



# ELREC NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING EQUALITY - FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION  
FOSTERING GOOD RELATIONS

*IN THIS ISSUE*

**UPDATES ON CURRENT  
INITIATIVES WITHIN  
THE PROJECTS**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SUMMARY OF 2018**

**INFORMATION  
ON FUTURE PLANS**

## From the Chair

Hello and welcome to our last newsletter of 2018. We have had a busy and successful year with many activities and events taking place.



It has been an exciting end of the year with the appointment of two staff at ELREC:

Parvin Ishaq has become our Office Manager and Aleksandra Szczygielska is our new Administrator.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication throughout this year.

Finally, as we reach the end of another productive couple of months, all of us here at ELREC would like to wish you an enjoyable winter season and a happy new year!

Foysol Choudhury MBE  
Chair

**show your support**

**DONATE NOW**

[www.elrec.org.uk/donate](http://www.elrec.org.uk/donate)

**Would you like to  
volunteer with us?**

Drop us an email to:  
[admin@elrec.org.uk](mailto:admin@elrec.org.uk)

As a volunteer you can give your time and skills and get something in return, whether that is learning new skills, building up your confidence, meeting new people, or having the satisfaction of supporting a cause you believe in.

## Honorary Members

- Honorary Patron:  
The Rt. Hon. Frank Ross, Lord Provost and  
Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh
- Honorary President:  
Prof. Sir Geoff Palmer DSc OBE

## Management Board

- Chair: Mr Foysol Choudhury MBE
- Vice Chair and Convenor of Personnel  
Subcommittee: Mr Shami Khan DL
- Treasurer: Cllar Carl John
- Company Secretary: Mr Rajnish Singh
- Convenor, Membership Subcommittee: Ms  
Jessica (Zonghong) Yang
- Convenor, Finance and General Purposes  
Subcommittee: Mrs Irina Lazarenko
- Convenor, Volunteering Subcommittee:  
Mrs Azra Sharif- Qayyum
- Board Members: Abood Anderson, Ms  
Zaima Zahane Islam, Mr Irshad Ahmed

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- Office Manager: Parveen Ishaq
- Administrator: Aleksandra Szczygielska
- Finance Officer: Adrian Barbascumpa
- Equalities Engagement Project: Mizan  
Rahman
- Support and Advice Service: Parveen Ishaq
- True Colours Project: Didem Kaner Ural
- Bright Choices Project: Mitra Rostami
- Young People Against Hate: Jackie Massie,  
Anna Baran
- Open Arms Project: Hannah Lawrence
- Communities for Conservation Project  
Lead: Jean- Matthieu Gaunand
- Community Link Officers (CLO):  
David Tai- Chinese CLO  
Ewelina Lukaszek- Polish CLO  
Dina Ahmed- African CLO  
Fahmida Huczewska- South Asian CLO  
Laura Alvarado- 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 distinction

## 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

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional  
Equality Council (ELREC)  
14 Forth Street Edinburgh EH1 1LH  
(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

## From The Honorary President - Prof. Sir Geoff Palmer

### Slavery, Abolition and the University of Glasgow

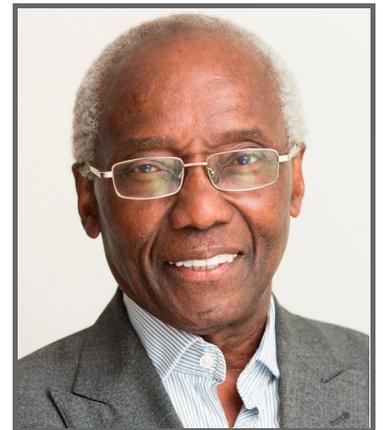
The Festive Season is here again, best wishes to all. My recent visits to ELREC have reminded me of the significant work ELREC does in advising and helping all members of the community.

This work is done without funding but the Board of ELREC has stated recently that this vital work for the community must continue.

As regards historical funding: In August 2018, Glasgow University published a report which stated that, from its own research, it discovered that it received about £198m in today's money from British chattel slavery which was abolished in 1838. This remarkable report of honesty and truth, which some still try to deny, states that the University will set up a "reparative justice" programme which will include, a new centre for the study of slavery, memorials to slavery and academic assistance for students studying in the Caribbean and UK. The University has recently named one of its new buildings after Dr James McCune Smith (1813-1865), its first black-American medical school graduate (1837). Having just reviewed a book on the life of Frederick Douglass (If I Survive...), I noted that McCune Smith and Frederick Douglass were both prominent members of the American Anti-Slavery Society and that the name of one of McCune Smith's children was Frederick Douglass. This respect for the abolition work of Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) was displayed recently in Edinburgh where a plaque was unveiled in his honour at 33, Gilmore Place. Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery in America in 1838, educated himself and gave memorable anti-slavery speeches in Scotland in 1846.

I am associated with Glasgow University's report (Mullen and Newman) and have stated that it is an important 'first light' which others should follow. Many people have complimented Glasgow University for showing the world that although we cannot change history, we can change the consequences. We all live with the legacies of the past. Therefore, we cannot say...'the past has nothing to do with us'.

Only time will tell how many institutions will follow the good example set by Glasgow University which was founded in 1451 and is the fourth oldest University in the English-speaking world...a great age for a great deed by a great University.



# Hate Crime in Scotland

## 2017- 2018 Facts and Figures



Racial crime is still the most commonly reported type of hate crime. While reports went down by 4% compared to 2016-17, there were still an alarming 3,249 reported cases in 2018.

Sexual orientation-related crime was the second most reported. During 2017-18, reports increased by 3%, making up a total 1,112 cases.



Reports of disability-related crimes increased by 51%. The COPFS maintains that this sharp increase can be partly attributed to the growing awareness and understanding of this type of crime, which previously went underreported.

As for religiously aggravated charges, a total of 642 cases were reported.





## Young People Against Hate

Over the past few months Young People Against Hate have been very busy working with some amazing schools and their young people.



We have complete sessions with Gracemount school and are currently half way through our sessions with Lasswade. This could not be done without our amazing peer educators who work hard to ensure the context of our sessions are fun while raising awareness about Hate Crime and how to report it. Our evaluations have shown that 99% of the young people we have worked with now have a better understanding of hate crime and how to report it.

In the coming months, we are starting sessions with Leith Academy, Wester Hailes Education Centre, and Balerno high. Here are the words of some of the youth who joined our training sessions.

“... [This programme] taught me my rights and made me more aware. I've learnt how to deal with hate crime and know what to do.”

“I learnt new things, I love that we are not all the same.”

“It is a good way of teaching and understandable, very interesting, a lot I never knew but now I know a lot”

“By doing activities and keeping me interested, I have learnt more about hate crime”

Jackie Massie  
Young People Against Hate Project Coordinator  
jackie.massie@elrec.org.uk



EUROPE & SCOTLAND  
European Regional Development Fund  
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

# Scotland Tackles Homelessness

**The government has published a plan outlining their actions to end homelessness in the country.**

The Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group (co-chaired by the Scottish Government and COSLA) have designed a plan to end homeless and rough sleeping in Scotland. In addition to housing services, this plan will establish partnerships with public service providers in fields like health, education, social work, community support and justice, as well as with third sector organisations. The goal is for these services to respond adequately to people going through, or at risk of homelessness.

The agreed actions are the result of "Aye We Can", a report exploring the lived experiences of people experiencing homelessness. Focus groups across Scotland revealed the need for flexible services that accommodate people as their circumstances evolve, provide housing staff with more training, build stronger collaborations between services, and measure the actual number of people living in these conditions. The Actions to be taken are:

- Using a person-centred approach in all public services
- Preventing homelessness from happening in the first place
- Joining up resources to tackle homelessness
- Responding quickly and effectively to homelessness
- Prioritising settled housing for every person in Scotland.

Read the full report here: <https://bit.ly/2P4Chwj>.



# Open Arms at ELREC



Over the past few months Open Arms at ELREC has successfully reached and serviced ethnic minority women and formed new exciting Partnerships across Edinburgh. Some of these include:

- Formalising a Partnership with The Scottish Squash Association so that we can offer ethnic minority women the opportunity to continue our Squash sessions and continue learning to play Squash together for free!
- We offered four free weekly counselling sessions.
- We continued to offer our popular gym membership in Partnership with the award-winning non-profit charity Projekt 42.
- We started offering three nights and weekends support sessions with a social worker.
- We collaborated with our Partner organisation, Saheliya, to deliver a series of talks—including a Bright Choices Women's Health Workshop, a Questions and Answer session with Police Scotland, and an interactive Women and Cycling talk with Sustrans Scotland.
- In addition, we are in the works of planning a Monthly Women-Only Film Club in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University, and a Creative Writing and Kathak Dancing Course.
- We also held our first Open Arms Cultural Celebration which featured talks from service users and performances!
- Lastly, we are in the middle of co-hosting the Edinburgh 16 Days of Action Against Gender-based Violence which features exhibitions, concerts, talks, and workshops—all around the topic of gender-based violence and empowerment!



Garden Outing  
with Pilton Community Health Project



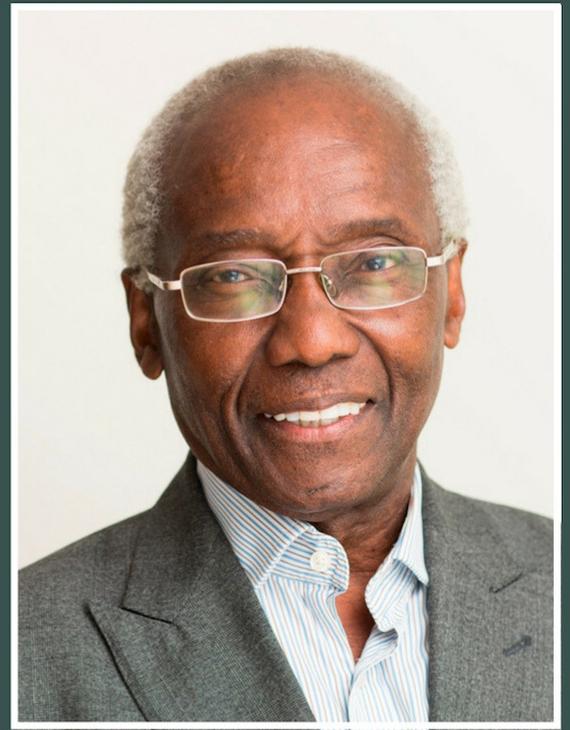
Open Arms Scottish Squash Steering Group with  
Scottish Squash CEO, Maggie Still.

Hannah Lawrence  
Open Arms Project Coordinator  
hlawrence@elrec.org.uk



# SCOTTISH LINKS

## WITH SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE TRADE



A Talk By Prof. Sir Geoff Palmer O.B.E.

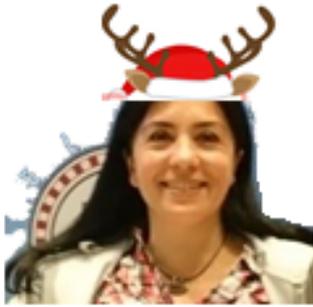
17th December 2018, 6–8.30 pm  
Augustine United Church  
(The Sanctuary)  
41 George IV Bridge Edinburgh

tickets: [www.bit.ly/2Fs20PJ](http://www.bit.ly/2Fs20PJ)



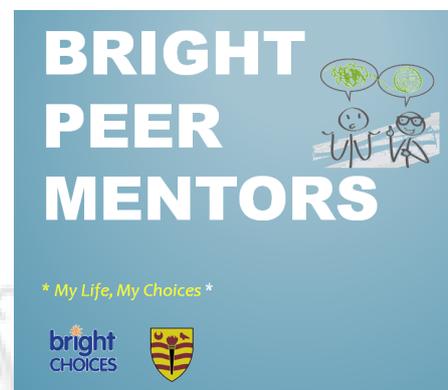
Edinburgh & Lothians  
Regional Equality Council

# Bright Choices



A warm season's greeting from ELREC's Bright Choices team (i.e. me, wearing a reindeer hat!). Aside from the provision of regular Honour-based violence and Female Genital Mutilation level 2 training for professionals and community Health Workshops for women, over the past months we've had some updates.

- First of all, I am excited to announce the pilot programme "Bright Peer Mentor" with our fantastic partner Drummond High School, scheduled to start in January 2019. The aim of this program is to raise awareness of gender-based violence and help pupils to develop the skills they need to pass on this knowledge and awareness to their peers. We will cover areas such as human rights, the sexualisation and objectification of girls and women, role models, violence (in intimate relationships, family, and community based in honour), conflict and how to manage it, and project planning skills. The course will be offered to S1 to S3 pupils on a voluntary participation basis.
- Secondly, in December Bright Choices have been going a few extra miles out of Edinburgh to deliver HBV inter-agency training in partnership with the East and Midlothian Council in Musselburgh. We hope this is the beginning of a long-lasting partnership between us and the councils.
- After the seasonal break, I will be looking to deliver training to more organisations across Edinburgh, including an awareness session exclusively on FGM to Dalry primary school staff, as well as all the excitement of organising events related to the International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM in February, so watch this space for more!



Mitra Rostami  
Bright Choices Project Officer  
mrostami@elrec.org.uk

# Equality Engagement

On December, the Diversity in Public Life Project hosted the workshop "An evening with Safia Ali" at ELREC.

The event aimed at encouraging BME women to get involved into political activism and public life. Safia Ali, an experienced community practitioner and campaigner, facilitated the workshop. She presented her personal journey and highlighted how she overcame multiple barriers to progress her career. Safia also described her experience as a councillor candidate.



An evening with Safia Ali : BME Women workshop

Participants were inspired and motivated after taking part in various interactive group activities which covered the following topics:

- What does political activism mean to BME women
- EM women empowerment through engagement in public life

Crèche/childcare support was provided to enable participation of women in the workshop.

## Slavery, Piracy, Colonialism, and Trafficking

In November, ELREC's Equality Engagement project co-hosted this event, which also featured a panel discussion on Human Rights and Social Justice. The event included an welcome address by Councillor Shamin Akthar, East Lothian.



As a keynote speakers, we had the pleasure to hear presentations by Black Panther and civil rights activist Bob Brown and Professor Sir Geoff Palmer OBE.

Later, the panel discussion explored the topic "We cannot change history but we can change the consequences: mobilising communities against injustice, racism, discrimination, human rights and inequality. Engagement of the African-Caribbean community in Scottish public life and political process."

The members of the panel were: Dr. Nicola Frith of Edinburgh University; Foysol Choudhury MBE, Chair of ELREC; Peter Akyeampong, African community activist and former university teacher; and Lord McMensa, Strathclyde University Law School and founder of The Africa Students and Scholars Union.

Professor Sir Geoff Palmer pointed out that more people from the BME community should be in management positions within this society and they should be present at places where decisions are being made for the people.



With support from East Lothian Council, the event was jointly hosted by ELREC, the African Students and Scholars Union (ASSU - Scotland) and the African Arts Centre. A large number of visitors from all over East Lothian attended the event.

### **Advice and Information session on EU Citizens Rights (Italian-Bengali) after Brexit**

ELREC co-hosted an advice and information session for Italian citizens with of Bangladeshi/South Asian ethnic background living in Edinburgh and the Lothians. The event took place on November at.



Immigration solicitor Jacqueline Moore from Sheppard & Wedderburn offered immigration advice, while Mark Lazarowicz, EU Citizens Rights Project Chair discussed future changes and possible impacts after Brexit. ELREC facilitated the session. This event was organised in partnership with the EU Citizens Rights Project Scotland (Public Policy Events) with support from the Scottish Government. Interpretation and translation were available at the event.

# How To Get Involved

## Consultation on Scottish Hate Crime Legislation

Scottish Government consultation on Lord Bracadale's recommendations following his review of Scotland's Hate Crime Legislation. The government will run a series of public events across Scotland for individuals and communities to attend and share their views and inform themselves on what's included in the new hate crime legislation. An online consultation will also be available. You can enter here: <http://bit.ly/2SquJWC> [Closes on 24 Feb 2019 ].



## Edinburgh Event

Thursday, 31 January 2019, 09:45 to 13:00

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Commercial Street,  
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

These events are free, but booking is essential. To book: <http://bit.ly/2OVUMCJ>.

For more information, please contact Brian Hirst, Hate Crime Legislation Policy Support Officer. Tel: 0131 244 9501, E-mail: [connectedcommunities@gov.scot](mailto:connectedcommunities@gov.scot)

## West Lothian Community Race Forum AGM

- Are you a member of a BME community and live in West Lothian?
- Are you interested in being a board member of the Community Race Forum?

Our annual general meeting will take place on 23rd January 2018, 6.30pm at the Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston EH54 6FF.



This is a great opportunity for anyone to get involved with the race forum. Some office bearers places are available. The Diversity in Public Life project can offer support or information to BME people living in West Lothian wishing to join the board.

To book a place for the AGM, please register online: <https://wlcrf-agm.eventbrite.co.uk>

For more information, contact ELREC: [mrahman@elrec.org.uk](mailto:mrahman@elrec.org.uk) or Joanna Anderson, Community Planning Development Officer, Tel: 01506 281086, E-mail:

[joanna.anderson1@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:joanna.anderson1@westlothian.gov.uk)

SNP Members from the Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) background has launched the SNP-BAME Network. This nation-wide networking group aims to increase activism in the ethnic minority community within the SNP. The group will also promote race equality in both the representation and structures of the party. Minority ethnic party members are asked to join the group by registering online: <http://bit.ly/2uqGP7D>



Diversity in Public Life Project is currently running a MSP shadowing program. If you belong to a BME community, live in Edinburgh and the Lothians, and are interested in getting involved in public life, please contact us: [mrahman@elrec.org.uk](mailto:mrahman@elrec.org.uk)

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



**MONDAY SEWING CLUB**

JOIN OUR FREE SEWING CLUB

- Come to repair and adjust your own clothes
- Learn simple sewing techniques
- Socialise

Every Monday 12.30-2pm  
ELREC, 14 Forth Street  
EH1 3LH  
Book by emailing: [cfcaeelrec.org.uk](mailto:cfcaeelrec.org.uk)

## What's on at ELREC

NKS 7 Gillespie St Edinburgh  
EH3 9NH  
Book by emailing: [cfcaeelrec.org.uk](mailto:cfcaeelrec.org.uk)



**Saturday Cycling classes**

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

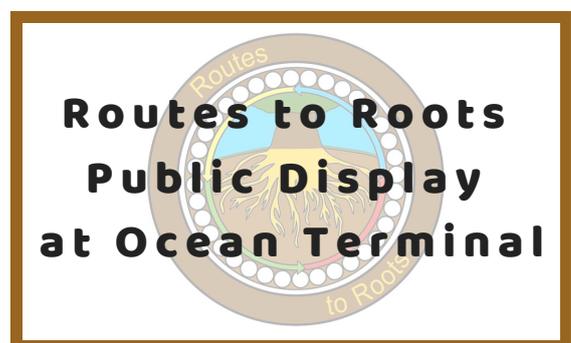
### Sewing service

Our expert volunteer Awara is giving people's clothes a new life by repairing them.

Pop into ELREC's office with any clothes needing repair.

The 'Routes to Roots: Adopting Scotland as a Homeland' exhibition was open until December at Ocean Terminal.

**Thank you all for coming!**



**Routes to Roots Public Display at Ocean Terminal**

From Rose :

I've been volunteering at ELREC since August and have loved being involved in their various events and meeting new people!

So far I attended the Ceillidh at summerhall for their Routes to Roots Project, which was a great success and a fun night out!

Currently I'm helping to raise funds for their upcoming Community Garden project, which we hope to break ground on this coming spring at Iqra academy.

Let's hope we have a mild winter so that we don't have weather issues in building the garden!

## Volunteer Spotlight

From Karina :

I joined ELREC as a volunteer last October. I specifically chose this organisation due to the diversity projects they have and the variety of opportunities they provide for people from all walks of life. ELREC's team has rapidly become my second family, everyone here is extremely nice and very supportive. This organisation provides the perfect platform and the right support for absolute all. I am currently working in the Support and Advice Department and I also run the outreach clinics in other areas of Edinburgh to reach out everybody.

We liaise with other organisations so we can provide a full service —weather it's legal support, a listening ear, representation or advocacy, or simply someone to break down the legal wording to facilitate the communication; in all cases, we are here to help you.



### **My background**

I am a Law graduate and I completed the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice at the University of Edinburgh. This was a very challenging time in my career and also in my personal life, and having seen from work experience and also at a personal level the lack of support in times of need, I saw my passion to help others grow, so nobody suffers or stays in isolation when one most needs help. It is extremely rewarding to be that support. My name is Karina and I am here to help you, please get in touch.



Edinburgh & Lothians  
Regional Equality Council

# Equality Champions Gala Dinner

To celebrate excellence of achievement  
and promoting equality across Edinburgh and the Lothians

Tickets: £25/person

- Three-Course Dinner
- Award Ceremony
- Raffles
- Networking & Promotion

All proceeds will go to ELREC Support & Advice Service

To book your ticket, contact: (t) 0131 556 0441 (e) [admin@elrec.org.uk](mailto:admin@elrec.org.uk)

**More details soon!**



# True Colours

Hello all from the TRUE Colours group!

First, we'd like to welcome our new volunteers Laurie Haughton, Briony Wilson, Kieran Ketchen, Alexiane Scionico, and Leike Hu. They have all already put lots of effort into the project. We are very happy to have them on board!

In the last three months, we continued with our workshops on stereotypes, racism, discrimination, bullying, immigration and refugees, Islamophobia, LGBTQI, hate crime, and disability. An even more busy schedule is ahead of us for new workshops in the Leith Academy. We are delighted to see young people participating in the sessions, and we already have invitations from other schools for the next year. We started to work in Dalry Primary School during the anti-bullying week happening on 12-16 November this year.

True Colours visited Edinburgh College Fresher's Week and ran a stall. Similarly, we had a stall in Leith Academy to raise awareness and survey the students' interest in our work. Together with our youth project YPAH, True Colours represented ELREC in Edinburgh Council, where equality issues in Edinburgh schools were discussed. True Colours also participated in NoHateMate hate crime awareness event in Westerhalies Education Centre organised by Police Scotland. We took part in Edinburgh University's Volunteer Recruitment Fair and registered a number of new volunteers.

The True Colours team would like to wish everyone happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year!

Didem Kaner Ural  
TRUE Colours Project Coordinator  
didem.kaner@elrec.org.uk

ALL  
different  
ALL equal  
ALL  
together



/truecoloursgroup



Voluntary  
Action Fund



# Communities for Conservation

**Thank you to all the participants in the past months who have helped us to save the planet.**

## Home Energy & Waste Advice:

With time and experience, our project has gained in recognition within various communities which means that we have been able to help more people. Similarly more organisations recognise us and refer clients onto us. In the past months, the Communities for Conservation team has helped a great number people to save energy at home, to switch to cheaper and green supplier and to recycle more. We have introduced an energy efficiency game as part of our visits which proved to be very engaging. We also provided participants with a shower timer and water efficiency leaflets, thermal camera images (when requested) and energy monitors.

## Workshops & films:

In the past months, we held a stall at numerous community events; we delivered our workshop 'Islam the Green Religion: Living an eco-friendly life' at Blackhall Mosque, as well as energy efficiency workshops and cycling workshops. On 29 November, we had a full room with over 150 attendees at our screening of "Demain", an inspiring documentary investigating concrete solutions to environmental and social challenges.



## Swap Shop:



In October, we organised a Big Swap Shop Event in partnership with the Edinburgh Chinese Elderly Support Association at Kings Church. 80 participants took away a total of 69.46kg of clothes, books, CDs, DVDs, kitchen utensils and other items.

## Sewing & repair:

Our expert tailor Awara has been giving a new life to countless items of clothing. "Pillows beautifully done, Thank you". We have also started a Sewing Club running every Monday from 12:30 to 2PM.



## Food Growing:

Our Community Gardens are currently volunteer-led. We are setting up a new community garden in Cameron Toll with Iqra Academy with the Growing Communities for Health Grant from ELGT. We also got free gardening tools from Saughton Prison.

In September, we organised a **Driving Efficiency training session** with a qualified instructor. It helped participants to reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions, reduce the risk of accidents while driving, lower the risk of vehicle wear and tear on tyres, brakes and clutch. Feedback: "My average consumption dropped significantly after following the instructor's recommendations driving the same route. Excellent practical session."

**We would like to thank the many volunteers who have contributed to the project in some shape or form.**

# Communities for Conservation

## ELREC Cycling Club:

We are delighted to announce that we have received the eBike Grant Fund from the Energy Saving Trust to run the 'eBikes for All' Project. We will be offering free eBike trials to community members. If you are interested in lending an eBike, please email [cfc@elrec.org.uk](mailto:cfc@elrec.org.uk)

We have seen great progress from all participants at our Saturday cycling classes. Our Cycling classes have been oversubscribed which is why we have trained 3 new 'Cycle Trainer Assistants' to help us expand. Thank you to NKS for letting us use their premises and equipment. One participant told us that she decided to sell her car for a bike.

Testimonial: “Thanks for the intermediate classes. I needed it to refine my road sensibilities. The previous class helped me a lot and gave me enough confidence. I cycled to work this morning - Currie to Leith, 11 miles on the roads, via the city centre in 50 min. Enjoyed it a lot. You're all doing a great service to the Edinburgh community. Big thanks to your team :-)”

In October, we led a ride for the Welcoming Association's Community event at Bridgend Farmhouse and we delivered 2 cycling classes for the excellent Leith Community Croft and Pots' Carbon College. In November, one of our volunteer spoke of our project at Spokes Autumn Public Meeting.



Jean Matthieu Gaunand  
Communities for Conservation Project Coordinator  
[cfc@elrec.org.uk](mailto:cfc@elrec.org.uk)



# Support and Advice

I started Support and Advice service on the 31st July 2018, it started slow and steady but the service is now in full swing with daily phone queries, emails, and face to face and social media messages. We have had over 50 cases since August 2018 and a lot of these are ongoing and requiring multiple visits or follow up work. The cases are diverse but majority of them are to do with housing issues, discrimination, hate crimes, harassment, council and benefits, and a few to do with legal matters.

We have two volunteers working on the Support and Advice service, both with legal backgrounds. Currently we started a monthly surgery in Pilton Community Health Project, based in Pilton. We have 2 hours booked to meet and advise Pilton clients on any issues they need help with aiming at ethnic minority backgrounds mainly due to language and access to advice reasons. We will have a booking system in place soon but the meetings will happen in the Pilton office. The service is going well and we hope to ensure it always does as this service is at the heart of ELREC and all that it stands for.

Parveen Ishaq  
Support and Advice worker

**Do you ...**

- Need housing  and benefits  advice
- Have suffered from discrimination 
- Need assistance in working with public bodies 
- Need to report a hate crime 

**We are ...** 

funded by the Scottish Government, a confidential service  which provides free and impartial advice  for individuals. If we're unable to help , we'll help you take your case to an appropriate organisation that can.

ELREC provides Third Party Reporting as a free service\*.

**Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 9.30-12.30 (but welcome to pop by or phone us anytime you need help).**

## 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 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.

## Volunteers

Big Thank You to all volunteers that contributed to ELREC for last months.

Your involvement in ELREC's is very much appreciated.

We are very proud and grateful to have you in our organisation.

Thank you!

## 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)



## Third Part Reporting

Another way to report Hate Crime.

You do not need to talk to the police directly

**ELREC is here to help**

Get in touch whether you are witness, victim or a carer.

## 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/>



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[elrec.org.uk](http://www.elrec.org.uk)



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