, brilliantly led by Larissa, has offered many cycle rides, trainings, bike ability to children, and we will soon deliver classes for adults.

We are grateful to have received the Forestry Commission Community Grant of £2,605. The grant will support cycling excursions to woodland areas for diverse communities who rarely experience woodlands. We will hire volunteers as trained cycle ride leader. They will organize and deliver those cycle rides and other eco-friendly activities related to forests.

In addition, Cycling UK has generously granted ELREC and the Telegu Association of Scotland the amount of £2000 to participate in the Big Bike Revival. This will help to enthuse communities to get back on their bikes.



We would like to invite you to our wonderful Multicultural Eco Celebration. Entrance: First 100 tickets FREE! After that £5 (free entry for children under 12). Please book your space now by registering online at: <http://cc4.eventbrite.co.uk/>

The Multicultural Eco Celebration is a family friendly event that is centred on the theme of the Climate Change, Food Growing, Cycling and Energy Efficiency. The festivity aims at bringing diverse communities together for the protection of nature. We will have guest speakers who will speak about what you can do to live a more sustainable life. Fun and informative activities will include:

Upcycling and Eco workshops

Face painting, and many Kids' activities

Live Multicultural Performance

Cycling activities, free bike repair and cycling ride.

Henna painting

And more!

A huge thanks to the staff and our volunteers for the wonderful work that they do.

To volunteer with us, obtain free energy advice or join our workshops, events or community gardens please call 0131 556 0441 or email: cfc@elrec.org.uk

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ELRECC4C>

Twitter: [@ELREC_CFC](https://twitter.com/ELREC_CFC)

Communities for Conservation Team

COMMUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION

Multicultural Eco Celebration

FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT!

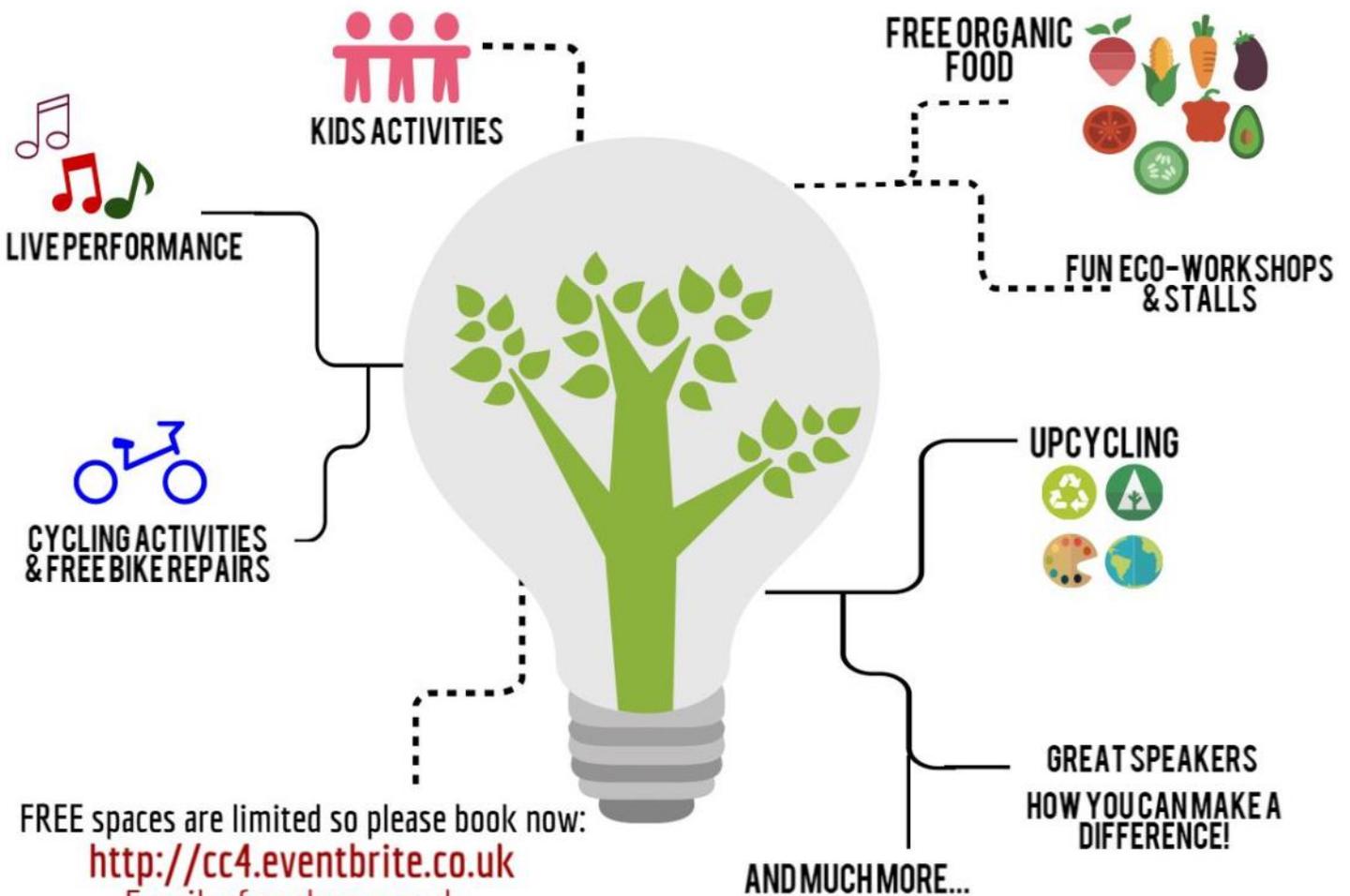


Sat 8th October 2016

St Thomas of Aquin's High School

2pm-6pm

2-20 Chalmers Street, Edinburgh, EH3-9ES



FREE spaces are limited so please book now:

<http://cc4.eventbrite.co.uk>

Email: cfc@elrec.org.uk

Tel: 0131 556 0441

Website: www.elrec.org.uk

All Welcome!



Bright Choices-First Anniversary

BRIGHT CHOICES

Entry of ELREC's newsletter, September 2016

Mitra Rostami

Bright greetings from the Bright Choices! As we have continued on our journey towards tackling honour-based violence; over the past couple of months we have been busy with our normal routine of raising awareness about honour related issues and making links with public and third sector organisations in Edinburgh. We have delivered more sessions of HBV awareness training to various groups of front-line practitioners including; psychiatric nurses at Craigmoynton Community Health Centre and Clermiston Health Centre, and the social work students at placement at Multi-Cultural Family Base.

The Engagement division of Bright Choices at ELREC have also been busy developing workshops for young people at schools around the theme of individual's rights, communicating with parents in relation to difficulties rising from enforcement of some traditional cultural practices and, support and advice available.

Also, in line with raising awareness about the honour related issues and the legal framework arounds it amongst the new migrants in Scotland; Bright Choices are teaming up with The Welcoming, which is an organisation acting as a strong and active hub for the new migrants, to organise workshops for their members.

We are also looking forward to collaborating with Waverley Care in working with African communities towards tackling harmful traditional practices within those communities.

We encourage all organisations and community groups that work with families and communities who could be affected by HBV, to sign up for our free of charge in-house awareness training.



The logo for Bright Choices, consisting of a stylized sun icon above the word "bright" in a lowercase, rounded font, and the word "CHOICES" in a larger, uppercase, rounded font below it.

Equalities Engagement—Mizan Rahman

Equality Engagement project has gone through a busy time over the last quarter. Ahead of Community Council triennial election in Edinburgh and East Lothian, project has undertaken various activities to promote diversity in Community Councils. Extensive outreach and communication carried out with the key Community Councils stakeholders; office bearers of the Lothian wide individual Community Councils, Local authority Community Councils Liaisons (CCLO) team and Improvement Service (iS) etc. Project has gained commitment and support from key stakeholders to work jointly.

Event: Celebrating Diversity in Community Councils

To increase the representation of BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) communities in Community Councils (CCs) across Edinburgh and the Lothians, ELREC - diversity in public life project and Granton & District Community Council (G&DC) hosted a joint community event: Celebrating Diversity in Community Councils on Thursday, 11 August 2016, 6.00pm – 8.30pm at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre, Pilton Drive North, Edinburgh EH5 1NF



In forthcoming, Community Council's Triennial Election in Sept-Oct 2016, the project aims to encourage more BME people to get involved in Community council by creating a network with various CCs and provide useful information (i.e.: Nomination/registration process) and practical advice for those who wish to stand as a community councillor.

Prof Sir Geoff Palmer OBE delivered the welcome speech. A presentation was made by Fred Marinello, Chair of the Granton and District Community Council.

A panel discussion chaired by Fred reflected great enthusiasm from the audience and those present took part in an open discussion. Panelist were Willie Black, chair, West Pilton Community Councils, Mrs Stewart-Kmicha, Dalkeith Community Councils, Morag O'Dea, Secretary, GDCC.



The event MC was Jean Matthew, project coordinator, Community for Conservation.. The event was attended by great number of BME people interested to getting involved in Community Councils.

Mizan Rahman, Equality Engagement Officer, organiser of the event have mentioned that ELREC had been conducted a survey last year which shows that, about a quarter (27%) of the BME respondents was aware of their community councillor. A small minority of the survey participants (19%) have ever met or have been contacted by their Community Councillors. Past research (2005) showed that majority of the Edinburgh's community councils do not reflect the BME community.

Workshop and Drop in session on Community Council 2016

ELREC has hosted a series of workshops and drop-in sessions over the month of September to raise awareness and provide support & information to BME individuals who are interested to join their CCs. Practical support will be given on submitting/filling in nomination and for the registration process.

Workshop	07 Sept 2016, 6pm	Booking required
Drop in sessions	14 Sept 2016, 2-4pm	No booking required
Drop in sessions	21 Sept 2016, 2-4pm	No booking required

Edinburgh Airport's Flight path is Changing !

You may have heard about Edinburgh Airport's Airspace Change Programme. We are looking to change the arrival and departure flight paths to and from the airport and have just finished our first public consultation. During the consultation we asked for local impacts that should be considered when designing the flight paths. We will use all the information gathered to help design our proposed flight paths and will run a second consultation on these at the beginning of next year. We will be in touch again regarding the second consultation but if you have any questions on the project please email to: edcommunications@edinburghairport.com . For more information about the consultation please visit: www.letsstofurther.com



Eid with your Neighbours



Local Muslim residents in North Edinburgh hosted an event: 'Celebrating Eid with your Neighbours' on 25 September 2016, Sunday 1.30pm – 3.30pm at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre, 11 Pilton Drive North, Edinburgh. The event is supported by Living in Harmony and other local community groups. This event aims to bring together North Edinburgh communities to celebrate Eid ul Adha, there will be delicious food, a free crèche, kids' activities, a raffle and entertainment. Anyone living around North Edinburgh is most welcome. Tickets are available: LiH, PCHP, 73 Boswall Parkway, Day to day Newsagent, Boswall

parkway. Entry £3 (adult), Children (£1).

West Lothian Community Race Forum looking for new members



West Lothian Community Race Forum

Supported by the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership
www.westlothian.gov.uk/community-engagement



'It doesn't matter if you are black or white it matters that you are treated right!'

West Lothian Community Race Forum was set up to promote and enhance understanding and awareness of race and race equality and to celebrate diversity in West Lothian through promoting and aiding the integration of all cultures into the community. The forum is based on the recognition that everyone is part of a cultural group and is therefore open to anyone who lives in West Lothian.

We meet every six weeks and discuss a range of topics from Housing to Poverty, Health to Integration and so much more! We also take part in policy consultations to ensure race equality issues are considered in service design and delivery. New members are always welcome at all of our meetings. If you have any ideas, would like support, information or would just like to join, get in touch or come along to any of our meetings.

More information can be found on the above website or by
email: communityraceforum@hotmail.co.uk
Alternatively call us on 01506 281086

Recruitment going on : Public Life Champion (PLC) Scheme

ELREC Diversity in Public Life project recruiting members to the Public Life Champion (PLC) Scheme. This scheme intends to encourage BME individual to explore their leadership potential within the various Public Life positions. This scheme provides personal learning and development provision to the participants. The key outcome of the scheme are; The participants will meet necessary requirements and be confident in relating to positions within the Public Life setting. The participants will be encouraged to take positions in Public Life. The criteria of this scheme are, being a Member of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community that live/work in Edinburgh and the Lothians and who have a strong personal interest and focussed on certain activities and levels in Public Life. To enrol on this course and detail information, please send us an email requesting an application pack. Contact: publiclife@elrec.org.uk.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Be part of something great

Make a difference - join your community council

Community councils are looking for new members, so take part and help improve your neighbourhood.

Nominations start on 5 September 2016 and close on 26 September 2016. If an election is required it will be held on 27 October 2016.

Individuals and groups are welcome to join.

Interested?

Find out more about how to join your community council at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/ccelection2016 www.edinburghnp.org.uk/community-councils or call 0131 469 3838. Contact your Returning Officer for a nomination form.



Routes to Roots



Hello all,

We are delighted to announce that our new project "Routes to Roots: Adopting Scotland as a Homeland" has had a successful first couple of months. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project aims at mainstreaming the heritage of minority ethnic communities and exploring the intertwining histories of both Scottish and diverse communities' heritages.

The project will be working with the South Asian, African, Polish, Spanish and Chinese communities in Edinburgh and the Lothians. This will be done through video interviews with community members, a heritage podcast and site visits to various heritage sites in the area.

The first few months of the project have been busy as we set up the various elements of the project. We now have a team of 14 volunteers from various backgrounds working on the project. I would like to thank them all for their hard work so far. We will be working with a number of partners including the Living Memory Association, National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh Libraries and Napier University who are all helping with different aspects of the project.

Since July we have had meetings with these partners as well as many community members. Our Launch Event took place on the 31st of August with a great attendance and feedback from participants was very positive. The Living Memory Association has provided training on Reminiscence and Recording skills to our volunteers and staff to better be able to speak to people about their past.

In the next few months we have a couple of trips planned as well as beginning both the heritage podcast and the interviews of community members and their stories.

To keep up to date with the project remember to follow us on our various social media platforms.

If you would like to get involved in any aspect of the project please contact myself on 0131 556 0441 or email routes-to-roots@elrec.org.uk

Neil Ogilvy



Get Involved!

Routes to Roots

Adopting Scotland as a Homeland

- Do you want to **explore** the intertwining histories of local and diverse communities?
- Do you want to **help** promote and mainstream your shared heritage in Edinburgh?
- Do you want to **learn** how minority communities have contributed and continue to enrich local heritage?

Get involved by **volunteering, sharing your story** or joining us on our many **heritage site visits** in the local area!

“You don’t stumble upon your heritage. It’s there, just waiting to be explored and shared.”

-Robbie Robertson-

Contact Neil Ogilvy
routes-to-roots@elrec.org.uk
 0131 556 0441



@ELRECroustestoroots



@ELREC_Routes



ELREC Trainings: October—December



This is the training programme for the next three months. It encompasses transferable skills based training and equality awareness training. These trainings are available to ELREC volunteers, ELREC members, ELREC staff and members of the public. Priority will be given to volunteers and members, however demand will be high so please book early.

To book a place or for further training details please contact: Una Dosen (Volunteer Development Coordinator udosen@elrec.org.uk or Nick Greener (Youth Development Officer) ngreener@elrec.org.uk . You may also book a place over the phone: 0131 556 0441

List of upcoming training workshops and events

TITLE: Facilitation Skills – Introductory workshops in Deep Democracy

WHEN: Wednesday 12th October from 2 pm to 5 pm and Wednesday 19th October from 2 pm to 5 pm

WHERE: ELREC, 14 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH1 3LH

PURPOSE: To introduce the principles and attitudes in Deep Democracy a facilitation method that is used in coaching with small and large group work and in communities. The approach has been developed specifically to work with issues of diversity in terms of identity, communication styles and culturally. It is applied in community building, coproduction of services, dialogues between government and communities, in organisations and in conflict.

OUTLINE: The first session will concentrate on each of us as facilitators and the second on working in groups. Both sessions will be experiential.

Session 1 - Wednesday 12th October from 2 pm to 5 pm:

Introduction to Deep Democracy

Finding out about how culture affects our identity and our ideas.

Identifying our strengths, gifts and talents from a deep democracy perspective

The value of disturbances and what they teach us

Some practical things to do before next session

Session 2 - Wednesday 19th October from 2 pm to 5 pm

Learning from last time

Different Dimensions and how they affect groups

How groups make and maintain their identities, the roles and processes which keep the status quo or threaten it

Field concepts and edge dynamics in groups and how change emerges

Practical tasks and next steps



TITLE: Human Rights Training

WHEN: 23rd November 2016

DESCRIPTION: The training enables human rights to be a more explicit part of internal operations and external relations. Training alerts people to see human rights, not as a risk, but as an opportunity to influence policy and deliver services better.

About the Facilitator:

Ewart Communications is a public policy and human rights consultancy service for the 'not for profit sector'. The training is practical and is not simply about compliance. It covers the duties of the public sector and those delivering services of a public nature as well as information for rights holders.

The training is delivered by Carole Ewart who has worked with over 100 organisations in her capacity as a consultant. She also undertakes project specific work including human rights audits of organisations, feasibility studies, writing information guides, researching reports, producing human rights toolkits for staff and introducing a variety of organisations to the work of the UN in Geneva.

The training will cover:

- Applying human rights in Scotland

- Real cases: from the European Court of Human Rights and from local Communities (more on the local communities)

- Tactics to influence





ADVERTISING

We welcome organisations to advertise in the ELREC Community Newsletter for:

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

This service is available for a contribution of £100 to £250 depending on the size and placement of the advertisement. To find out more, please contact Didem Kaner Ural on 0131 556 0441 or email: admin@elrec.org.uk

Our newsletter is published every quarter in March, June, September and December of each year.

CONFERENCE ROOM BOOKINGS

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 ELREC office for additional information or to make a booking.



FUNDERS

ELREC is funded by:

- Scottish Government
- Keep Scotland Beautiful Fund
- Voluntary Action Fund
- Big Lottery Fund

VOLUNTEERS

Aileas Pringle, Alex Rainbow, Alexander Slowman, Alice Barker, Arati Chavan, Archana Goyal, Bageshri Kulkarni, Balla Ceesay, Callum Scott, Chandrima Lala, Christina Hellevik, Claudia, Connie Yeung, Cristina Popa, David Panton, David Weir, Diline Abushaban, Eleanor Gladman, Emma Buchan, Ezgi Denli, Fiona Sarah, Jack Reid, Jane Brown, Francisco Saura Carillo, Gaia Croston, Hannah Mokhberi, Hazel Kapepala Makunku, Holli Kerr, Holly Smith, Jenny Scholtysik, Katerina Apostolou, Katerina Taliatzi, Larissa Engelmann, Madhavi Lathha, Makhosazana, Deborah Nombebe, Marilyn de Santos, Mina Omarchevska, Monja Prokscha, Nahla Awad, Natasa Serafimovska, Neena Agarwal, Nina Altendorf, Paolo Cavaliere, Pawel Bladocha, Prudence Foster, Ratiba Kabli, Ryan Whyte, Sara Casemiro Karczewski, Shailaja Mahajan, Stephanie Smith, Thomas Sutcliffe, Tuntiak Murray, Viola Korba, Wendy Tsang, Yueyue Fitzgerald, Yuklan wong, Zach Allan

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.

Our Objectives

- to work towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination
- to reduce inequality and promote a culture of human rights
- to promote good relations between persons of different groups without distinction

We pursue our aims through:

- Engagement with communities of protected characteristics
- Complainant aid for victims of discrimination and harassment.
- Support for communities in influencing change by facilitating interaction between communities and authorities
- Consultancy on equality policies, procedures and delivery of customised training on equality matters

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SC183419



Larger print newsletter available on request