



ELREC Newsletter

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council

Promoting Equality • Fighting Discrimination • Fostering Good Relations

ISSUE 53: December 2017

From the Chair

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Routes to Roots Project

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Communities for Conservation Project

Jean Matthieu Gaunand

Link Officers — David Tai, Ewelina

Lukaszek, Dina Ahmed, Fahmida

Huczewska, Irene Alvarado

Midlothian Hate Crime Project

Sana Zia

Hello and welcome to the last newsletter of 2017.

We have had a busy and successful year with many activities and events taking place. ELREC was also nominated for, and won, three awards: two for individual projects, and one for the organisation as a whole.

Our environmental project, Communities for Conservation was recognized by its funder, the Climate Challenge Fund at the first-ever Climate Challenge Fund Award ceremonies in November of this year! We were nominated by Home Energy Scotland East and were given the award for the energy category! The judges had this to say about our project: "This project used an approach that allowed them to engage with hard to reach groups and diverse communities, breaking down cultural and linguistic barriers. The project ran an impressive number of events to raise awareness on climate change, keeping a sense of community and fun at the heart of everything they did".

Equally, our heritage project funded by the Heritage Lottery: Routes to Roots: Adopting Scotland as a Homeland received the CEMVO award for Impact in Education which was presented to us by the University of the West of Scotland at the 2017 CEMVO Scotland Ethnic Minority Impact Awards in November. This is a fantastic mark of the excellent work Routes to Roots has done since its inception and I look forward to more as we move toward the end of this project in 2018.

I am very proud of both of these projects for their successes and look forward to seeing more in the coming year!

ELREC was also nominated for the first-ever Scottish Diversity Awards and won for the category: Third Sector Organisation of the Year. I would like to thank Creative Oceanic and everyone who voted for us to receive this honour! It is an incredible achievement for the organisation and I am deeply indebted to all of our staff, volunteers, members, board and service users for making this possible.

Thank you as always to our excellent staff, volunteers, members and board.

Foysoyl Choudhury MBE

Chair



From the Vice Chair

Dear All,

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2017.

There has been no change to the staff since our last newsletter and I am pleased to report that excellent work is being carried out all around.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication throughout this year. We have had many great accomplishments over the course of the past twelve months, none of which could have been achieved without the exemplary work of each and every individual involved.

Thank you all for helping make ELREC great and I look forward to seeing what next year has in store!



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 the final ELREC newsletter for 2017.

We have done excellent work over the course of the past year with a variety of events, workshops, programmes and trainings undertaken by all our projects. Additionally, we have had the honour of being recognised for this by 3 organisations!

Communities for Conservation was awarded the first-ever Climate Challenge Fund Award for in the Energy category, while Routes to Roots received the Impact in Education Award from CEMVO's Scotland Ethnic Minority Impact Awards. ELREC as a whole also received the inaugural Scottish Diversity Award for Third Sector Organisation of the Year. I am very proud of these accomplishments and the hard work that went into making them a reality, and I look forward to similar successes in the year to come!

Our Midlothian Hate Crime Project, funded by the Midlothian Council, completed its final training sessions in November and we look forward with anticipation for the final report and outcomes of this project. We will be concluding our work in this area in January 2018, but have plans to hopefully expand this concept: creating and delivering hate crime prevention workshops to more students in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Our TRUE Colours, Routes to Roots, Equalities Engagement, Communities for Conservation and Bright Choices projects have continued to deliver excellent trainings and outreach to their respective communities—building awareness about bullying, heritage, engagement, environmental issues and honour-based violence and the ways in which they intersect with equality and diversity. TRUE Colours and Routes to Roots have also teamed-up this autumn to deliver trainings to students at in primary school about immigration, bullying, diversity and heritage. These workshops have been incredibly successful and we look forward to more collaboration in the year to come.

At the end of this year, ELREC teamed up with other equality and diversity organisations in Edinburgh to participate in the 16 Days of Action to prevent gender-based violence. These were a series of events and workshops targeted at raising awareness about this issue and how to prevent violence against women and girls. These 16 days were a huge success and we look forward to increasing the scope and participation again next year!

I would like to thank all of ELREC's staff and volunteers for their unparalleled dedication and achievement in 2017. Happy New Year!

Rachel Vette

rachel.vette@elrec.org.uk



ELREC Wins Scottish Diversity Award Third Sector Organisation of the Year!



Congratulations to ELREC, who won the Third Sector Organisation of the Year award at the first Scottish Diversity Awards! Edinburgh Mela also picked up the Event of the Year award.

Diversity has been at the heart of our work since its inception. We have extensively worked with diverse communities and after becoming a pan-equality organisation in 2010, when we extended our work to encompass all protected characteristics.

Foyso Choudhury MBE, ELREC Chair (*above, left*) said: "We are very honoured to have been recognised as the Third Sector Organisation of the Year by the Scottish Diversity Awards 2017. I would like to congratulate ELREC's Management Board, staff, volunteers and the communities that we work with.

"ELREC has been serving the needs of communities for over four decades and has won three awards for their projects this year, the Scottish Social Services Awards, the Climate Challenge Fund Award and CEMVO Ethnic Minority Impact Award. "

ELREC Wins Scottish Diversity Award Third Sector Organisation of the Year!

The inaugural Scottish Diversity Awards welcomed 200 guests at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow and sought to promote the importance of equality in today's society and recognise Scotland's cultural diversity.

The Scottish Diversity Awards 2017 acknowledge the determination, dedication and hard work of individuals, organisations, and businesses across Scotland that actively contribute to the spread of diversity, equality, and empowerment in the country.

The event was hosted by Atta Yaqup and Rupa Mooker.

Irfan Younis, CEO of organizers Creative Oceanic, said: "We are honoured and delighted to have such great finalists and winners. Scotland prides itself as a welcoming country that provides space for everyone and aims to treat all people equally. The awards aim to highlight that."

"These were the first Scottish Diversity Awards. We will learn from what has started this year and we hope to grow the awards every year and help in changing our society in a positive way."

Congratulations to our staff, volunteers, members and Board who all contributed to make ELREC the Third Sector Organisation of the Year!



TRUE

TACKLING RACISM UNITING EVERYONE

colours

ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL!



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Contact Una Dosen on:
UDoseneelrec.org.uk
OR DROP INTO OUR OFFICE TO SAY HI

ELREC (Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council)
14 Forth Str, Edinburgh, SH1 3LH

WE WOULD LOVE TO JOIN US IN OUR QUEST FOR A HAPPIER SOCIETY! YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT, AND IS IMPORTANT FOR CHANGE

Become a TRUE COLOURS volunteer: Learn about equality and human rights. Challenge bullying and discrimination. Develop fun and interactive workshops. Build up your confidence. Add new skills to your CV and meet other awesome people!



www.facebook.com/truocoloursgroup

True Colours

Hello from the TRUE Colours group!



First of all I would like to say thank you to our volunteers and for all the effort and dedication they have put in in the last few months.

We have been quite busy delivering workshops November and December. We have delivered 4 workshops on Islamophobia and representation of minorities in the media in Gorgie Mills school, followed by a 5 week diversity programme in Brunstane primary school. The latter covered different diversity and equality topics and included stereotypes and prejudice, immigration and racism, and LGBT awareness. The programme was partly a collaboration with our colleagues from Routes to Roots project, and I would like to thank them as well for their support and contribution.

“The workshops are bringing important and challenging issues to the forefront of the pupils’ learning. The pupils are being asked to talk about issues of social justice and considering the reasoning. Using iPads for research was great. Resources, presentations, videos, activities were well thought out and supported the learning well. The level of questioning was good and supported pupils to make connections and support their thinking.”

“This was an extremely good extension of our project which has helped make diversity a focus for the pupils. It complemented the work we have done previously on LGBT rights/history and black history and religious minorities.”

Workshop teacher’s feedback

TRUE Colours group is already preparing for the new term. We have had numerous invitations to deliver workshops in three different schools and to Home Education Network for parents and students.

We are thrilled to be working with the Home Education Network as this will enable us work with hard to reach audiences and spread our message even further.

Last but not least I would like to wish everyone happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year from the TRUE Colours team!

Una Dosen

TRUE Colours Project Coordinator

udosen@elrec.org.uk

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.

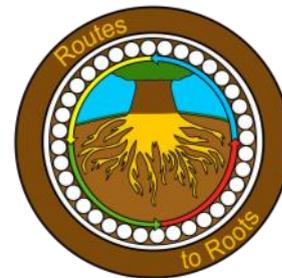
More information regarding membership, application forms as well as full copies of ELREC's Memorandum and Articles of Association, can be viewed by visiting our membership webpage or contacting our office:

<http://www.elrec.org.uk/join-elrec-member/>

OUR FUNDERS



Routes to Roots—Adopting Scotland as a Homeland



Hi everyone,

Over the last few months Routes to Roots has continued to conduct interviews, organise site visits and produce podcasts uncovering some great stories.

Podcasts:

We have released a podcast exploring the links between the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh and China and have four more videos in the final stages of production. Check out our YouTube channel and keep an eye out for these.



Heritage site visits:

We have a number of site visits still to come in the project including three more religious sites, and the various galleries in Edinburgh. Join our Meetup group to be the first to hear about these!



Interviews:

We have done another four interviews with people from the African, Polish and South Asian communities in the last few weeks. We are now working on the book that will be published in June next year.



Finally, I am delighted to say that the project has won the **CEMVO Ethnic Minority Impact Award** in the **Education Category**. This is a testament to all the hard work that the volunteers have put into the project so far.

Neil Ogilvy; nogilvy@elrec.org.uk



ELREC Routes to Roots



@ELREC_Routes



Multicultural Heritage Meetup



ELRECUK

Bright Choices



Very warm wishes from the Bright Choices on these freezing cold last days of the year for everyone to have wonderful festive days ahead!

Probably it's fair to say the highlight of the last couple of months for Bright Choices was being part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence events in Edinburgh.



The 16 days begins every year with International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and ends with Human Rights Day, and this year's theme was "leave no one behind", reflecting a commitment to reaching the most marginalised women and girls.

The events in Edinburgh, which included talks, workshops, exhibitions, shows, movie screenings, and more, aimed to inform and raise awareness about gender-based violence around the world.



The project's outreach, delivered a presentation on the first day of the FGM conference in City Hall on the Role of social Work in responding to FGM. Also, many activities was organised during this period in order to raise awareness about violence against women and empower women in the communities; including a number of women's physical and emotional health workshops for participants from Polish and Muslim communities in Edinburgh.



We also ran an art competition for the pupils in Drummond Community High School -who had received "My Life, My Choices" course by Bright Choices- around the context of gender-based violence and FGM. The deadline for entering has been extended to February 2018, however, we have already come up with amazing pieces of art by three of very talented pupils, which we are proud to display their works this newsletter with their permission. The artists are: from left to right, Nimo, Zuza, and Olive.



Volunteer Statements

I joined the ELREC team last three months on the Communities for Conservation project. I was given a warm welcome by various project teams. Obviously, I was inspired by the reception accorded to me and general orientation/ induction given on the project.

Since then, my sole responsibility is to give energy advice to the client, ask questions about how they manage their appliances in order to spend less in maintaining energy efficiency. Also to identify draughts, which facilitate the high cost of energy consumption in homes and to provide possible measures to reduce cost of energy bills.

I was so excited to be part of this team as it relates to my course in the university. Also, we organise some workshops on various projects, training and I have interaction with the different communities in Edinburgh.

I am happy volunteering with ELREC in the Communities for Conservation project and therefore look forward to adding my value to the growth and development of the organisation.

Thanks

Abel



I'm Ron Evans and I have been a volunteer with ELREC for around 6 months. Volunteering at ELREC has been a great developmental experience for myself. I have been working with the Communities for Conservation project with a focus on social media. This has been a very beneficial experience for myself as I have developed many transferable skills. In my time Volunteering with Communities for Conservation I have had to opportunity to learn more in depth about ways to use: Twitter,



Wikipedia, Eventbrite and Bitly to name but a few. I have also had the opportunity to be involved in writing a press release after Communities for Conservation won the Climate Challenge Fund energy award for "engaging diverse ethnic minority communities across Edinburgh to improve their home efficiency". ELREC regularly puts on events and the Autumn Celebration by Communities for Conservation is an example of this; there were numerous stalls which showed ways people could be more environmentally friendly whether that be by making homes more energy efficient or simply "upcycling". This event was very well attended and the support provided from many members of other projects within ELREC demonstrated to me how close knit a community exists at the organisation. Volunteering with ELREC is a very beneficial experience as I have been granted access to a variety of resources to help develop my skills. It is also great to be involved in a particularly diverse work place both across age groups and cultural backgrounds.

Communities for Conservation

We are honoured to share the news that our 'Communities for Conservation' project won the first ever Climate Challenge Fund award in the Energy category on Wednesday 1st November. The panel believed that "Communities for Conservation made a real difference to the lives of community members and the Awards Panel noted the project had collected good evidence to demonstrate this. This project used an approach that allowed them to engage with hard to reach groups and diverse communities, breaking down cultural and linguistic barriers. The project ran an impressive number of events to raise awareness on climate change, keeping a sense of community and fun at the heart of everything they did." Our gratitude must go to Home Energy Scotland who nominated us. Project Co-ordinator Jean-Matthieu and Polish Community Link Officer Ewelina Lukaszek were on hand to collect the award [#CCFAwards](#). Congratulation to the team!

Energy Advice:

With a revised energy advice package, the energy advice team has done a tremendous job in the past quarter which has been reflected in the number of referrals to Home Energy Scotland, the number of people who got awarded a new combi-boiler, as well as the number

of people who have switched to cheaper and green suppliers. Our South Asian Community Link Officer helped a client switch to a green energy supplier and save an astounding £2,297 which, according to the supplier, is equivalent to 20.1 tonnes of CO2 saved. Well done!

Representative of Citizens Advice Edinburgh said:

"I was advising one of our advisers about the ELREC service this morning – they were understandably impressed and requested some paperwork to inform other advisers"

Video Podcast:

Jean-Matthieu had the privilege of sitting with ELREC's Honorary president Professor Sir Geoff Palmer at the Royal Botanic Garden and discuss the ins and outs of climate change. Prof Palmer shared deep insights and it's all been captured on video! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bnVj8kE-FtY&list=PLmIM-jZcADHggPb1SQdWfOQaFNX4vyRmK>



Workshops

Our demand for climate change, upcycling and energy efficiency workshops keeps on increasing.

"I have heard lots of positive things about the workshop with the ladies, it would be great if you were able to deliver a workshop with the youth group." Officer at Sikh Sanjog.

In the past quarter we delivered workshops with Sikh Sanjog, the Polish Church in Livingston and Edinburgh College. Thanks to the help of our volunteers, our upcycling workshops have been particularly popular.



Communities for Conservation

Cycling Club: On November 5th, we organised a fundraising cycling ride for Rohingya. Community members and Cllr Donald Wilson took part in our emergency appeal to increase awareness about the plight of the Rohingya and raise funds. The cyclists travelled from Holyrood Parliament along the Innocent Railway as Cllr Wilson shared the history of the area. If you are interested in donating or learning more about the appeal please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/ELREC4rohingya>. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.



Many people have joined our beginners and intermediate cycling classes and the feedback has been heart warming. *"Thank you so much! Fantastic progress after just one lesson."*

"I never knew it was possible to learn this in this short period of time. I'm so happy. This is beyond my wildest dream". "I feel like a little child again, my dream come true!"

"Highly recommended. Great tutor."

We recently organised a 'Christmas bike give away' to encourage people who don't have access to bikes to cycle more. Very well attended!

Events: In October we organised a residential for ELREC volunteers at the heart of the Cairngorm National Park, the Mar Lodge Estate. Everybody experienced the bewildering beauty of nature in Scotland. The goal was to foster a connection to nature for those who had not necessarily experienced it before in Scotland in the hope that stronger ties to nature would encourage greater commitment to conservation. The group participated in various team building and climate change activities, and conservation work. The weekend was appreciated by all and thanks must go to Backbone and the Cairngorms National Park, Ranger Kim Neilson who and, finally to volunteer Madhavi.



With the Polish Scouts, we ran our a first Swap Shop event at the Inch House Community Centre in November. 50 people joined us and swapped 60kg of items: clothes, shoes, toys, books, DVDs and goods. The upcycling workshops 'giving new life to newspapers', and 'wool cap making' were also very popular. We also showcased various upcycling ideas to inspire people to give a second life to things.

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



Cycling Scotland



Mar Lodge Conservation Week End in Pictures

"This trip has been one of the most extraordinary experiences I and everyone (I'm sure) ever had! I loved how everyone in very small amount of time started to interact with each other as if they knew each other since ages; I loved how we shared accommodation, laughter, multicultural food and recipes, contact details and much more. I loved how everyone worked together beautifully to get rid of the fence and save many lives of birds. I loved watching children playing and building friendships and confidence. I loved watching the beauty of the creation and using all my senses to fully be part of nature. I loved and enjoyed everything about the trip- think words can't do it justice. Thank you for all your efforts organising this, we all appreciate it." Feedback from participant.



Volunteer Appreciation Evening

It was great to have many of our volunteers at the Volunteer Appreciation Evening on 13th December. We had a little get together at our offices to celebrate the efforts of our volunteers through the year. Our work and achievements would not have been possible without them! Volunteers are at the heart of our work. The end of the year being almost upon us, we wanted to show our appreciation for all the hard work and dedication of our volunteers over the last year, and also to mark the Human Rights Week.

Have you thought about volunteering with us? Visit: <http://www.elrec.org.uk/volunteer-with-elrec/>



We welcome our new volunteers, Clara, Joanna, Aga, Abel, Latifa, Estelle



"My name is Yordan Popov. I've had the pleasure to volunteer with ELREC for the past 7 months and more specifically with the Communities for Conservation project, under the spirited guidance of Jean-Matthieu. I felt welcomed the moment I entered the building. ELREC is a diverse bunch of great people you just have to work with. For the past 7 months I have been involved in variety of desk-based activities. I helped Jean-Matthieu to establish the commuting habits of people who are joining ELREC's bike ability and cycling events. This helped us to produce a tailored CO₂ calculator and measure the impact of ELREC's bike related activities. Other things have included researching and analysing various data produced from a number of events as well as helped with handling social-media related advertisement of upcoming activities. My latest work has been focused on establishing the viability of SWAP and charity events within Muslim communities in Edinburgh and also contributing to the ELREC's CCF Funding application. It's great to be part of ELREC. The time spent with ELREC has been very fulfilling - from me polishing my Excel data analysis and research skills, to meeting great people. I hope I've made a difference to ELREC the same as ELREC made a difference to me.
Thank you!"

One of our volunteers got the Research Assistant job that he had applied for at the University of Glasgow and said: "Thank you for the reference, and the great opportunities and experiences at ELREC, it has helped me a lot, both personally and career-wise. I am very appreciative of my time at ELREC working on all your projects, I enjoyed it greatly."

Equalities Engagement: Diversity in Public Life

Season's Greetings and Wishing you all Happy New Year from Equalities Engagement project. Please see the brief of our activities/engagement since October issue of this newsletter.



Mizan Rahman

E-mail: mrahman@elrec.org.uk

Celebrating Black History Month in West Lothian

ELREC Diversity in Public has Co-hosted a community event on 31 October 2017, 7.30pm in Bathgate Partnership Centre, Bathgate, West Lothian. In collaboration with the West Lothian Community Race Forum (WLCRF), funded by West Lothian Council the event aims to increase community cohesion as October marks the moment when everyone collectively celebrate the diversity of Scotland and shine a light on the history of Black people in Scotland.

David Olwa, chair of the WLCRF welcome everyone at the beginning. An introductory speech was given by Councillor George Paul, West Lothian Council.

Keynote speaker Professor Sir Geoff Palmer OBE highlight the importance of recognition of contribution of diverse communities in Scotland. Sir Geoff welcomed a group of Community Councillors who have been elected in West Lothian after recent community council election.

Another speaker was Councillor Ade Aibinu, first elected councillor in Scotland from African origin. He says, "integration is a two way process, it's not about we learn about of Scotland. Black History Month is not only for black people, it's also essential for everyone in the Scottish society including white people to learn about history of Black people"

"Learning history is very important in the process of integration in this society, therefore education have a key role" . Ade also stressed upon young peoples from the diverse background to get more involved into civic society and public life to make changes in the current systems of the society.

BE United 'The Champions' troupe performed an exciting South African traditional Zulu dance at the event. Benny Tetteh Lartey, Lothian based Ghanaian-Scot singer, performed music at the end.

The event was facilitated by Joanna Anderson. Useful materials disseminated at the information stalls set up by NHS Unison, Police Scotland, Fire Service, ELREC Diversity in Public Life & Community for Conservation. (See the event brochure: <http://bit.ly/2yUcJJV>)



Equalities Engagement: Diversity in Public Life

Event: One Stop Shop for EU Citizens in Edinburgh

The One-Stop-Shop for EU Citizens event took place on 25 November 2017, 5:30pm – 9:30pm at Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.

The event is aimed at increasing the political participation of EU nationals in the countries that they have moved to. It was co-hosted by ELREC Diversity in Public Life in partnership with Migrants' Rights Network, Migrants.Scot Community, Polish Cultural Festival Association and



Jesteś u siebie. Zagłosuj / Vote You are at Home / Scotland. Joanna Zawadzka welcome the audience and opens the event. A panel discussion was facilitated by Alan Ansted from MRN facilitated.

Cross party panel discussed about what the present political and legal position is for EU nationals who want to live and work in the UK after Brexit. Panel members from different political parties has given commitment and reassurance to support EU nationals after Brexit.

Panel members were Deidre Brock MP, Edinburgh North and Leith, Christine Jardine MP, Edinburgh West, Cllr Lezley Marion Cameron - Liberton / Gilmerton and Mark Lazarowicz

Immigration advice was given by David Brown, Principal Solicitor of Drummond Miller LLP. Multicultural music performed by Slyvain and Powel after food & refreshment.

Further to this event, ELREC will be working in partnership with other organisations in a project aiming to provide essential support and information to the EU citizen living and working in Edinburgh and Lothians. More information will be available earlier next year.

VACANCIES : PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Chair, Edinburgh College

Location: Milton Road campus, Edinburgh

Remuneration: £330/day

Closing date: 04 January 2018 at midday

See more: <http://bit.ly/2CYZA5J>

Member, Edinburgh College Management Board

Location: Edinburgh city wide campuses

Remuneration: None

Closing date: 10 January 2018 at midday

See more: <http://bit.ly/2oEIg2G>

For more information/enquires, please contact the Public Appointments Team on 0300 244 1898 (Freephone) by email at PA_Applications_Mailbox@gov.scot, or by writing to the Public Appointments Team, Scottish Government, Area 3F North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ. If you are a member of BME communities and need any help in application, please contact ELREC-Diversity in Public Life. **See more vacancies** on: <https://applications.appointed-for-scotland.org>

Support And Advice Service

**FREE Legal
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- Hate crime
- Discrimination advice
- Benefits
- Housing
- Case work

We cannot provide representation rather we give guidance, research your case, contact the authorities and support you through the process

Tel: 0131 556 0441

Email: admin@elrec.org.uk

14 Forth Street

EH1 3LH



I joined ELREC earlier this year to help with Routes to Roots project to do some interviews with members of Polish community. I was already involved in few Polish organizations in Edinburgh, so I was happy to take part in new project that works with Polish people. The thing that I love the most in what I'm doing right now is that it's been couple of years since I finished my studies in cultural anthropology and I haven't got any opportunity to do what I always wanted to do. Until now.

Talking to people, listen their life stories and then passing them further to be heard by broader audience, especially if it helps different cultures to understand each other is the greatest fun that anthropologist can have. I'm really appreciated that ELREC gave me this opportunity and I'm trying to be as helpful as I can.

ELREC is great place to get the best out of people who really want to do something good for the society. Look forward to doing more cool things with them!

Paweł Kopec

Hate Crime Midlothian

Midlothian Hate Crime Project:

First of all warm wishes from Midlothian hate crime project team for the festive season. ELREC received the grant from Midlothian council to create awareness through workshops in high schools amongst young generation. The main aim of the project is to create the awareness as well as the let the kids know about the consequences and the support available. We contacted three schools in Midlothian for the workshops. Lasswade High School was the first and only school which responded and suggested us to cover whole S3 instead of S5 students. According to the school record this age group requires more attention and awareness on hate crime. With the consent of the Midlothian council we managed to do ten workshops in Lasswade High School which was a wonderful experience. We worked closely with police Scotland. The main activities carried out were as follow:

1. Development and delivery of hate crime workshops
2. Development of leaflets and posters
3. Spreading hate crime awareness through radio show

Within four months of starting the project, almost 300 students had taken part in a detailed and engaging workshop on hate crime. Over three weeks in November, the workshop was taught ten times by the project youth worker and volunteers. These volunteers were trained and intimately familiar with the material and enthusiastic about teaching it to the S3 students. In response to this, the students asked questions, discussed the consequences of hate crime and participated in the interactive activities about what to do as a witness to a hate crime incident with encouraging enthusiasm.

The students' overall feedback was also positive and encouraging, suggesting that they would like to know more. The same was true for teachers, with the most common feedback being: 'It would be great to spread the workshop over two sessions'.

The project started in August and going to end in January 2017. We are hoping to get more funding to continue this project and cover more schools to spread the message.

Sana Zia

szia@elrec.org.uk



My name is Deepa Munira. I have been volunteering with ELREC for last few months within Community for Conservation project. During my volunteering period, i have gained a lot of experience on various areas of environment conservation, energy saving and recycling. I have attended many upcycling workshops and learned many new skills.

I enjoyed working with the ELREC community for conservation team, staff members and volunteers. In particularly, all the climate related events were amazing. I am so glad to have the opportunity and grateful to ELREC team for their support and cooperation.

Thank you





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
- Voluntary Action Fund
- Big Lottery Fund

VOLUNTEERS

Abel Okom, Abood Anderson, Adithya Suriyapperuma, Agnieszka Wojtkowiak, Aileas Pringle, Alberto Alvarez, Alex Rainbow, Alexander Slowman, Alexandra Szczygielska, Alice Barker, Andrew Murray, Barbara Ena Ostrowska, Cameron Burgess Smith, Choi Ling Lzung, , Chris Morris, Christopher Brogliolo, Clara Boeker, Connie Yeung, David Weir, Deborah Nombebe, Deepa Munira, Diline Abushaban, Duncan Howard, Elle Bain, Emma Buchan, Estelle, Gabrielle Cathala, Gray Davis, Gregor Hardie, Hakima D'souli, Hazel Kapepala Makunku, Henry Omorere, Holli Kerr, Inma De Reyes, Jana Malecka, Jenny Scholtysik, Joanna Ulatowska, Johnson, Katerina Taliatzi, Kirsty Landale, Latifa, Lauren Bradley, Leda Mappouridou, Madhavi Lathha, Marianne Mwiki, Marilyn de Santos, Marta Gordon, Martina Massoli, Matilda Marshall, Michael Pearce, Mina Omarchevska, Nadine Luchsinger, Nagat Hamed, Neena Agarwal, Paolo Cavaliere, Pawel Bladocha, Pawel Kopec, Ratiba Kabli, , Roisin Bathe, Romina Mazzotta, Ron Evans, Rong Fu, Rose Xu, Russel Marlborough, Ryan Whyte, Sara Fitzimons, Sara Ridolfi, Silvia Porcel, Stuart Black, Svetlana Gruni, Tamsyn Londale-Smith, Thomas Sutcliffe, Tímea Havrán, Wendy Tsang, Yordan Popov, Yueyue Fitzgerald. (Linda) 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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Charity Number: SC007896

Company Number: SC183419



Larger print newsletter available on request