



# ELREC NEWSLETTER



PROMOTING EQUALITY - FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION - FOSTERING GOOD RELATIONS

## ***From the Chair and the Manager***



“ Well, this quarter has really been quite different to our usual way of working, so from March 20 till May 20 ELREC has been closed to the public due to the UK's Covid-19 lockdown measures. This has meant that we haven't been able to work our normal way, same as all the other organisations however we have tried our best to keep things going and modified our services and still deliver what we can.

*Open Arms* project has been doing its health and wellbeing as well as its craft sessions on whatsapp groups, traditional telephone and Zoom to ensure we still reach out to our target groups during this time. Obviously this isn't the same as being in a room with other people and have a good blether and a cuppa but it's better than nothing at all. Mitra has done an excellent job of keeping her workshops going and keeping the ladies busy.

*Communities for Conservation* has also had to change its style of work by doing parts of its home visits over the phone or online and offer their clients support and advice on energy efficiency and bills.

*Equalities Engagement* has been supporting individuals interested in taking part in the May 2021 local elections as well as providing support to many bme families with Universal Credit claims and other support such as grants and financial help during Covid -19 as many have lost their jobs and incomes.

Our *True Colors* project usually works with children in schools on issues of bullying and discrimination as well as raising awareness of other forms of hate.

Didem has been able to work from home on creating new materials and providing support to anyone who has been in contact with her during this time.

We also have 2 new smaller projects this year *Lunch and Story in Leith* and a *Hate project*, both of which we have had to be modified slightly. The first one will now be delivered during covid 19/lockdown with online craft making workshops and supplies to low income families in leith for both adults and children and the hate project is postponed for now.

Our *Support and Advice* service has been busy during this quarter as many people contacting us for support due to loss of jobs, needing access to benefits and services during these unprecedented times.

We were very pleased and grateful to Foundation Scotland for giving us a small grant to purchase some laptops so the staff were able to work from home during this period of lockdown.

We are also thankful that our funders have been supportive and understanding during this period, allowing us to modify or postpone some of our work due to Covid 19.

We also had to cancel our AGM which was scheduled for March 20 due to Covid -19 however our Annual Report and Accounts are available on our [website](#).

I want to thank the ELREC staff and volunteers for all their hardwork during this rather unusual period and we hope to resume 'new' normal services soon.

**Foyso! Choudhury MBE**  
**Parveen Ishaq**



## Honorary Members

Honorary Patron:

The Rt. Hon. Frank Ross, Lord Provost  
of the City of Edinburgh

Honorary President:

Prof. Sir Geoff Palmer DSc OBE

## Board Members

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Vice Chair and Convenor of Personnel

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Treasurer: Cllr Carl John

Company Secretary: Rajnish Singh

Convenor, Membership Subcommittee:

Jessica (Zonghong) Yang

Convenor, Finance and General Purposes

Subcommittee: Irina Lazarenko

Convenor, Volunteering Subcommittee: Azra

Sharif- Qayyum

Convenor, Education Subcommittee:

Magdalena Sajnaga

Board Members: Irshad Ahmed. Ijaz Nazir,

Shahid Riaz, Jing Si

## Staff

Office Manager: Parveen Ishaq

Administrator: Franciele Sobierai

Finance Officer: Adrian Barbasumpa

Equalities Engagement Project: Mizan Rahman

Support and Advice Service: Parveen Ishaq

True Colours Project: Didem Kaner Ural

Open Arms Project: Mitra Rostami

Communities for Conservation Project Lead:

Jean- Matthieu Gaunand

Community Link Officers (CLO):

David Tai- Chinese CLO

Ewelina Lukaszek- Polish CLO

Fahmida Huczewska- South Asian CLO

Verena Aedo- Spanish CLO

## 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  
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

## We pursue our aims through

Engagement with communities of  
protected characteristics  
Complaint 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 customized  
training on equality matters.

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Charity Number: SC007896  
Company Number: SC183419



## **From the Honorary Patron - Lord Provost Frank Ross**

It's an unsettling and uncertain time for us all and I send my deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones, and my best wishes to all who have been affected and are fighting the virus right now.

"On behalf of the City of Edinburgh, I extend my heartfelt and warm wishes to everyone reading this in what continues to be an unsettling and uncertain time for us all.



I send my deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones, and my best wishes to all who have been affected and are fighting the virus right now.

"As we have seen, this awful virus does not discriminate. Anyone can get it and anyone can spread it. From our friends and neighbours to those in the NHS fighting the virus at the front line.

"Throughout this difficult period, however, we have seen a huge community effort made to tackle the impacts of coronavirus. I would like to thank all those people who are going the extra mile by keeping family, friends and neighbours supplied with essential goods and all the volunteers who are helping those who need it most. I know there are many who would like to be involved in helping but must, by necessity, stay at home - let me assure you, you are truly helping by doing just that.

In the weeks ahead we will hopefully see some of the current restrictions lifted, and a bit of normality return. However, there is a difficult road ahead of us but I'm sure that by continuing to stand and work together, Edinburgh will recover.

## **From the Honorary President - Prof Sir. Geoff Palmer OBE**

### **Continuing... My Mother, Jamaica, Windrush and Me**

I left Highbury Grammar in 1958, worked at Queen Elizabeth College as a technician and after a few rejections, I entered Leicester University in 1961. In 1964, when the only job I could find with an Honours degree in Botany was peeling potatoes in a nearby restaurant at Nags Head, my mother encouraged me to be patient. In December 1964 I was accepted for a PhD in Edinburgh, at the Heriot Watt University/Edinburgh University. I completed the PhD in 1967. My mother always knew where I was during my research-academic career...



From 1968 to 2003, the year she passed away. She was the primary part of my sense of belonging. Although she never saw my father again after he left for America, when he died, she insisted that I should “go and bury him” in New York. I returned to the Heriot Watt University as a staff member in 1977. She used to ring the University and say, “Tell my son to call me, Miss Pennycook needs his advice”. Miss Pennycook was her Jamaican friend. Incidentally, there is a small town in Scotland called Penicuik...the old spelling was Pennycook! In passing, please note that this Scottish-Jamaican connection also extends to family names...for example, my mother’s surname was Larmond. The Scottish equivalent is Lamond. My cousin’s Scottish surname is Mowatt and another cousin was called, Gladstone Wood. Indeed, there are more Scottish Campbell surnames in the Jamaica telephone directory than are in the telephone directory of Edinburgh and surrounding areas.

When I gained my Doctor of Science degree my mother came to Edinburgh and powdered my face ‘to remove the shine’ before the photographs were taken. Later when I told her that the University had awarded me a Professorial Chair...she replied jokingly, “You have enough chairs in the house, tell them to give you more money!” Although most people called me Geoff, she called me Godfrey which is my real name. However, she would have been delighted to call me, Honorary Consul for Jamaica in Scotland. Her religious view regarding my ‘achievements’ was simple, “My son is just a vehicle...”

Family links were very important to my mother. She kept a notebook of the addresses of all members of the family. They called her Aunt Ivy. Friends called her, Miss Ivy. Grandchildren called her Nana or Grandma and I called her Mama. When she was very ill, I asked her to come to Scotland to live with me but she refused. She said that my brother needed her more. She was also aware that I had an interest in the history of British slavery in the West Indies. One day she told me that my middle name, Henry, came from our slavery ancestor whose only name was, Henry. Her father’s Christian name was Henry and she was pleased when I used my grain-research and teaching skills in Africa.

On the 23rd August 2019, I was given the great honour by Glasgow University of unveiling a plaque in the Chapel of the University to British enslaved people. The marble plaque reads... "Near this site stood the house of Robert Bogle (d 1821). A wealthy West India merchant and owner of enslaved people. During the 18th and 19th centuries this University benefited from gifts made to individuals who had profited from slavery.

This Plaque commemorates the lives of all those who suffered enslavement". Although this 'reparative justice' will benefit Caribbean and African students, this plaque is symbolic of the hopes of our ancestors come true. Paul Bogle (Morant Bay Rebellion, 1865) is a National Hero of Jamaica...both white Robert Bogle and black Paul Bogle have historical links with St Thomas, Jamaica...this coming together of history is important. Therefore, the action of Glasgow University is a first light which others should follow to help repair the consequences of chattel slavery which was the most profitable evil the world has known.

In the late 1990s my mother received a letter from the Home Office stating that if she did not apply to register, she would be deported. She threw the letter into the bin with disdain but I filled in the form and paid the fee. Like many of the 'Windrush Generation', she always treated racism with disdain...neither Enoch Powell nor Oswald Mosley bothered her. My mother was aware of her Jamaican-British historical connections. She was also aware that she and her ancestors had contributed 'twice' to Britain significantly...during slavery and during the Windrush period. She was too ill to accompany me to Buckingham Palace to receive my OBE (Order of the British Empire) award in 2003. However, she said, "You go get it for us...we made the Empire, and remember, wear your marina (vest) because 'them places' can be cold."

Depending on how tired she was, she attended the church (black or white) that was closest to her home. She would sit reading her Bible. One day ladies from the local Greek Orthodox Church in Haringey asked me, "Is that dark lady your mother?" I nodded. They then asked, "Does she speak Greek?" I smiled and they smiled and said, "She is welcomed." Before she sadly passed away in 2003, she said, smiling, "Make sure I am buried at home in Jamaica...it is too cold here."

If we had a disagreement she would jokingly say, "Give mi back, what you can't give mi back, mi £86!" She would then smile and say, "You see what a little hard work and the goodness of people can do." Indeed, it was her love and support, a little hard work and the goodness of people that turned a 'grocery boy' into a 'Scholar'. A sense of belonging and education go together to help people to give their best to society.

Some people say I was lucky but people's lives should not be dependent on luck. To celebrate my mother's life a plaque was placed in the George Square Garden of Edinburgh University. I often watch students and other people as they stand in front of my mother's plaque and wonder why a mother called Mrs Ivy Georgina Larmond-Palmer, at rest in Jamaica, would be associated with the view that, 'People are not just 'races', named and ranked by man, people are people'. For a distance I can hear my dear mother saying, 'my son wrote that for everybody'.

# From the Board

## **Cllr Carl John, Treasurer**

During these uncertain times it makes me think even as a treasurer that there are things more important than money. We as a diversity charity will have a massive task after the pandemic passes. Dealing as we do with all aspects of diversity it is obvious that our clients come from all categories of the spectrum but I have been made aware that many more people from Black/Asian and other ethnic backgrounds have suffered more than others. I feel that to try and get things back to the ways they were before the virus it will take great amounts of both help and money. I am sure that our loyal staff and magnificent volunteers will go the extra mile to secure funding and dispense help to the



most needy of our clients. Thanks once again to our staff and helpers at this upsetting time. Keep safe because your life is worth more to ELREC than any amount of money. May your god go with you.

## **Rajnish Singh, Secretary**

Last couple months has seen the changes to our lives due to COVID -19 that goes beyond any imagination at the start of 2020. The stay at home and lockdown across UK from latter half of March has posed immense challenges to every person to manage their wellbeing and to the government to manage the health and economic risks of the country. With complete restrictions of non-essential travel and other measures in place, the mundane day to day chores that we took for



granted became a novelty like shopping your groceries and many more. This crisis has also made us realise the importance of NHS and other front-line services in our wellbeing especially in the crisis. All the NHS staffs and other front-line services deserve all our continued support and appreciation, beyond the COVID-crisis phase. The measures adopted on all fronts across the world are unprecedented and expected to continue with some form of restrictions throughout 2020, if not more.

Therefore, we should put all our focus and energy in helping our family, friends and communities to navigate through this crisis.

We at ELREC had to cancel/postpone our AGM scheduled for 21 March 2020. Hope to get all operating as usual sooner. Wishing everyone to keep following government guidelines and stay safe. We will come out stronger on the other side of this crisis.

## Support and Advice

Our support service has been busy during this period of lockdown due to many people losing jobs and needing help to access benefits and other support.

From March till May 20 we had about 30 cases needing our support and advice. These range from liaising with the council on housing matters to employment dispute and remaining needing access to financial support due to Covid 19.

During this period we have been working with local partners on issues such as fraud and online crimes and scams and hate incidents towards the Asian community in Edinburgh due to Covid 19.

We have 2 volunteers who have been working from home and assisting us on these cases, both with legal backgrounds. we appreciate not everyone likes to call or email their issues as some prefer to talk to you face to face so we have been to use Zoom video call but this isnt possible for everyone. Also if you want to report any hate incidents please email us on [report-hate@elrec.org.uk](mailto:report-hate@elrec.org.uk).



**Parveen Ishaq**

Support & Advice Coordinator  
[pishaq@elrec.org.uk](mailto:pishaq@elrec.org.uk)



## **Police Scotland – Message to Communities**



### **Message from Assistant Chief Constable Gary Ritchie – 22nd May 2020**

Police Scotland continue to urge victims and witnesses of hate crime to report it during the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand the impact this type of incident can have on individuals, their families, friends and the wider community.

Police Scotland is fully committed to keeping people safe and protecting all our communities and I acknowledge communities and individuals may feel vulnerable as a result of COVID-19.

A hate crime can include name calling, harassment, graffiti or a physical attack motivated by prejudice or ill-will towards a social group. Social groups covered by hate crime legislation are disability, race, religion, sexual orientation and transgender identity. What you may view as a minor incident can have a major impact and we want to assure you that any form of hate crime will not be tolerated and will be fully investigated.

Should you experience or witness such an incident, please report it to us by calling 101, or 999 in an emergency, or by using our online hate crime reporting form on the Police Scotland [website](#).

If you do not feel comfortable reporting the matter directly to Police, there is a network of Third Party Reporting (TPR) Centres available to provide support remotely during the current situation. Although, at the moment, you cannot attend a TPR centre in person, many organisations are now offering an option to report an incident over the telephone or via e-mail. Please visit the TPR page of the Police Scotland website for more information on Third Party Reporting and for a list of active centres.

# True Colours

Hello from the TRUE Colours group!

Hoping everyone and their family and friends are keeping safe and well in these uncertain times...

Early this year, we welcomed two work placement students Szorina and Malgorzata from Edinburgh College. They did some amazing additions to True Colours workshops!

We started 2020 with our last workshop sessions in Drummond Community High School. The Leaders planned an event for the newcomer S1s to mark the end of our Peer Education programme. They put together an amazing day of training and fun. This was an event in which the 12 Leaders talked to almost 160 S1s on Racism and Cyberbullying. There were some games and activities involved in the programme and the S1s seemed to have great fun! Well done to The Leaders for putting all the knowledge from Peer Education into good use.



Since last year, True Colours have been attending in regular meetings with the anti-bullying and equalities groups within Edinburgh Council. These are now stopped due to the distancing measures in response to the pandemic.



With all the offices and schools closed and social distancing in place, True Colours is now offering online workshops. Please visit our Facebook and Twitter to have a look. We also try to offer Covid-19 related support for young people where possible.

As always, we are looking for volunteers – this time to work from home – to help us work towards a more understanding and accepting society. TRUE Colours volunteers have a chance to raise awareness about human rights and equality, and to talk about issues that are important to them and improve public speaking skills, develop confidence and work with like-minded people from different backgrounds. All are welcome!

We are looking forward to meet again with volunteers and students and staff in schools and youth clubs! Until then, please stay home and stay safe!

**Didem Kaner Ural**

TRUE Colours Project Coordinator  
didem.kaner@elrec.org.uk



@TrueColoursEdi



/ truecoloursgroup



# Communities for Conservation

"The future will be green, or not at all".

Jonathon Porritt, British environmentalist



We are delighted to announce that we have received further funding from the Scottish Government Climate Challenge Fund to continue running our Project until March 2022. Congratulations to the team's continuous hard work and dedication over the years. Our team will continue to offer home energy advice to ethnic minority families, to organize events, workshops, film screenings and big swap events, to run our sewing club and bike library, and to deliver our cycling classes and bike rides.

If interested in taking part in any of our activities, please get in touch by emailing [cfce@elrec.org.uk](mailto:cfce@elrec.org.uk)

To give you an idea of what we have accomplished in the past two years you can read our recently published Final Report [here](#).

Our Project Coordinator, **Jean Matthieu Gaunand**, was invited to talk at Awaz FM, Glasgow's radio show about the project. You can listen to the podcast [here](#).

Follow us and see our activities on social media:





## Home Energy Visits

In the past two years, with home energy visits, we helped 376 ethnic minority families to save 529.6 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e through energy saving and to save £115,221 through energy efficiency measures, switches to green suppliers and financial help.

Our 5 trained Community Link Officers offer home energy visits to help members of the South Asian, African, Chinese, Spanish and Polish communities that covered:

Tips and advice to save energy; finding a cheaper/green energy supplier; billing advice (reviewing tariff; helping with estimated bill, set up an account, applying to the Warm home discount etc); obtaining smart meters; purchasing LED bulbs; using an energy monitor; reducing energy debt through applications to funds and trusts; checking eligibility for home energy improvement measures; sign posting to relevant agencies; identifying heat loss spots in the house, how to reduce them with a thermal camera and renewable energy advice.



## Transport

With the current lockdown, although we have had to stop our cycling classes, the interest in cycling has increased dramatically around the world. Our bike library is still operating and all our bike and ebikes are currently on loan and requests are pouring in. We are also happy to provide guidance on what to look for when buying a bike.



Participant testimonial: *"Just want you to know that I am living in Calder Gardens now and using cycle to commute 8.9km from there to university and get back home covering 8.9 km again along the union canal. I am very thankful to you and all your team of ELREC for putting on a new course of living."*

We have received further funding from the [Energy Saving Trust](#) to purchase another 4 ebikes that will be added to our fleet.

## **Events**

In the last quarter, we organized a Big Swap Event in partnership with the Welcoming attended by 317 participants where 650kg of textile, paper, wood and plastic were diverted from landfill.



We screened 'Closing the loop' attended by 82 people preceded by a presentation by Edinburgh Council Just Eat bike's scheme and Prof. Lorna Dawson from the James Hutton institute. We screened '2040: the regeneration' attended by 80 people with a discussion facilitated by David from Transition Edinburgh and 'Wadjda' attended by 52 participants preceded by a presentation from the Just Eat bikes team. We also organized a number of eco workshops with community groups.

Moreover, we received a £10,000 grant from the [National Lottery Awards for All](#) to run the [Edinburgh Climate Festival](#) in 2021.

## **Food growing**

We received a lot of interest for our growing group at the RBGE so we had to split the group up in two groups of 15 participants each. We are now running weekly online sessions on different themes. All the other gardens started preparing the ground and running until the lockdown started.



## Waste

We organized a visit to Biffa's recycling centre attended by 12 participants. It was an excellent way to learn what happens to our waste. 300 tonnes of recycling waste comes every day from West Lothian Council and Edinburgh Council! We need to recycle better! We delivered two sustainable cooking workshops with 12 participants from the South Asian Positive Future's group and 7 participants from the Livingston's Syrian refugees' group. The groups cooked and ate organic food, and gained knowledge on vegan milk and local produce. We discussed the link between climate change and food consumption.



## Climate Emergency Scotland



A group of volunteers have come together to create a new group called *Climate Emergency Scotland* (CES). Our aim is to create a positive movement rooted in participation and not based on blaming or antagonizing individuals, governments and businesses; to influence policy makers to take a stronger stance on the environment; to raise awareness of climate change; to inspire individuals and organisations to reduce their carbon footprint.

Feel free to have a look at our [new website](#) and the first edition of our [magazine](#). You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

A huge thanks to all the volunteers of Climate Emergency Scotland: Fran Sobierai, Irem Gol, Matthew Gledhill, Tone Person, Magdalena Grzymkowska, Foysol Choudhury, Andrea Gergely, Alberto, Pere Alcantara, Eilidh Ducker and Magda Namichalak and to all the project volunteers!

We had to shift all our activities online which required some creativity. Please check our [facebook](#) page for our upcoming events.

*If you would like to volunteer, please email us at [cfc@elrec.org.uk](mailto:cfc@elrec.org.uk)*

# Open Arms

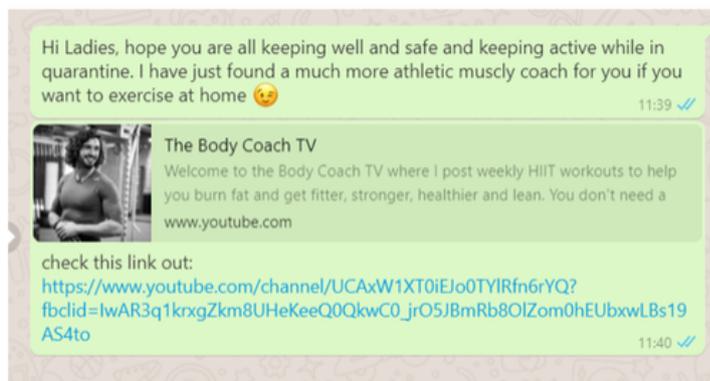
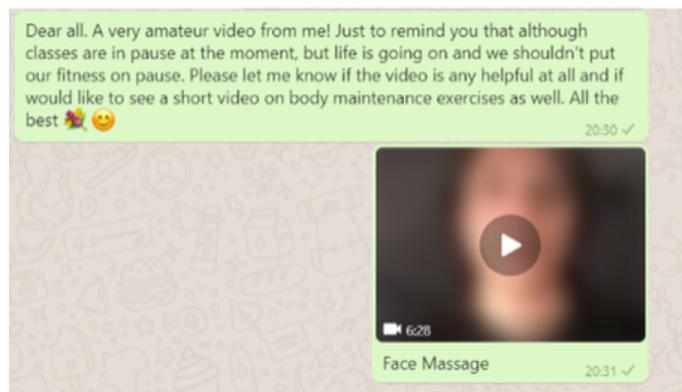
**"It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change." Leon C. Megginson**



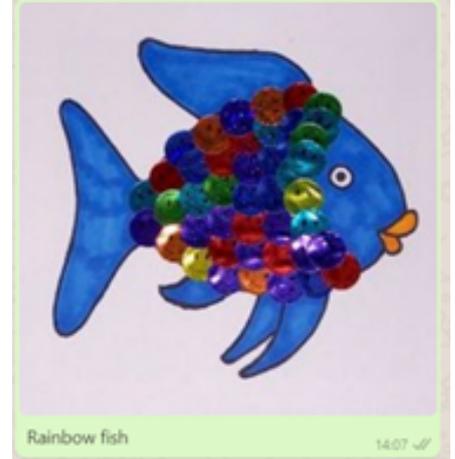
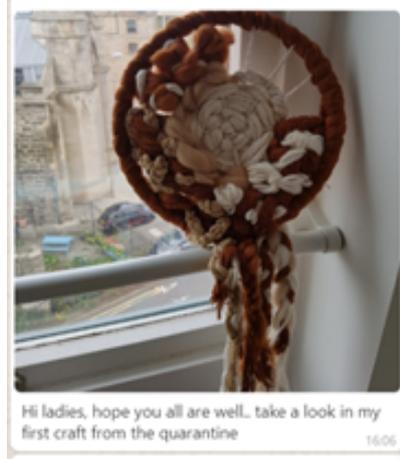
Open Arms adapted to the lockdown situation very fast! Our activities were taken onto the virtual space right away, tried to leave no gap in connecting with our groups. The main platform, as it turned out to be the most available and convenient to use, is WhatsApp. We also connect to our clients via social media and email and direct phone contacts.

What has been on offer during the Covid-19 related lock down by Open Arms?

- Information on Covid-19 related rules and up-dates by the local and national government
- Raising awareness on the support available through Covid-19 task force in Edinburgh
- Health and wellbeing posts including exercise videos, face care tutorials, home-made skin care recipes and health and wellbeing hints and tips.



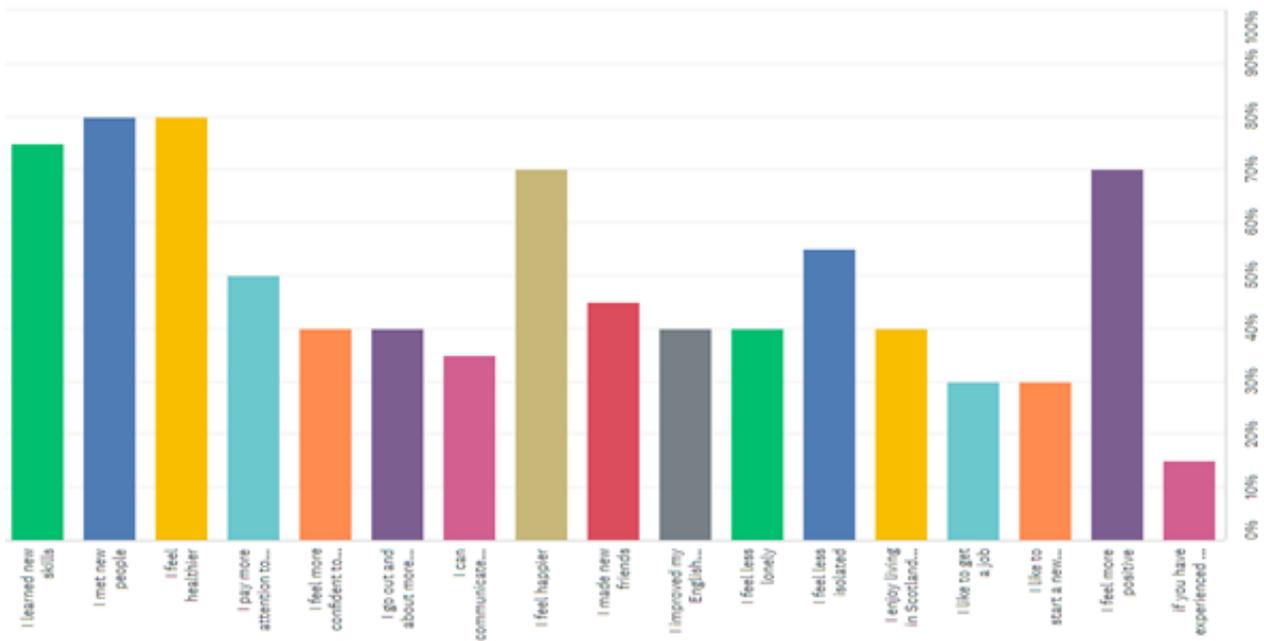
- Regular crafts making tutorials and support



- Online provision of Stress and anxiety management course in partnership with Health in Mind
- Online provision of Leadership and confidence building course
- Motivational posts and exciting challenges



- Design, distribution, and collection of the results of impact evaluation survey. 20 people have completed the survey so far. The survey is still open (please contact [mroostami@elrec.org.uk](mailto:mroostami@elrec.org.uk) to get the link to the survey online). It turned out that while many people have been using and enjoying the activities online, some people have been excluded due to unavailability of suitable electronic devices. We applied to Wellbeing fund available by the Scottish government as a crisis fund, but unfortunately were not successful 😞



## Testimonials:

*"I really enjoyed craft workshops, I am sad that I can not use the workshops on WhatsApp now. My phone is too small and I don't have a laptop or ipad. My granddaughter gives me her ipad sometimes and I don't have that all the time."*

*"Thank you so much for all you did before, and all you are doing now. As a newcomer, I can say it means a lot that you care about other people, and it feels such a hope. I really want to join and involve in your activities, right now as a participant and when you'll need as a volunteer."*

*"Great project and Mitra is an excellent project leader I have participated in many activities and thanks to her support and helpful advice I feel more healthier and more included."*

- Provision of confidential one-to-one emotional and practical support and sign-posting people to appropriate services

We are impatiently looking forward to termination of the lock down condition and resumption of our face-to-face activities and seeing all our clients well and happy again 😊



With regards to Eurodesk; apart from significant decrease in the number of opportunities available due to worldwide travel restrictions, it has been pretty much business as usual. Activities included;

- Regular posts on online opportunities on social media
- Offering advice and promotion of opportunities through email
- Writing and uploading articles



"The first days of isolation were very difficult. Suddenly, from being at university surrounded by hundreds of fellow students and friends, I was stuck at home with my parents. I even began starting to miss things that had become a pain, like the daily commute in my car, stuck in rush hour traffic. Not being able to drive felt like another blow to my hard-won independence, having only gained my licence in October.



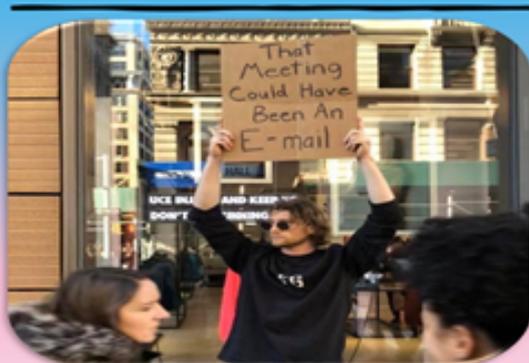
EURODESK.ORG.UK

### Covid-19 : staying connected

Alexandra (Alex) is from Germany. Over the past five years she was...

- Attending weekly Webinars and trainings
- Delivery of Erasmus presentation on the Eurodesk online Meets platform to 52 participants from around the Europe on the 22nd of April

## ELREC under Covid-19 Lockdown



# Equality Engagement



Equality Engagement project has a busy time over the last quarter of Covid 19 lockdown period. Since lockdown has begun in Scotland, our staff member has carried out most of the work from.

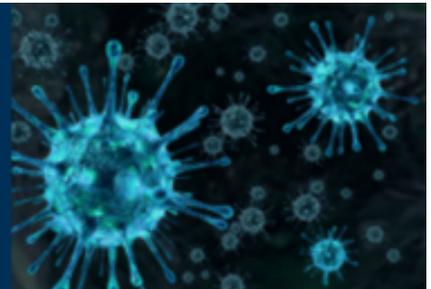
Member of the BME community has greatly affected by coronavirus. Many of our PLC (Public life scheme) members were out of work or limited work. Ranges of support needed for them during the crisis. Further to the instruction from Scottish Government (Funder), we have provided support continuously to our client group based on their needs. These supports were provided outwith the remit of Equality Engagement project during the pandemic.

Between March and May, we have provided following supports and services to the community:

Types of support	No of beneficiaries
Information & support to obtain Isolation Note	32
Information on Furlough scheme	14
Support with the Universal Credit Application	19
Support with the setting up remote working facilities to the community groups	04
Referral and signposted to the other services	21
Crisis grant application with the City of Edinburgh Council	03
Referral to food pack delivery	11
Miscellaneous/ Other support (in relation to lockdown)	09

Most of the support services were provided remotely; over the phone and video call. We have circulated regular updates and information published by Scottish Government via social network to raise awareness about coronavirus pandemic.

**What groups and individuals in Scotland are disproportionately impacted by Coronavirus (COVID-19)?**



**Have your say: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on equalities and human rights - Scottish Parliament**

The call is open-ended to enable the Scottish Parliament Equality and Human Rights Committee to monitor any ongoing or emerging equalities and human rights issues, so that steps can be taken to protect those most in need.

They want to hear your views on:

- which equality groups are being disproportionately negatively affected by the coronavirus, and by some of the measures taken to deal with it
- what equality and human rights impacts there have been
- what the Scottish Government can change or improve to mitigate against these impacts

The Committee is aware that many people impacted by the virus and the response to it might not be able to respond to a digital call for views. The Committee understands that many organisations will be supporting people in the community.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation and are able to capture people's experience through your work, from those who feel they don't have a 'voice', the Committee would very much welcome those views in your response.

The Scottish Parliament and its Committees value diversity. We seek to work towards committee witnesses being broadly representative of Scotland's society. As such we encourage members of underrepresented groups to submit written evidence.

Please submit your views via the submission form, accessed via link below:

<https://bit.ly/2MbDnqZ>

This consultation closes 01 June 2021



## **Race equality, employment and skills inquiry**

The Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee has representatives of different political parties on it. It holds the Scottish Government to account on its equalities and human rights law and policy.

This Call for Views is being conducted as part of our inquiry into race equality, employment and skills. The inquiry will involve; written submissions, public engagements with the committee or panels of witnesses in Committee meetings

What is being done in Scotland to make sure that people from minority ethnic communities have the same employment and training opportunities as everyone else?

Having a job can help someone with:

- housing
- education

- health
- poverty
- feeling involved in the community

We want to hear your views on what can be done to improve employment and skills opportunities for people from minority ethnic communities in Scotland.

Please submit your views via the submission form, accessed by link below:

<https://bit.ly/2BalhSJ>

Consultation Closes 30 Jun 2020

If anyone from the BME community wish to come forward to give any evidence and required any kinds support, please contact with us by email: [mrahman@elrec.org.uk](mailto:mrahman@elrec.org.uk) . We are requesting our PLC members to contact us if they required any support or assistance after impacted by the pandemic.

**Mizan Rahman**

Equality Engagement Officer  
[mrahman@elrec.org.uk](mailto:mrahman@elrec.org.uk)

### **UK Government translated guidance**

UK Government have released translated guidance for self-isolation and social distancing into the following languages:

Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Gujarati, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Urdu, and Welsh.



1) <https://www.gov.uk/.../publica.../covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

2) [https://www.gov.uk/.../covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing...](https://www.gov.uk/.../covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing.../)

Doctors of the World have also provided Corona Virus guidance in a variety of languages, and they will continue to update these:

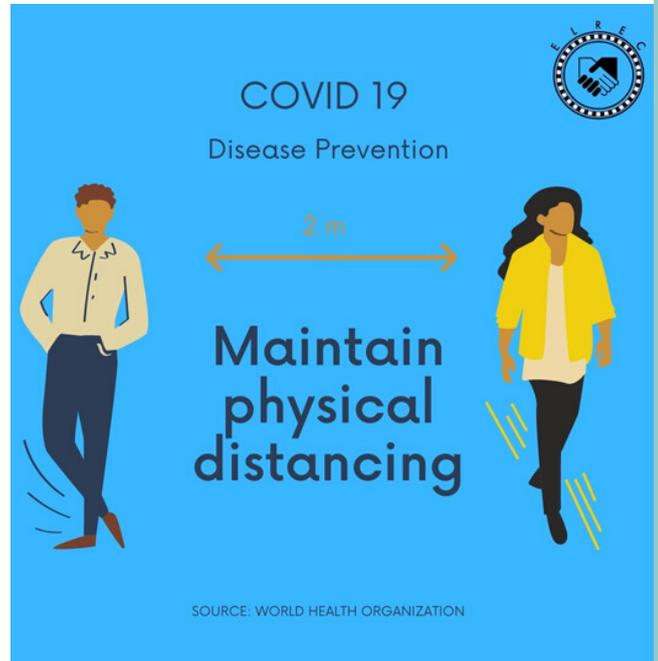
<https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-informati.../>

Please share this information with those who may find it useful, and circulate as you see fit.

# WHAT'S ON AT ELREC

Dear Members,  
 The Board of ELREC has decided to postpone its AGM because of government guidelines relating to the Covid19 virus. Further details regarding a new AGM will be sent to you as soon as possible. Please contact your medical and or political representatives if you have concerns. Stay safe and if ELREC can help in any way please email the office at [admin@elrec.org.uk](mailto:admin@elrec.org.uk)

Kind regards  
 Foysoyl Choudhury  
 Chair



**UK IMMIGRATION ADVICE**

**Do you need immigration advice?**  
 Latta & Co can grant legal aid over the phone during the quarantine.  
 Drop and email at [tm@lattalaw.co.uk](mailto:tm@lattalaw.co.uk) or feel free to call on 07728628008.

**LATTA & CO**  
 SOLICITORS AND NOTARIES PUBLIC



*No hate*

**ELREC - Third Party Reporting**

**Covid-19 Community Response**  
**Virtual Reporting**

Our office may be closed but we are still open to taking hate reports so please tell us.

Drop an email at [Report-hate@elrec.org.uk](mailto:Report-hate@elrec.org.uk)



Thank you NHS and all  
 keyworkers





## VOLUNTEER WITH ELREC

As a volunteer you can give your time and skills and get something back in return, whether it is learning new skills, helping to build confidence, having the chance to meet new people, or gaining the satisfaction of helping a cause you believe in.

**WHATEVER YOUR REASON IS, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**



Big Thank You  
to all volunteers that  
contributed to  
ELREC in the last  
months.  
Your involvement in  
ELREC's is very  
much appreciated.  
We are very proud  
and grateful to have  
you in our  
organisation.



### 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 ELREC office  
for

additional information or to  
make  
a booking.

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

### 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 £50-£150 depending on the size and placement of the advertisement.

To find out more, please contact the Administrator on: [admin@elrec.org.uk](mailto:admin@elrec.org.uk)  
Our newsletter is published every quarter in March, June, September and December of each year.

### Calling for new members at ELREC!

ELREC strives to embody the principles of transparency; integrity; equity; mutual cooperation; 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.

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.

Please contact our office: <http://www.elrec.org.uk/join-elrec-member/>



@ELRECUK



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<http://elrec.org.uk/>