



ELREC Newsletter

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council

Promoting Equality • Fighting Discrimination • Fostering Good Relations

ISSUE 54: March 2018

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Project

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Lukaszek, Dina Ahmed, Fahmida

Huczewska, Irene Alvarado

From the Chair

Hello and welcome to the March newsletter.

Building off of the success of 2017, the first few months of 2018 have seen excellent growth and progress for ELREC.

We have the pleasure of announcing two new projects which will take their place among the wealth of work that we are currently doing.

The first, Young People Against Hate, is a project which has been run by ELREC in the past, but which has obtained new funding from the Scottish Government's Aspiring Communities Fund. This new era of the project will see expanded work into different

localities of Edinburgh as well as the creation of four Youth Hubs in these areas, which will increase the involvement of young people and community members in the work we are doing and solidify our hate crime prevention work in these places.

This project will also add two new positions to our team and the recruitment process is currently taking place for these openings. I look forward to welcoming the new employees to ELREC at the close of this process.

The second project, Open Arms, is a collaborative project with Saheliya, Sikh Sanjog and LINKnet Monitoring which is funded by the Big Lottery. This is a three-year project based on the research ELREC carried out through its Barriers to Poverty and Inequality project in 2015 and will focus on addressing loneliness and isolation among ethnic minority women.

We have had the delight of welcoming Hannah Lawrence to the ELREC team to oversee this project. She is bringing a wealth of knowledge to this position as she was an integral part of the Barriers to Poverty and Inequality project and will be able to build off this experience to deliver unparalleled service to the women involved.

I am very proud of the team at ELREC for securing these projects and look forward to seeing their successes in the coming year!

ELREC also held a jumble sale in February to benefit our Support & Advice service which was an unequivocal success. More than £800 was raised for this important service and the strength of our organisation was evidenced by the powerful spirit of camaraderie between staff, volunteers and community members at this event. ELREC truly is a community organisation by and for its service users.

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

Foysoyl Choudhury MBE

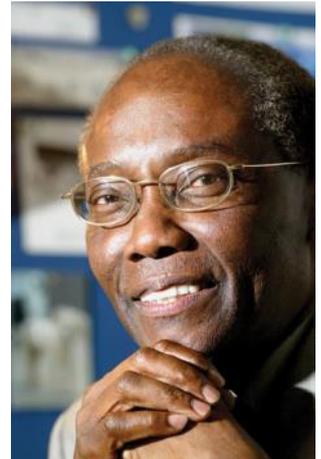
Chair



From the Honorary President—Geoff Palmer

Historical deception: "Pride can temper Shame"

The debate and actions that are associated with Charlottesville, Virginia, USA are well known. It is known that in 2017 white supremacists protested successfully against proposals to remove the statue of General Robert Edward Lee. General Robert E. Lee commanded (1862-1865) the **pro-slavery** army of Northern Virginia in the American Civil War. Such protests are not new. For example, in May 2017, Robert E. Lee's stature was removed in New Orleans. Cecil Rhodes statue was removed in South Africa on the 9th April 2015.



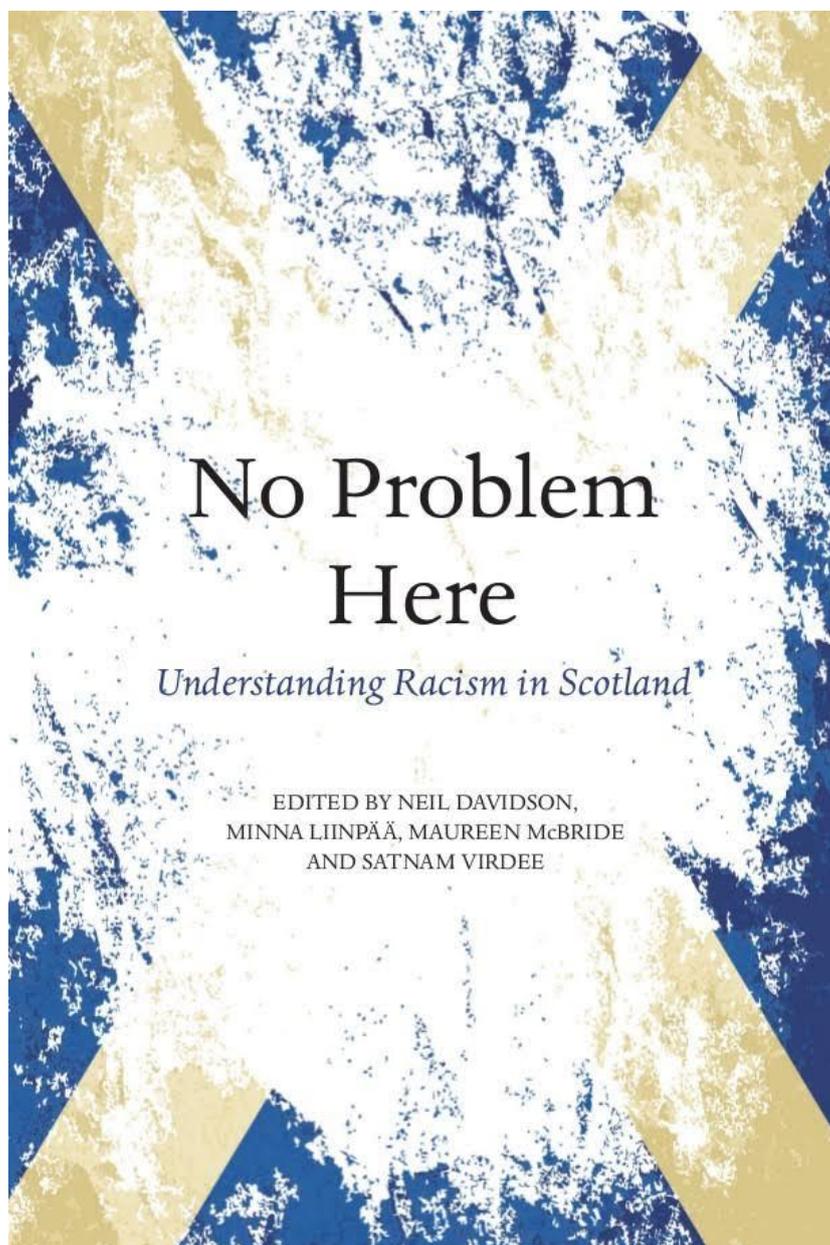
Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902) has been described as an Imperialist, Colonialist, Racist, Businessman and Politician. He exercised cruel control over the lives, lands and the resources of African people in Southern Africa. Oxford University students have tried and failed to secure the removal of Rhodes' statue at Oriel College, Oxford University. Oxford University, like many other institutions in Western Europe and Britain, has received slavery-derived money. The slavery in question was chattel slavery wherein a black slave under the law, was 'property and had no right to life'. That is why this slavery, which was practiced for over 300 years, was abolished legally by Britain in 1838 and by the USA in 1865 after the American Civil War.

Regarding Oxford University, it received £10,000 from the legacy of the notorious slave owner, Christopher Codrington (1668-1710). Codrington owned a large number of slaves in Barbados. In today's money, this sum has a value of about £8M. The grand Codrington Library at All Souls College, Oxford University, was built with this money between 1716-1751. To show the **terrible nature** of this slavery, Professor Sir Tom Devine, the historian, has stated that, "On the Codrington plantations in Barbados between 1741 and 1746, 43% of all African Negroes died within 3 years of arrival". In 1833, when British slaves were **emancipated**, Sir John Gladstone a slave owner from Leith and Fasque, and the father of the British Prime Minister, William Gladstone, received **compensation** of about £83M in today's money for his 2,508 slaves...the slaves received another five years of slavery and

not one penny. Now, I have been asked if statues and monuments which are associated with cruel deeds of the past should be knocked down. My view is that they should remain as evidence of the terrible deeds of people that directly or indirectly, consciously or unconsciously, turned other people into chattel slaves. Edinburgh Council, to its credit, is considering the re-writing of the plaque of Henry Dundas whose statue stands, about 42 metres high, in St Andrew Square in Edinburgh. In addition to other political deeds for which he has been criticised; Dundas, the 1st Viscount Melville, **delayed** the abolition of the British Slave Trade for 15 years (1792-1807), causing thousands of black people to be transported into slavery. He also prolonged slavery by using military force against slaves fighting for their freedom in San Domingo and against the Maroons in Jamaica in the 1790s.

Sadly, it is now being suggested by an academic that such cruel practices of the past can be viewed in a positive way. Professor Nigel Biggar, an Oxford academic, in an article in The Times newspaper (November, 2017), stated that he is developing research which is linked to his advice: "Don't feel guilty about our colonial history". ***In this article he invented the deception that, "pride can temper shame"***. I will not quote the examples he gave because, they are illogical. However, I have made it clear to him that this defence of "colonialism" cannot be researched because it is subjective and untenable and that in many ways historical evidence, such as the N-word, indicates that colonialism and racism go together. Evil and cruelty cannot be "tempered" (balanced) by so-called prideful deeds, based mainly on self-interest. Although I agree with the formation of "Slavery Educational Trusts" to deal with the cruel consequences of chattel slavery, these should never be regarded as a 'prideful temper' which balances the horrors of a 'shameful slavery'. I am not sure how Biggar's project is progressing. However, although Oxford University, with its benefits from Codrington's slavery supports Biggar, a large group of Oxford University academics has criticised Biggar's project, stating that it "asks the wrong questions, using the wrong terms, and for the wrong purposes". Indeed, two of our MPs (Rees Mogg and Johnson), contrary to Biggar's advice that "colonial" life was acceptable, have inferred with disdain that the UK should never become a "colony" of the EU...

The historical lesson here is that we must see and speak out honestly against the consequences of past cruelties which must be addressed in the best possible way, rather than devising falsehoods to try and change what cannot be changed...history. Many of the prejudices of today are based on the cruelties of the past. Historical truth gives children the sense of belonging they need to succeed. Historical deception about a cruelty of the past such as chattel slavery, becomes part of that cruelty. Historical deception should not happen in any society. (March 2018)



From the Vice Chair

Dear All,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2018.

There have only been two changes to the staff since our last newsletter and I am pleased to report that excellent work is being carried out all around.

First, we had to say goodbye to Sana Zia who has been our Midlothian Hate Crime Youth Worker for the past six months, as her project drew to a close in January. I would like give her my sincere thanks for her time and dedication to ELREC and wish her the very best in all her future endeavours.

Secondly, I would like to give a warm welcome to Hannah Lawrence, our new Project Coordinator for our collaborative project, Open Arms, which strives to reduce loneliness and isolation among ethnic minority women. I am certain that she will be an excellent addition to the ELREC team and I look forward to seeing the great work she will do.

Thank you, as always, to our unparalleled staff and volunteers—you are what make ELREC the wonderful organisation it is.



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,

This first newsletter of 2018 brings with it some exciting updates for the Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council! Prominent among these changes are the conclusion of our Midlothian Hate Crime Prevention project and the addition of two new projects into our current work, bringing the total number of projects up to eight—including our long-running Support & Advice service.

Our Midlothian Hate Crime Prevention project finished in January and was a great success! We partnered with Midlothian Council, Police Scotland and Lasswade High School to deliver hate crime trainings to every student in their S3 class. We received positive feedback from students, teachers, the police and the council and hope to build off this success to administer these workshops to young people in other schools in the Lothians.

The first new project is re-launch of a youth project aimed at tackling hate crime, called Young People Against Hate. It was put on hold last year while we looked for new funding, and I am pleased to announce that it will be starting again this April through the generosity of the Scottish Government's Aspiring Communities Fund! This re-launch will build off the success of the first project, expanding into new areas of Edinburgh, setting up Youth Hubs through community organisations and deliver workshops to young people about hate crime and its impact. The hubs will allow local young people to get more involved in the project and be able to organise their own events, workshops and youth support.

The second new project is a three-year collaborative effort between ELREC, Saheliya, Sikh Sanjog and LINKnet Monitoring, entitled Open Arms. It is funded by the Big Lottery and is aimed at addressing loneliness and isolation among minority ethnic women in Edinburgh. ELREC has recruited Hannah Lawrence to act as the Project Coordinator for this post, as she was closely involved in the report project Barriers to Poverty and Inequality carried out by ELREC in 2015, upon which this project was based. I am excited about the scope of this project and look forward to seeing its development over the course of the next year.

Our other projects: TRUE Colours, Routes to Roots, Equalities Engagement, Communities for Conservation and Bright Choices have also continued to deliver excellent outreach to their communities and Support & Advice was particularly successful in initiating a jumble sale to raise funds for their work! It was an excellent community-led project and I am very proud of our team for its implementation.

Best wishes,

Rachel Vette

rachel.vette@elrec.org.uk



True Colours



Hello from the TRUE Colours group

We have some great news to start the new year. The TRUE Colours project has had the funding extended for another three years 2017 – 2020, by the Voluntary Action Fund’s Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund. Additionally, the project received additional funding from People's Postcode Trust for the duration of 12 months.

I would like to say thank you to our volunteers and supporters for all the effort and dedication they have put in in our project’s success.

Since the beginning of the year we have delivered 6 workshops in total, focusing on employability, stereotypes and discrimination.

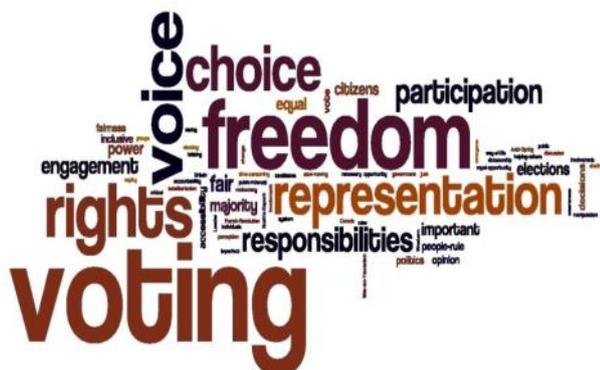
Our volunteers were delighted to be hosted by Working Rite, an organisation that helps young people get their foot in the door, regardless of their academic background or previous experience. We had a productive and fun session discussing employees rights, cultural diversity, equality of opportunity and the importance of being an active citizen. We also got some great feedback from the group, specifically regarding the information about rights in the workplace.

Additionally we have organised three different sessions with the Home Education Network at our offices, for the young people and their parents. With the support of the Routes to Roots project we have delivered workshops on the history of immigration, prejudice based bullying and islamophobia and refugee crisis.

As always we are looking to welcome new members and volunteers to the group, so spread the word and get in touch to help us continue to spread the positive message of tolerance, acceptance and respect!

Una Dosen

TRUE Colours Project Coordinator



Active citizenship is all about...

- 1 Taking an interest in your community
- 2 Having your say as a resident
- 3 Taking part in decisions that affect you



Routes to Roots—Adopting Scotland as a Homeland



Podcasts:

We have released two more podcasts since Christmas. In these we speak with Dr. Worthington about Scots who migrated to Poland in the 15th and 16th century. We have also filmed footage for upcoming podcasts on Edinburgh's connection to the slave trade and the links between Scotland and poet Rabindranath Tagore.

Heritage site visits:

In February we had an informative visit to the Edinburgh Hindu Mandir. We were able to sit in on a prayer session, enjoy some food and find out about Hinduism. A planned visit to the Portrait Gallery on March 3rd had to be postponed due to the weather. This will now take place on April 7th. On March 24th we will be visiting the Dhammapadipa Temple. All details can be found on our Meetup page.

Interviews:

We have completed another three interviews with members of the South Asian, Chinese and Polish community. We have also started publishing these interviews through our social media channels. There are some great stories so you should check them out!

Extra:

In addition to our usual activities we were a partner in organising the International Mother Language Day event on February 21st at the City Chambers and we delivered a workshop to home-schooled children and their parents on the impact of migration on Scotland throughout history.

Neil Ogilvy; nogilvy@elrec.org.uk



International Mother Language Day, Feb 21.



Scotland's Connection to the World Workshop, Feb 14



Visit to Hindu Mandir, Feb 4.



Interview with Jessica Yang, March 7.



ELREC Routes to Roots



@ELREC_Routes



Multicultural Heritage Meetup



ELRECUK

International Mother Language Day 2018

On the 21st of February ELREC's Diversity in Public Life and Routes to Roots helped to organise a celebration for International Mother Language Day at Edinburgh City Chambers. People from diverse linguistic groups came together with a passion to show love towards their mother tongue. It's was a celebration of language diversity that showed the vibrancy of the inspiring capital Edinburgh.

The event was attended by around 100 people and included a keynote speech from Prof. Antonella Sorace, Founding Director of Bilingualism Matters, cultural performances in a number of different languages and culminated with the placing of floral tributes at a temporary memorial to language martyrs.

The event was organised in partnership with the Lord Provost, Council of Bangladeshis in Scotland, Polish Cultural Festival Association, Bilingualism Matters, The Edinburgh Chinese Arts Association, Thistle Shapla Cultural Group, Bangla Scot News, Event Zone, Cllr Donald Wilson and the City of Edinburgh Council.



Saturday Cycling classes

Beginners: 10 to 11am
Intermediate: 11:30 to 1pm

All welcome

Fun family time

Health and well being

Get new skills

Relaxed learning environment

Socialising

NKS, 7 Gillespie st, Edinburgh, EH3 9NH

Book your space now:

E-mail: cfc@elrec.org.uk

Phone: 0131 556 0441

Or register your interest with Al-Furqan

Bikes and helmet provided

Al-Furqan in partnership with ELREC



Communities for Conservation

We are pleased to announce that we have received a [Climate Challenge Fund](#) Grant of over £200,000 to deliver the [Communities for Conservation](#) project for another 2 years starting from April 2018. The new project will add a waste reduction strand to its array of activities and work with religious communities. Congratulation to the staff for their diligence and contentionsness and thank you to the funders for their ongoing support.

We are delighted to be part of [Keep Scotland Beautiful Framework of Mentoring Organisations](#). We can support organisations with developing project ideas/ CCF applications; develop/run project activities; and trouble-shooting advice for projects underway.

Energy Advice:

Over the past quarter, we have received referrals from organisations such as MEHIS, Shelter and housing associations. Clients have received help to save energy from our Community Link Officers. Some have qualified to the Warmer Home Scotland Government schemes and were awarded new combi-boilers and storage heaters. Our South Asian Community Link Officer, Fahmida Huczewska, and our dedicated volunteer, Abel Okom have passed the City and Guilds Energy Awareness course.



Workshops:

Over the past months, we have delivered many workshops with volunteers on the topics of climate change, energy efficiency, food growing, upcycling and sewing / repair to different groups including Amina, Deaf Action, Sikh Sanjog, and Pilton Community Health Project. We have also organised an Apple trees winter pruning workshop, and a 'making your own upcycled draught excluder' workshop with Remode Collective as part of the [#BigEnergySavingWeek](#). In addition, we have started a popular sewing service run by our volunteer Dipa.

Feedback from Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre: "I wanted to thank ELREC for the previous information session and really look forward to seeing the next one happening."

As part of the [Edinburgh Sustainable Meet up](#), we have screened the environmental films 'Demain', 'Green Gold' and 'A Plastic Ocean'. Due to the popularity of the screening of 'A Plastic Ocean' which was attended by over 60 people, we will be screening this excellent documentary again on 4th April at the University of Edinburgh, Adam house, Basement Theatre, 3 Chambers St, EH1 1HT. You can book your ticket here: <https://plasticocean6.eventbrite.co.uk>. The films generated rich discussions around sustainability, permaculture, and practical environmental actions one can take such as [making your own wormery](#). Thank you to all the volunteers, Alberto, Ola, Rosanna, Jack, Joana, Sergi, Dipa, and Nila who helped deliver the workshops.



Cycling Scotland



Big Jumble Sale:

Our first jumble sale at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church on February 10th was a great success thanks to all the volunteers and contributors including the SHRUB Co-op. We have raised £1,000 for our free legal ELREC Support & Advice and we have helped to reduce waste.



Cycling Club:

"That was a wonderful class! I'm looking forward to (slowly) getting on the road." Participant.

Despite the recent cold weather, our beginners and intermediate cycling classes have become busier than ever with up to 23 people in one session! We have welcomed new participants who had not cycled in decades and whom by the end of the sessions could balance and pedal! If you would like to join the next class, please express your interest to cfc@elrec.org.uk

In partnership with the SHRUB, we have continued to give bikes away to those who need them.



Participants sharing their experience of community growing:

"It was a great opportunity to learn organic way to grow vegetables from experts at RBGE. Learnt a lot. We have now started to grow vegetables at our own garden."

"Taking part in the community garden had many benefits on myself and all the other participants as it helped in bringing people from different backgrounds together, learn new tips and tricks on food growing which helped the participants in their own gardens and also learned new recipes that are made from home grown veggies/ herbs which are full of goodness. Lastly, being surrounded by trees and plants always has great benefits on the mind and the soul."

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



EDINBURGH CLIMATE FESTIVAL

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT



Saturday 17th March
11am - 4pm

Out of the Blue, 36 Dalmeny St,
Edinburgh EH6 8RG

Live music



Big swap

Bring along clothes,
books and seeds to swap!

Eco-stalls &
games



Bouncy castle &
kids activities



Upcycling
workshops



Free raffle



Face painting
& henna



Smoothie bikes
& electric bikes

Free food

All welcome!

Book now: <https://ecf2018.eventbrite.co.uk>



#PassItOnWeek #EdinburghClimateFestival



STARTING NOW



On donation basis

Repair, mend and adjust your clothes and textiles

Fast and professional service with expert sewist Dipa.

Monday, 10:30 am to 12:30am

Anything accepted:
Shirts, jackets, jumpers, bags, trousers, kemise, salwar, kurti, etc...

14 Forth Street
Edinburgh EH1 3LH
Tel: 01315560441



CCF Volunteer Celebration 30th March 2018 at ELREC



Volunteer Statement

Precisely, when I was thinking about volunteering somewhere, I just saw in the street a board, in front of ELREC's office, asking for volunteers, so I checked on the internet what ELREC was about and then I found the place where I wanted to volunteer. I found a place where people with strong social commitment are working to make our planet a better place. It is a multicultural environment and they make me feel like an actual staff member.

In my current job, I don't utilise the skills related to my educational background in Fine Arts and Media Communication, but it gives me some spare time so I can volunteer and use these skills for the people's benefit. In ELREC, I have the opportunity to develop and share those skills.

I'm currently helping Didem with the website, uploading new information, events and anything. My skills are also available to anyone in the office, I am happy to help.

Alberto Alvarez



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, EH1 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

FREE Legal Support



- 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 though the process

Tel: 0131 556 0441
Email: admin@elrec.org.uk

14 Forth Street
EH1 3LH

Bright Choices

Hello everyone! Bright Choices have been busy and productive as usual. We finished another run-up of My Life, My Choices course for S3 pupils at Leith Academy. 130 pupils took part in the course and 97% of them expressed an enhanced understanding of their rights as children, forced marriage and FGM, and also how to seek support in case of risk of the above-mentioned issues. (image1)



Remember the FGM Art competition for young people? We finally rewarded the selected entries through an award ceremony in February at Drummond Community High School. The competition and the awards was a good way to recognise the pupils talents and also was a big encouragement for the pupils to pay more attention to the adverse impacts of violence against women and FGM and to be eager to learn more about theses social problems. (image2)

Probably the most important news for this issue of the newsletter would be the announcement of the monthly provision of FGM Level 2 training by Bright Choice in collaboration with City of Edinburgh Council Child Protection Committee. The training series will start with the first whole day training session on the 25th of April and will be followed by another 9 repeats until the end of the year. In order to subscribe for the training please email training.childprotection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk (image3)

Mitra Rostami
mrostami@elrec.org.uk

Female Genital Mutilation **bright CHOICES**

Inter-Agency Level 2 (Specific Contact Workforce) Training

When: Wednesday, 25th of April, 9:15 Am to 16:00 PM

Where: Training suite, Spartans Community Football Academy
 94 Pilton Drive, EH5 2HF

✓ Refreshments and lunch are provided.

The training, provided by Bright Choices, is developed based on the Edinburgh and the Lothians Inter-Agency Procedures for the Protection of Girls and Women at Risk of FGM.

The training provides more insight into FGM and the procedures to be followed by all professionals in dealing with concerns about this traditional practice. It will cover addressing concerns for children, adults, parents and carers, and it applies to professionals working at all levels within Police Scotland, Social Work, the NHS, Education and the Voluntary sector.

*Prior to attending, please either:

- Attend the Honour Based Violence Awareness and Response Training;
- or
- Study the attached pre-course reading material

The course will cover:

- Overview and history of FGM and some of the myths that continue to perpetuate it
- Physical and Mental Health implications
- Statistics and Prevalence
- FGM and Child Protection
- Protective and Non-protective views
- Guiding Principles and Practical Steps for professional response by professionals in different agencies
- Practical exercises

To book onto this course please email:
Training.childprotection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

image 3

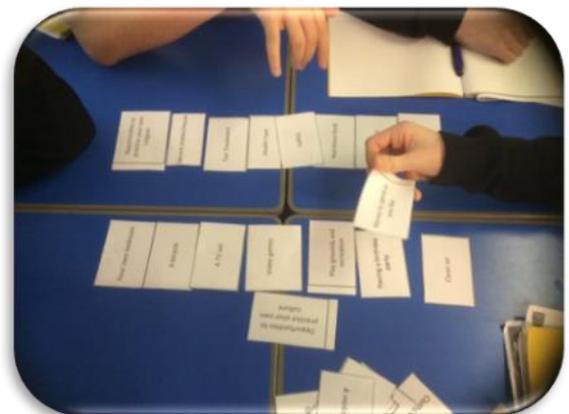


image 1



image 2

Equalities Engagement—Diversity in Public Life



Cabaret Diversity Event in Edinburgh College

To celebrate YOYP (Year of Young People) 2018 and the diversity of our local and college communities, Edinburgh College hosted a 'Cabaret Diversity' event. In collaboration with ELREC, the event took place on

27 March 2018, 5.30pm, at the EH15 Restaurant, Edinburgh College - Milton Road Campus.

Keynote speaker at the event was Professor Sir Geoff Palmer OBE, Honorary President of Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC). He was introduced by Sara Taylor from Edinburgh College Equality team. Prof Palmer spoke about his personal experience of growing up in London as a young person and that developing a sense of belonging helped him to overcome prejudices against him.

Edinburgh College musical theatre students performed a selection from their recent musical revue, Side by Side by Sondheim.

The music and song included 'Estampas', which is a suite written by Federico Moreno Torroba, comprising eight, short movements, called 'pictures', which were written about different aspects of Spanish life, performed by Edinburgh College's guitar ensemble.



Public Appointments vacancies

Interface Post: Board Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remuneration: None • Location: City of Edinburgh Council • How to apply & see more: http://bit.ly/2EeLJYr • Closing date: 10 April 2018 at midday
Scottish Law Commission Post: Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remuneration: £306 per day / £105,668 per year • Location: City of Edinburgh Council • How to apply and more: http://bit.ly/2GsvpW0
Quality Meat Scotland Post: Chair and Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remuneration: Chair: £340.00 per day Members: £180.00 per day • Location: City of Edinburgh Council • How to apply & more info: http://bit.ly/2q3DMjw

Are you interested to join in our MSP Shadowing Program ?

ELREC—Diversity in public life project are offering this opportunity for individuals from Black and & Minority Ethnic community lived in Edinburgh & Lothians, who are interested in public life. Please contact us for more info: publiclife@elrec.org.uk .



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Presentation at the Labour CLP: First BAME Cllr Elected in Scotland on 1936



Mizan Rahman, Equality Engagement Officer of ELREC- Diversity in public life project has given a presentation at the Edinburgh Northern & Leith CLP meeting on 15 February 2018 at Leith Community and Education Centre.

Historical background of the BAME engagement is Scottish politics and public life illustrated at the presentation.

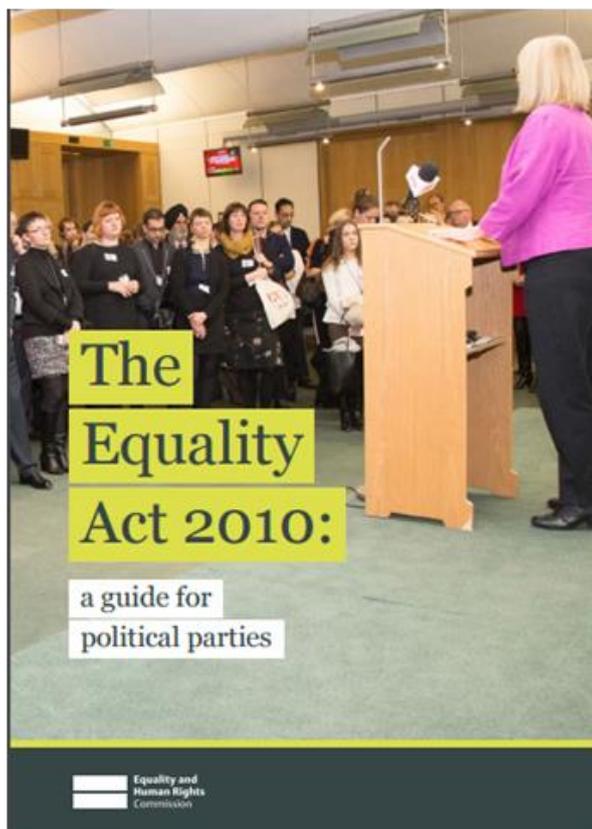
It was revealed that first BAME councillor in Scotland was elected in 1936. There was not a single voter from India during this time lived in his ward.

Dr Saagar Jainti Dass (6 Sept 1898 – 14 Nov 1954) from Punjab province of India, was the first labour councillor in Dundee. He was first Indian resident in Dundee, who came to St Andrews University as a medical student in 1919. Dr

Saagar served local community for 18 years alongside his GP surgery in Dundee. He was also secretary of Secretary of the Dundee Town Council Labour group. In memory of Dr Saagar, Dundee city council named Saggar Street after him. The historical past and legacy of Dr Saagar will be a source of inspiration for diverse community in present days. (Image: Dr Saagar and his wife)

EHRC Published Guideline for Political Part

Equality Human Rights Commission has published a guideline for the political parties in light of Equality Act 2010 . This guide tell what parties can do promote equality and diversity. This publication provides an overview of what the Equality Act 2010 means for political parties and their members. It includes an explanation of the action that can lawfully be taken by parties to increase the participation of under-represented groups in elected office and within their own party structures. It also explains when and how members of political parties, and people who want to become members, are protected from unlawful discrimination. Please note, diversity in public life project is happy to conduct a free session/workshop on race equality & politics at the branch meetings. If you are interested to book a session, please get in touch with diversity in public life project. To read the full guide: <http://bit.ly/2J9mbzH>



PUBLIC LIFE CHAMPION (PLC) SCHEME



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Benefits: Customised support provision, Panel of highly experienced mentors, Greater flexibility

The Public Life Champion (PLC) scheme designed to increase participation of minority ethnic individual in Public Life.

For detail & enrollment, contact: publiclife@elrec.org.uk

INFORMATION DAY FOR EU CITIZENS

www.facebook.com/EURightsProject

Your rights up to and after Brexit - Q&A (Edinburgh)

28 April 2018 at 14:00–17:00, Grassmarket Centre, 86 Candlemaker Row, EH1 2QA

To book your place: <https://bit.ly/2q1dUVG> , more info: <https://publicpolicyevents.com/>



EU CITIZENS IN THE UK YOUR RIGHTS UP TO AND AFTER BREXIT

EU
CITIZENS
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SCOTLAND

In June 2016, the UK held a referendum which voted (by a small majority) in favour of the UK leaving the European Union. That is often called “Brexit” – short for “British exit”.

However, the UK did not leave the European Union immediately. The date that the UK plans to leave the EU – “Brexit Day” – is 29 March 2019. The UK is now negotiating with the EU exactly how it should leave, and what should be the future relationship between the EU and the UK.

A very important part of the negotiations is about what rights EU citizens who are in the UK will have after Brexit. This leaflet explains, in broad terms, what is happening in those negotiations, and what that might mean for those EU citizens in the UK.

What do these negotiations mean for EU citizens in the UK at the moment?

At the moment, the existing rights of EU citizens in the UK are not affected at all. That will not change until the date the UK actually leaves the EU, on “Brexit Day”. What happens after that date depends on what happens in those negotiations. Those negotiations between the UK and the EU are being carried out in three stages.

First, there is to be a “withdrawal agreement” which deals with the way in which the UK will leave the EU. The UK and the EU have come to a common understanding on, what rights that withdrawal agreement will give to EU citizens in the UK after “Brexit Day”. This leaflet explains in some detail what those rights will be, based on the information provided by the UK government. However, this agreement on citizens’ rights will only become definite once the UK and the EU have agreed the full and final “withdrawal agreement.”

Second, there is likely to be a “transition” or “implementation” period immediately after the Brexit Day. The UK and the EU have agreed that this transition period will last until the end of 2020. During that period, EU citizens who arrive in the UK by “Brexit Day” will have the rights which the “withdrawal agreement” will give them, assuming that it does come into force. The EU has also suggested that all EU citizens who already live in the UK, or who come to the UK during the “transition period”, will enjoy **all** the existing rights to move and reside freely which EU citizens are entitled to. The UK has now agreed to this (subject to the UK and the EU agreeing the whole “withdrawal agreement”).

Third, it is intended that there will be an agreement about what type of relationship there will be between the UK and the EU on a long term permanent basis after the “transition” or “implementation” period comes to an end. For EU citizens, who arrive in the UK by “Brexit Day”, that long-term agreement will include the rights which the “withdrawal agreement” will give them. However, it is unclear at this stage what rights EU citizens who arrive in the UK **after** “Brexit Day” will have.

What rights would the “withdrawal agreement” give to EU citizens in the UK?

The UK government website (<https://goo.gl/rc5XCn>) explains the main points of that agreement.

This is what the agreement will mean for EU citizens and their families in the UK after “Brexit Day”:

> People who, by 29 March 2019, have been continuously and lawfully living here for 5 years will be able to apply to stay indefinitely by getting ‘settled status’. That means they will be free to live here, have access to public funds and services and go on to apply for British citizenship.

> People who arrive by 29 March 2019, but won’t have been living in the UK lawfully for 5 years when we leave the EU, will be able to apply to stay until they have reached the 5-year threshold. They can then also apply for settled status.

> Family members who are living with, or join, EU citizens in the UK by 29 March 2019 will also be able to apply for settled status, usually after 5 years in the UK.

> Close family members (spouses, civil and unmarried partners, dependent children and grandchildren, and dependent parents and grandparents) will be able to join EU citizens after exit, where the relationship existed on 29 March 2019.

EU citizens with settled status or temporary permission to stay will have the same access as they currently do to healthcare, pensions and other benefits in the UK.

You’ll be able to apply for settled status if you’re a citizen, or the family member of a citizen, of an EU country. We’ve agreed with the EU that the conditions for EU citizens and their family members to get settled status in the UK will be the same as, or more generous than, those set out in the existing Free Movement Directive. In most cases this means you will need 5 years of continuous and lawful residence in the UK. The criteria will be set out in the withdrawal agreement between the UK and the EU.

If you meet the criteria and submit a valid application you will be granted status, unless:

> you weren’t resident in the UK by 29 March 2019 (Unless you’re a close family member of an EU citizen living in the UK but were living outside the UK when the UK left the EU)

> you’re refused on the grounds of your serious criminal convictions or for security reasons

The withdrawal agreement will become a part of UK law and so the Home Office will not be able to refuse an application for any reason not covered by the agreement.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There’s no doubt that the agreement reached between the UK and the EU about citizens’ rights after Brexit would give most EU citizens rights which are very similar to the rights they currently have in the UK under EU law. But they won’t be exactly the same, and lots of the details remain uncertain. So we’ve tried to answer some of those questions:

1. Are these rights for EU citizens in the UK after Brexit now guaranteed?

No. They will be guaranteed only when the Withdrawal Agreement is agreed and ratified.

2. What happens if there isn’t an overall “Brexit deal” and the agreement on citizens’ rights doesn’t go ahead?

No one really knows. At one extreme, if there was no deal at all, this could mean that EU citizens would have no special rights to remain in the UK at all after Brexit happens. They would only be able to stay in the UK on the same basis as a citizen from any other foreign country outside the UK. At the other extreme, the UK might decide by itself to give EU citizens the rights to stay in the UK that they would have got under the citizens’ rights agreement.

3. If there is an overall “Brexit deal”, will the agreement on citizens’ rights definitely come into effect on 29 March 2019?

Not necessarily. It is legally possible for the UK and the EU to agree that the UK would leave the EU at an earlier date than 29 March 2019, although this is very unlikely. They could also agree that the UK could continue to stay in the EU after 29 March 2019, for example if negotiations hadn’t been completed in time. If either of these things happened, then it is likely that the date of the agreement on citizens’ rights would be changed as well to that different date. And there are some politicians and campaigners in the UK who want to cancel Brexit completely, in which case EU citizens rights in the UK would continue to exist just as they do now.

4. The agreement talks about EU citizens “lawfully” in the UK. What does that mean?

The “common understanding” between the UK and the EU protects rights based on EU law which allow EU citizens to move and reside freely. Lawful residence depends on whether EU citizens and their family members were residing in the UK under the conditions that apply to the right of residence under EU law.

5. What is the position about EU citizens in the UK who are married to, or are partners, of a UK citizen?

The "common understanding" between the UK and the EU guarantees that all EU citizens who meet the conditions of residence under EU law are protected, whether they are married to a UK citizen or not. The "common understanding" does not prevent the UK from including also those persons who have resided in the UK lawfully but not in accordance with EU conditions. This could include spouses/partners of UK citizens who have rights under the UK's own rules on the rights of family members of UK citizens.

If the UK decides not to include such EU citizens in the Withdrawal Agreement, they will still be able to reside in the UK if they qualify under the UK's own rules on rights of family members of British nationals.

6. What about EU citizens or their families who are currently living in the UK because they have "indefinite leave to remain"?

Most EU citizens and their families who are currently living in the UK can do that because they have a right to do so under EU free movement law. Those who were in the past given "indefinite leave to remain" status by the UK, and still hold a valid "indefinite leave to remain" document can stay without having to apply for the settled status. For these people, the UK government website says this:

"Indefinite leave to remain status will not be affected by the UK leaving the EU.

Once the application scheme for settled status opens there will be a simple process for you to exchange your old indefinite leave to remain document for a settled status document free of charge, should you wish to prove you benefit from the withdrawal agreement. We won't repeat any assessment of residence."

If they wish, holders of a valid "indefinite leave to remain" document can apply for settled status which would be issued free of charge.

7. What about my human rights?

Although the UK is now preparing to leave the EU, the UK will still remain a member of the European Convention on Human Rights, and the UK Human Rights Act of 1998 will remain law. EU citizens in the UK after Brexit will therefore continue to have the rights which that law gives them.

8. How will EU citizens in the UK be able to get "settled status"?

The UK government has also explained on its website how it expects people to be able to apply for "settled status". It says:

EU citizens and their family members in the UK will need to apply to get their status document. Getting this status will prove (for example, to employers or public service providers) that they have permission to continue living and working here in future.

The application fee will be no more than the cost charged to British citizens for a UK passport.

If you already have a valid permanent residence document, it will be free.

We're making the application process as streamlined, quick and user-friendly as possible. We'll use existing government data to reduce the amount of evidence you will need to provide. For example, HMRC's employment records will show us your UK work history.

As an EU citizen applying to the scheme, you will need to:

- > provide an identity document and a recent photograph to confirm your identity and nationality
- > declare any criminal convictions

You won't have to:

- > account for every trip you've taken out of the UK
- > show evidence that you held comprehensive sickness insurance (In some circumstances, comprehensive sickness insurance is still required for the purposes of accessing the healthcare system in the UK, but will no longer be considered as a requirement for acquiring settled status.)
- > give your fingerprints

The government has said it expects people to be able to apply online from late 2018. It has also promised that the Home Office will provide support to make sure applications aren't turned down because of simple errors or omissions. It also says on its website:

So people have enough time to apply, the scheme will remain open for applications for a considerable period, at least 2 years, after the UK leaves the EU. During this period your rights in the UK will be protected. If you apply under the scheme, but don't receive a decision before the end of this period, you can continue living here until the decision is made.

(Irish citizens in the UK will not be required to apply for settled status. They will keep their current rights to reside, to work, study, access social security and public services in the UK.)

The negotiations between the UK and EU about Brexit are not finished. In addition, the law on citizenship and immigration is often very complicated. This leaflet only explains the broad outlines of the negotiations. It does not show UK and EU law on citizens' rights in full detail.

You can find more details about the "common understanding" between the UK and the EU, and what it means for citizens' rights in this document produced by the European Commission: (<https://goo.gl/W9V7fg>).

If you want more information or advice about how Brexit will affect your own individual status in the UK, you can get advice from a regulated immigration adviser or lawyer. You can find a list of regulated immigration advisers here: (<https://goo.gl/htFrhC>).

You can find a list of solicitors, including law centres, here: (<https://goo.gl/mjxQi9>). Some advisers or solicitors will be able to provide free advice, but many will charge. You can always ask whether you will be charged for advice before you ask them to give it to you.

You can also find information about the basic UK rules on immigration on the Citizens' Advice website, here: (<https://goo.gl/s4Kfze>). This website also gives a lot of useful general advice, including on consumer rights, workers' rights, rights to housing, health and benefits.



www.publicpolicyevents.com



EURightsproject



CitzRights



info@publicpolicyevents.co.uk

This leaflet has been produced by the EU Citizens' Rights project Scotland, a Public Policy events initiative.

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Media partner: emito.net

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emito.net
UK's Polish Community Online



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



EXPLORING WHAT MATTERS

THE ACTION FOR HAPPINESS COURSE

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HappinessEdinburgh@gmail.com

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- Promoting services
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- 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.



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

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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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