



# ELREC Newsletter

Promoting Equality • Fighting Discrimination • Fostering Good Relations

ISSUE 56: Sept 2018

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- Open Arms Project: Hannah Lawrence
- Communities for Conservation:  
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- Community Link Officers (CLO):  
David Tai - Chinese CLO  
Ewelina Lukaszek - Polish CLO  
Dina Ahmed - African CLO  
Fahmida Huczewska - South Asian CLO  
Irene Alvarado Lawrence - Spanish CLO

## From the Chair

Hello and welcome to the September newsletter.

Since June 2018, ELREC has kept working on current projects along with some new events. Our Routes to Roots project ended at the end of June and we had some changes in our team as well. Routes to Routes funded by Heritage Lottery Fund came to an end at the end of June. The project saw the launch of a book on 30th May at the Central Library. The book collects the interviews with people from five different communities in Edinburgh and many invaluable photos provided by the participants themselves. The book launch was followed by an exhibition of these photos in the Central Library from 1st of June for a month. The same exhibition will be up in Ocean Terminal in October. Please get your copy of the book from ELREC office. Routes to Roots ended with a Ceilidh night in Summerhall on 7th Sept. It was a well-attended celebration of Scottish heritage with different cultures and brought together community members, ELREC staff and volunteers once again.

Bright Choices is successfully running "My Life, My Choices" workshops in collaboration with Drummond Community High School. The project keeps delivering HBV and FGM trainings as usual. Currently they are in collaboration with East and Midlothian Councils for the delivery of trainings which will also be a part of the 16days Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign.

YPAH has finished their peer education programme and young people are delivering workshops all across Edinburgh on hate crime.

In partnership with the Welcoming, Communities for Conservation organised a Big Swap Shop event on 15th of September. Clothing repairs and cycling workshops are continuing as usual.

Open Arms is offering counselling sessions every week and soon weekend sessions with a social worker will be arranged. Monthly film screenings for women in Open Arms in partnership with Edinburgh Napier University Film Society are continuing.

True Colours has started a new year of funding. They have started working with primary schools and community centres to deliver workshops on prejudice based bullying with some additional content and updates.

Thank you as always to our excellent staff, volunteers, members and board for a fantastic start to the year and I look forward to many more successes in the months to come.

Foyso Choudhury MBE



## Community for Conservation



### Home Energy Advice:

The Community Link Officers have delivered a great number of home energy visits to people from who needed help to save energy at home. Because we speak Arabic, Bengali, Hindi, Punjabi, Polish, Urdu, Cantonese, and Spanish, we have received an increasing number of referrals from organisations. This has enabled us to help people obtain grants for new boilers, apply to the £140 warm home discount, reduce their energy bills and be warmer at home.

### Workshops and films:

We have organised the first public screening of the documentary 'Blue' in Scotland at the Odeon Cinema in Lothian Road where we hosted 140 people. We have organised an upcycling your old T-Shirt into a shopping bag workshop at Shakti Women's Aid. We delivered a newly created workshop entitled 'Islam the Green Religion: Living an eco-friendly life' at the Royal Botanic Garden in partnership with the Muslim Women's Association.



### Volunteering:

Congratulations to our volunteer Aleksandra Szczygielska for achieving the Environment & Conservation Special Recognition



Award 2018 in June. The Award was handed by Rt Hon Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Frank Ross. As a volunteer at ELREC, Ola has dedicated her skills to foster climate action and her hard work has impressed all of us.

We are very proud and grateful to have her in our organisation. If you too would like to volunteer and make a difference in diverse communities, email [cfc@elrec.org.uk](mailto:cfc@elrec.org.uk)

### Big Swap Shop Event:

In partnership with the Welcoming, we have organised a Big Swap Shop Event at Out of the Blue on 15th of September. Over 150 people came to this festive event took away over 442kg of clothes, books, CDs, DVDs, toys and bikes.



### Sewing service:

Our expert volunteer tailor Awara has brilliantly been giving people's clothes a new life by repairing them. "Just wanted to say how delighted I was with the repair."



## ELREC Cycling Club

With help from our volunteers Barbara, Iain and Josephine, our Saturday cycling classes have been extremely busy and new participants have joined every week.

Testimonial: "Having not ridden a bike before, I felt nervous. However, the tutor was friendly, very patient and encouraging. This course was just right for me and has got me started. It is a fun class with varied activities geared to building your confidence. I highly recommend the cycling course for beginners. I am looking forward to improving my skills and then progressing into the intermediate class where I will then be able to gain experience of riding on the road in a safe environment. With nothing to lose but a lot to gain why not give it a go?"

Classes are free and open to all. We provide bikes and helmets and run through exercises and games to teach cycling skills in a relaxed environment. The approach is progressive and fun. Feedback from participants has been fantastic so far. Our aim is to help people reach a level where they can cycle safely and confidently on the road in order to replace driving. If interested, please register by emailing [cfc@elrec.org.uk](mailto:cfc@elrec.org.uk). On 22nd July, we repaired 30 bikes in the



Meadows as part of Cycling UK's Big Bike Revival. We serviced bikes, shortened chains, patched punctures, adjusted gears and wheels and mudguards, replaced break pads and cables, and taught people how to do simple repairs. In July, we organised 3 Big Bike Revival cycle rides to Lauriston Castle, Cramond Island and Spylaw

Parks with a great number of riders - some of whom had not cycled in 20 years !

Jean Matthieu Gaunand  
Project Coordinator, Communities for Conservation  
E-mail: [jgaunand@elrec.org.uk](mailto:jgaunand@elrec.org.uk)

 @ELRECC4C  @ELREC\_CFC  
 /Edinburgh-Sustainable-Meetup



**Have any clothes needing repaired?**

**We can fix it. Better than new!**

Drop in Mon-Friday 9am to 5pm  
at ELREC, 14 Forth St, EH1 3LH



**Clothing repair & alterations**  
**Custom tailoring**



Personal remaking and tailoring clothes  
to your individual requirements.

Special orders (dress making, pillows and cushions, chair cover).

**Pay as you feel**

Phone: 0131 556 0441  
Email: [cfc@elrec.org.uk](mailto:cfc@elrec.org.uk)



*Quality service. Quality Finish.*



### Routes to Roots Ceilidh

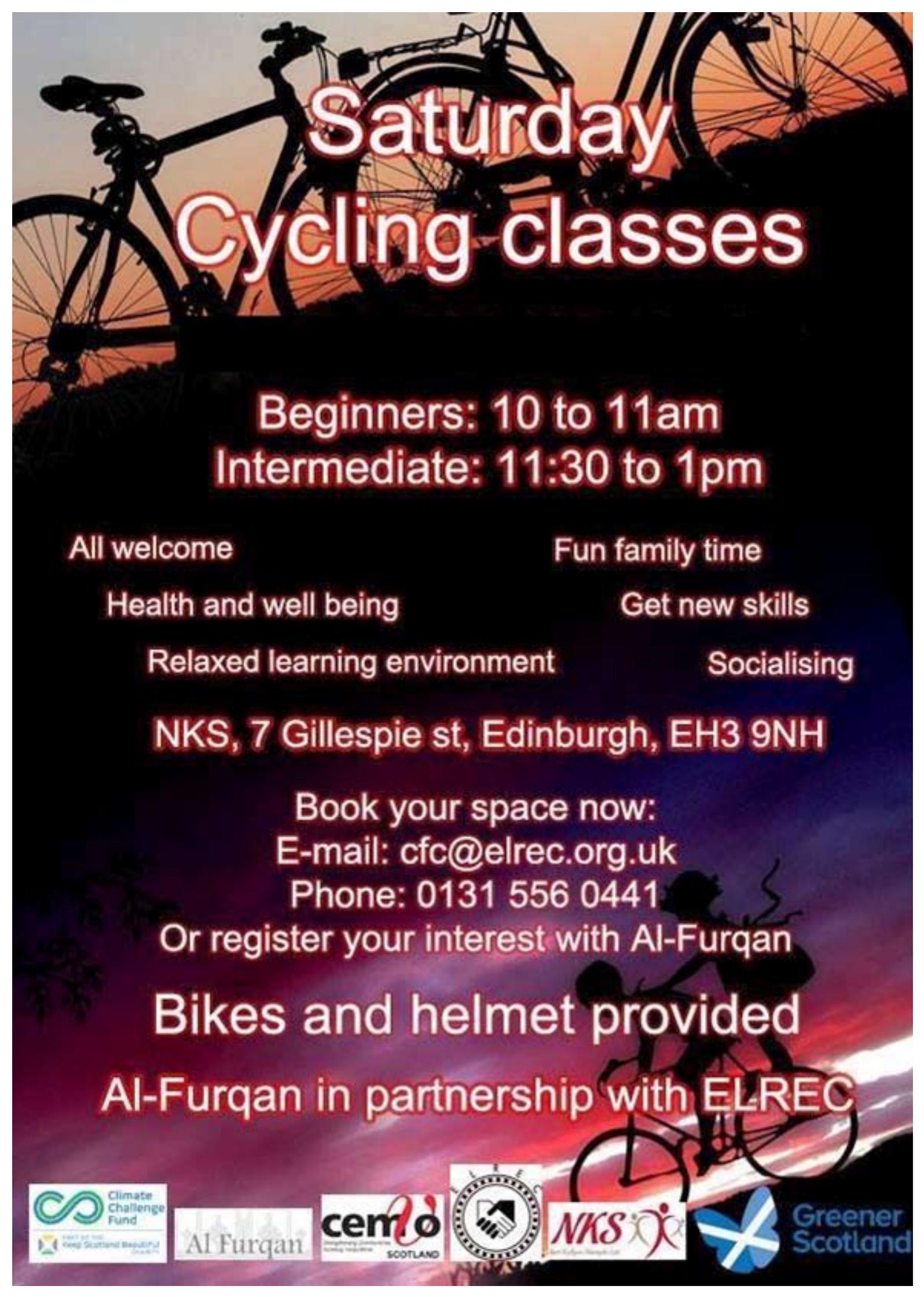
Everyone had a good time at the Routes to Roots Ceilidh on Friday 7th September at Summerhall with the Matthew Maclennan Dance Band. This social event with Scottish folk music and traditional dancing gathered the Routes to Roots volunteers and community members who were involved in the Routes to Roots project. The event was a fantastic celebration of Scottish heritage with diverse communities.

It was also a great way to further promote the message of equality and diversity. The Ceilidh enabled us to distribute the Routes to Roots book. It was also a way to celebrate the end of the Routes to Roots project. Thank you to all the Routes to Roots volunteers, participants and diverse communities for making this project such a beautiful and enjoyable journey.



Full Photo Album here:  
<https://bit.ly/2pd6hvl>





# 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](mailto: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



## ELREC - Open Arms



Open Arms has had a successful first few months at ELREC.

Our accomplishments are as follows:

- Hosted three internships
- Created a partnership between Projekt 42 and Open Arms in which we offer subsidised gym memberships to ethnic minority women
- Started Squash lessons at The Grange Club – in collaboration with the Scottish Squash Association
- We offer four Counselling slots per week
- We are in the process of offering nights and weekend counselling sessions with a social worker
- We have created a Partnership with Edinburgh Napier University Film Society, in which we will offer monthly film nights for the women in Open Arms
- We have organised a collaboration with Venture Scotland, in which they have offered a free outdoor taster session for ELREC staff
- We have organised a Bright Choices Workshop to be delivered to the Open Arms ladies



- We have organised for a Police Scotland workshop to be delivered to the Open Arms ladies
- We are organising a large-scale Open Arms event for November at St Augustine's Church
- We are organising an collaborative outing with Pilton Health Community Project

Hannah Lawrence, Open Arms Project Coordinator, E-mail: [hlawrence@elrec.org.uk](mailto:hlawrence@elrec.org.uk)

Find more : [f @elrecopenarmshealth](https://www.facebook.com/elrecopenarmshealth)

## ELREC - TRUE Colours



Hello all from the TRUE Colours group !

Firstly, I would like to welcome our new volunteer Mark Somerville. We are delighted to have him and he has already put lots of effort to contribute to the project.

Another project year has started for True Colours funded by the Voluntary Action Fund: Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund. We have had invitations from different schools and community centres to deliver workshops on stereotypes, racism, discrimination, bullying, immigration and refugees, islamophobia, LGBTQI, hate crime and disability. We have started to work with the

afterschool club for primary age in Jack Kane Community Centre. Our workshop was well attended and we are very happy to see the kids participating in our work. We look forward to see the creative outcomes at the end of the term!

This year, we are focusing on an additional series of workshops with more simplified content which will allow us to reach for younger age pupils in schools and in community centres.

Didem Kaner, TRUE Colours Project Coordinator  
E-mail: [Didem.Kaner@elrec.org.uk](mailto:Didem.Kaner@elrec.org.uk)

Find more info: [f @truocoloursgroup](https://www.facebook.com/truocoloursgroup)

## ELREC - Bright Choices



In June, we continued our very successful collaboration with Drummond Community High School by running more "My Life, My Choices" workshops for new S2s. It was a pleasure working with those young people and to see how effectively they engage with the course. Drummond has always been very up-front in seeking complementary social education for the pupils and thank to proactivity of the guidance team, particularly Michael Paley, arrangements and coordination has always been smooth and relatively painless !

In summer, we ran 2 more HBV Awareness and Inter-agency Response, and also 3 FGM: Level 2 trainings, in partnership with Edinburgh Child Protection Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council. The sessions were delivered to the professionals working at the 4 main statutory agencies (i.e. NHS, Police, Social work, and Education) as well as practitioners from voluntary sector organisations.

Another indicator of the success of the project is receipt of an offer for collaboration from East and Midlothian council. We are very delighted to announce the provision of 2 HBV awareness and inter-agency response training to the practitioners in East and Midlothian in December in Musselburgh. The trainings will also be regarded as special activities included in the program for marking the "16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign" which will run from 25 November,



the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day.

Bright Choices has also continued to be active in service promotion and awareness raising on honour-based violence through participating in many events and fairs including the Four square's Springboard Market Place event in August. Our plan for this autumn is to continue providing workshops to our amazing partner schools, while being excited to start working with Forrester High School, as well as provision of HBV and FGM: level 2 training to the front line practitioners.

Mitra Rostrami, Bright Choices Project Officer  
E-mail: [mitra.rostrami@elrec.org.uk](mailto:mitra.rostrami@elrec.org.uk)  
Find us: [f @BrightChoicesEdinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/BrightChoicesEdinburgh)  
[t @BrightChoicesEd](https://www.twitter.com/BrightChoicesEd)

### 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](mailto:admin@elrec.org.uk) (W) [www.elrec.org.uk](http://www.elrec.org.uk)

Information on how to report online can be found here: [www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/hate-crime/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/hate-crime/)

## ELREC Equality Engagement (Diversity in Public Life)



Equality Engagement project has begun its second term since July this year. Thanks to the Scottish Government's Cohesion and Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund for continued support. Over the last quarter, we have recruited new BME individual to the public life champion (PLC) scheme. Activities and action plan for the coming months has been set out. Ongoing collaboration and joint works with the major political parties are going well. More political shadowings will be carried out over the next year. If anyone interested to get involved, please do get in touch with me.

### Multicultural Celebration in North Edinburgh

Thursday, 04 October 2018

Time: 3pm - 5.30pm

Venue: Craigmoynton Primary School, Muirhouse, Edinburgh

All parents are invited to come along to celebrate the unique diversity of the school, the event is inspired by Black History Month, hosted in collaboration with the parent group of the school, ELREC and CLD – CEC. Please contact with Katy (075990 36001) for more information or ask the school office.



Date: 04 October 2018

Time: 4.30pm – 6.00pm

Venue: Dalkeith Welfare Hall,  
24-26 St Andrew's Street, EH22 1AP

For more info: Tel 0131 271 3358 , E-mail: erin.cuthbertson@midlothian.gov.uk

Facebook.com/MPEGMidlothian

### Public Appointments vacancies

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Post: Chair<br><b>Scottish Law commission</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remuneration: Judicial salary, no further remuneration is paid</li> <li>• Location: City of Edinburgh Council</li> <li>• How to apply &amp; more info: <a href="http://bit.ly/2xGeiNM">http://bit.ly/2xGeiNM</a></li> <li>• Closing date: 04 October 2018 at midnight</li> </ul>            |
| Post: General Governance Board Member<br><b>Children's Hearings Scotland</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remuneration: £174.42 per day</li> <li>• Location: City of Edinburgh Council</li> <li>• How to apply &amp; more info: <a href="http://bit.ly/2xTINAO">http://bit.ly/2xTINAO</a></li> <li>• Closing date: 09 October 2018, Midnight</li> </ul>   |
| Post: Chair<br><b>Poverty and Inequality Commission</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair - Poverty and Inequality Commission</li> <li>• Remuneration: £306 per day</li> <li>• Location: Throughout Scotland</li> <li>• How to apply &amp; more info: <a href="http://bit.ly/2QhxFnB">http://bit.ly/2QhxFnB</a></li> <li>• Closing date: 05 October 2018 at midnight</li> </ul> |
| More : <a href="https://applications.appointed-for-scotland.org">https://applications.appointed-for-scotland.org</a> |  |



For information, please contact:  
Mizan Rahman, Equality Engagement Project  
Coordinator, E-mail: [MRahman@elrec.org.uk](mailto:MRahman@elrec.org.uk)

[f](#) @DiversityinPublicLife [t](#) @ELREC\_EE

Find more on: [diversityinpubliclife.wordpress.com](http://diversityinpubliclife.wordpress.com)

# Introduction to Policing Programme

Scotland is an increasingly diverse country and Police Scotland want to represent this change.

Police Scotland is running a 4 day course aimed at encouraging people from minority ethnic communities to consider a career in policing. The course is designed to provide an insight into being a police officer / special constable.

Over the 4 days attendees will receive inputs from specialist departments, try the fitness test, visit the unique training facility and learn about the recruitment process.

The dates are:

**Xcite Sports Centre, Church Street, Broxburn, EH52 5EL**  
Sat 27th Oct / Sat 10th Nov / Sat 17th Nov

**Scottish Police College, Tulliallan**

Sat 3rd Nov

For more information and to reserve a space please email [recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk) providing your name and contact number or request to join our closed Facebook page at 'Police Scotland Positive Action'

 @PoliceScotland

 PoliceScotland

 [scotland.police.uk](http://scotland.police.uk)



**In partnership with;**

**Xcite**  
**Emito.net**  
**ELREC**  
**CSREC**  
**Sikh Sanjog**



**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe  
**POILEAS ALBA**

## Young People Against hate Crime (YPAH)



Young people against hate have had an amazing few months, we now have 10 peer educators all trained and delivering training to raise awareness of hate crime all across Edinburgh. Their sessions are aimed at young people ages 14-24 and they have now delivered their training to over 40 young people.



In the up and coming months they will have delivered their training to over 100 young people, delivering sessions in schools and community centres. They are all very dedicated to make Edinburgh a safer place and are working hard to raise awareness, educate people and show them different ways of reporting hate come.



Jackie Massie, Youth Development Officer  
Email: Jackie.Massie@elrec.org.uk

 @ypah.elrec.9  @ELREC\_YPAH

## 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/>

EVERY **MONDAY** 12.30 - 2.00pm

**SEWING CLUB**

JOIN OUR FREE SEWING CLUB @ ELREC

## About us

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

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

## Please support our work

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](mailto:admin@elrec.org.uk)

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

## ROOM HIRE @ ELREC

**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.**

**For more info, contact us: [admin@elrec.org.uk](mailto:admin@elrec.org.uk)**

## 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 Latha, Marianne Mwiki, Marilyn de Santos, Marta Gordon, Martina Massoli, Matilda Marshall, Michael Pearce, Mina Omarchevska, Mohammed Shafi Ali, 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