



ELREC Newsletter

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council

Promoting Equality • Fighting Discrimination • Fostering Good Relations

ISSUE 51: July 2017

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D Ahmed, F Huczewska, M Diaz

From the Chair

Hello and welcome to our July Newsletter.

We have had a busy few months with many activities and events taking place. Our Africa Day event was held on the 25th of May and was an unequivocal success, with over 110 people in attendance and participants raving about the positivity of their experiences! We have also had positive feedback from our other, smaller events such as the Mosque Visit on April 22nd, the BME Women in Public Appointment seminar on May 15th and our participation in the Big Bike Revival on June 10th. We look forward to similar successes with our upcoming events.

Our Routes to Roots project continues to grow, with a trip to the Great Polish Map of Scotland on the 17th of May and a tour of the 'Graham Fagan: The Slaves Lament' exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery on the 29th of July. ELREC also had a stall at the Meena Bazaar on the 18th of May and our TRUE Colours project was represented at the LGBT Summer Celebration on the 30th of July.

Unfortunately we had to pause our Youth Zone project at the end of July due to a gap in funding, but are optimistic that this can be recuperated from other sources. We are always open to updating and improving our work, and this has given us the chance to do so. Our Midlothian Hate Crime project, on the other hand, started on the 31st of July and we look forward to making it incredibly successful as we move into August and the school year begins in earnest.

Finally, I would like to give a huge 'congratulations' to Bright Choices, our partnership project with SACRO and MCFB which won the Scottish Social Services Award "Head above the Paraphet" on the 13th of June. The category we won is awarded to people and organisations which have 'spoken out for the people they support, taken a risk by challenging what they believe is wrong and successfully campaigned for positive change'. I am extremely proud of this accomplishment for Bright Choices and look forward with anticipation for their future successes!

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

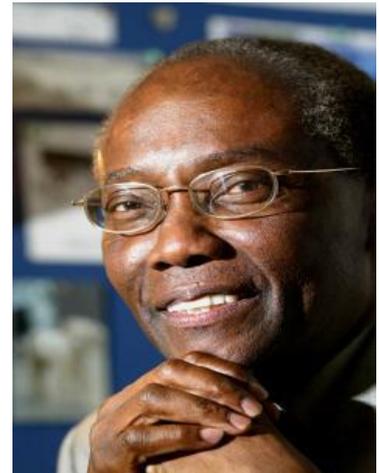
Foysoyl Choudhury MBE
Chair



From the Honorary President

Diversity: The Best Option.

Diversity is constantly in the news. This is not surprising because we are now in the era of the rights of the individual. This view is in keeping with one of the definitions of *diversity* where it is stated that *diversity* "means understanding that each individual is unique; and recognising our individual differences. These can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, and other ideologies." This definition acknowledges that human relations should be a partnership of individuals in a system that is fair and just. In this regard, prejudice (pre-judgement) should not be used to exclude any human being from any aspect of society. Those who manage our society should ensure that individuals receive equal attention in terms of life, rights and needs. Partnerships of such *diversity* will produce the best possible society.



Prof Sir Geoff Palmer

Honorary President



From the Vice Chair

Dear All,

Welcome to our July newsletter.

We have had a few changes in staff since the last newsletter, with two individuals leaving and three more joining our team.

Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to Mariana Diaz, the Spanish Community Link Officer with our Communities for Conservation project and to Cristiana Nicoletti, the Project Coordinator of the Youth Zone. I would like give them both my sincere thanks for all their time and dedication to ELREC and wish them the very best in all they do in the future—they will both be greatly missed.

I would also like to give a warm welcome to Irene Alvarado, our new Spanish Community Link Officer, to Sana Zia our Midlothian Hate Crime Project Coordinator and to Gray Davis who has come on board as our Workspace Maintenance Officer. I am certain that all three will be excellent additions to the ELREC team and I look forward to seeing the great work they will do.

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



Shami Khan

Vice Chair and Convenor of the Personnel Subcommittee

ELREC's Support and Advice Service

If you've been discriminated against; need assistance or are looking for housing and benefits advice, we're here to help. We offer free and impartial advice for individuals who have suffered discrimination, need to report hate crimes or need assistance in working with public bodies. If we're unable to help, we'll help you take your case to an appropriate organisation who can.

If you would like to come and see us, please call and book an appointment first, and also write down details of the incident, paying particular attention to dates. We'll listen to your case and make an assessment, helping you to identify your options and decide on the best course of action.

To report an incident or get more information contact us at: ELREC, 14 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH1 3LH. (T) 0131 556 0441 (F) 0131 556 8577(E) admin@elrec.org.uk (W) www.elrec.org.uk

Information on how to report online can be found here:
<https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/hate-crime/>

From the Project Lead Officer and Fundraiser

Dear All,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the final weeks of summer.

Since our last newsletter there have been a few changes to projects and staff as well as many wonderful events, organised by the excellent ELREC staff.

I am pleased to announce that both our TRUE Colours and Equalities Engagement projects have secured funding for three more years by the Voluntary Action Fund and will continue to deliver their much-needed services through June of 2020.

Additionally, with funding from the Midlothian Council we have started a hate crime prevention project in schools which is due to run from the beginning of August to the end of January 2018. This is an excellent opportunity for us to deliver trainings to young people about this important issue and bring ELREC's expertise in this topic to the Midlothian area.

Unfortunately, we have had to bid farewell to Cristiana Nicoletti, our Youth Zone Project Coordinator as we have not yet secured funding to continue the project, as well as to Mariana Diaz, our Spanish Community Link Officer. They were both important parts of the team here and their presence will be greatly missed. I am very pleased, however, to welcome three new staff members to ELREC: Irene Alvarado, who will be taking the role of Spanish Community Link Officer, Sana Zia who will be spearheading our Midlothian Hate Crime Project and Gray Davis who is our new Workspace Maintenance Officer. I am certain that all three will be great additions to our team!

Over the past three months ELREC has hosted and participated in a variety of events and workshops. We held a BME Women in Public Appointment seminar on the 15th of May which was very well attended, followed by a trip to the Great Polish Map of Scotland on the 17th. On May 25th we held the Africa Day Celebration which was incredibly well attended, with participants raving about how great their experiences were, and participated in the Big Bike Revival on June 10th as well as the LGBT Summer Celebration on July 30th in addition to a variety of other events, all of which have been wonderfully successful.

I am very glad to have the opportunity to work with such a fantastic team and am extremely excited to see where the next few months lead. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their hard work and dedication, and for their support during my first few months here! We have many great events, workshops and trainings planned and I am looking forward to participating in the continued development of our projects and the work of ELREC as a whole.



Rachel Vette

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From the True Colours Coordinator



Another project year has come to an end in June, and I would like to give a huge thanks to everyone who has worked and supported us in the last 12 months. Most of all to our wonderful volunteers Katerina, Holli, Diline, Sophie, Romina, Marilyn, Alysha and Keiran, we couldn't have done so well without your dedication and contribution.

During the last year we have delivered 23 workshops in 7 schools and youth clubs, and reached over 400 young people, youth workers and teachers. The group conducted workshops about discrimination and racism, stereotypes and prejudice, islamophobia and Islam representation in the media, refugee crisis, Brexit & immigration, equality and diversity, Equality Act 2010 & Employees rights and anti-bullying workshops.

TRUE Colours group has also delivered a three film making sessions in St Mary's primary school in Leith, The aim was for students to encourage students to use creativity to create their own anti-bullying video that can be presented to schools and promote positive behaviour.



Peace and Justice Group club students, St Mary's Primary School in Leith during filming their anti-bullying video



I am delighted to announce that TRUE Colours have received further funding for another three years.

In the next period we going to reflect on the feedback we received. In particular, we want to incorporate more activities into our workshops to make them more engaging for our audiences. We are also planning to diversify our sessions, as this is something that came up frequently in our conversations with young people. Currently we are working on developing workshop sets for primary school, specifically focusing on gender diversity, masculinity and femininity stereotypes and media representation, but also on sexual orientation and LGBTQI issues.

As always we are looking for new volunteers 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!

Una Dosen

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Youth Zone

Hello everyone from our couch in the Youth Zone!

The last three months have been busy with activities and one-on-one sessions.

Two worth mentioning are our two most popular workshops on CV writing with our old friend Andrew Camilleri and the public speaking training with the energetic and powerful punk-rocker Mairi Damer from Word Up Communications.

Though, the Youth Zone project is coming to an end and it's time to sum up. During the last two year we organised 24 group sessions and skills development workshops on a range of different topics, including self-esteem, active listening, career guidance, European mobility, social media skills and of course cv-writing and communication. Our most popular service was the one-on-one support though. Throughout the project, we helped 150 participants and we are very proud of it. We wish all of them the best of luck for their future!



CV writing and Self-Branding workshop

Anyway, don't forget that we are still Eurodesk UK Partner. This means, you can come to us if you want to know more about European funded opportunities for young people and youth organisations.

With Eurodesk we celebrated the

European Youth Week in May and we took part in a UK-wide partner meeting in July. It was great to get to know about the great work that other organisations are carrying out in the field of youth. We had the chance to exchange good practices and innovative ideas and to plan some more activities for the future. So... stay tuned, there are some surprises coming up!



Follow us on

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/youthzoneedin>),

Facebook (www.facebook.com/youthzoneedinburgh) or

Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/youthzone_elrec/).

Cristiana Nicoletti

cristiana.nicoletti@elrec.org.uk

europdesk
PARTNER UK

Communities for Conservation

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Fahmida Huczewska who is the new South Asian Community Link Officer, and Irene Alvarado who is the new Spanish Community Link Officer.

In continuation of our effort to tackle climate change, we are delighted to have received the CCF development grant of £1,500 to pilot waste reduction activities informing an upcoming project.

ENERGY SAVING

This quarter, the team has worked very hard and helped 100 new EM families save energy at home. Since the team has accumulated a great wealth of experience, an increasing number of cases are being referred onto us through word of mouth and partnership. During energy saving home visits we emphasize on what the person can do to save energy and be more energy efficient. Here are a few case studies:

One client had their gas capped for almost a year. They only used electric heaters during winter months and their bills and carbon footprint were high because of that. They had prepayment meters but were also paying by direct debit. The African CLO helped them to uncap their gas meter. They were delighted to use their central heating system again. The direct debit was cancelled and £120 were refunded. The client also bought 5 LED bulbs to save energy.

One client's boiler was 15 years old and very inefficient. After helping the person to save energy, the Spanish CLO called Home Energy Scotland. Meeting all the Warmer Homes Scotland scheme's eligibility criteria, the client received a technical survey confirming the client's eligibility for a new combi-boiler. The new combi-boiler was installed at no cost and the client was very grateful.

The South Asian CLO helped an elderly client who complained that her bills was too high and it was becoming difficult to pay the bills. Energy advice was given and the energy monitor was installed. The South Asian CLO then phoned the company and submitted meter readings. The account had not been updated since 2013 and all the bills had been estimated. The client received a check of £792.80 and £50 compensation.

CYCLING CLUB

With the excellent work of volunteers, we have led 5 bike rides and run regular cycling classes. We also taught 10 children bike-ability level 1 and 2 at Leith primary school every Monday in May and June with two volunteers. About teaching bike-ability one of the volunteers said:

"The class was running very well, the kids were so great. Those two girls who couldn't ride a bike are now Bikeability. I am so happy having the chance to experienced teaching them. I like to thank you giving me such a good opportunity".



Cycling Scotland



Communities for Conservation (cont'd)

WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS

We have organised movie screenings in the past months including 'A farm for the future', 'Home' in English and in Spanish, and 'Seeds, the untold story' at the Odeon cinema attended by 80 people.

"I just wanted to say thank you for organising the film screening yesterday, it was great! (...) Thank you again for everything, being at your events has been mind changing for me" a participant talking about 'A farm for the future'.

We delivered 3 workshops on climate change at the Polish Saturday School in Livingston raising awareness about climate change and the project. We ran three Climate Conversations engaging with 14 people. We ran a conversation café in Leith focusing on 'how to be more energy efficient at home'. We hosted the bi-weekly permaculture self-education workshops. We conducted 6 successful upcycling workshops to MILAN groups helped by volunteers Silvia, Lana, Huba and Jeannie where we engaged with around 60 people. Our upcycling presentation linked waste reduction and climate change and was followed by practical upcycling activities: upcycling milk bottles into containers, newspaper into coasters, etc. Also, our sustainable library has benefited from recent purchases from community members and donations and books are being lent on a regular basis.

Our community gardens have flourished and the abundant harvest has been enjoyed by everyone. We have organised a visit to a permaculture site in Bonnyrigg attended by community gardeners. Lastly, our community growing group from the Milton Road community garden has participated in the Power of Food Festival. The group prepared a Veg Wonton Soup cooked from vegetables grown at the garden. The weather was very good and around 50 people attended.

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

[ELRECC4C](#)

[@ELREC_CFC](#)



Communities for Conservation (cont'd)

Transport being the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland, we were delighted to receive a grant of £1,000 and be able to take part in the Big Bike Revival (BBR) in June. The Big Bike Revival aims to get people back on their bikes. We organised a series of events including two large events with the Polish Scouts in Edinburgh with three volunteers. We taught 60 young Polish Scouts some bike skills as well as how to conduct a simple bike check, and ride safely. We demonstrated bike repairs, we led a ride in the local area and we handed out certificates to all the participants. As part of the BBR programme, we also organised three led cycle rides to Cramond Island, Lauriston Castle, and the Scottish National Gallery attended by around 18 different people on each rides. We organised a BBR event in the meadows with three volunteers - repairing and servicing over 30 bikes. Throughout the BBR programme, we have engaged with around 100 people.



The
BIG BIKE
Revival

we are
cycling
The cyclists' champion
UK

Communities for Conservation (cont'd)

How a single Big Bike Revival ride inspired Bageshri to learn to cycle.

Bageshri Hasabnis hadn't been on a bike since she was a child and has spent almost all her adult life off a bike. That all changed last autumn when the Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council took part in Cycling UK's first Big Bike Revival in Scotland.

"I decided by that by the next Big Bike Revival I'd be able to ride a bike. So I put my mind to it and learned to cycle" Bageshri Hasabnis.



This Big Bike Revival event was a turning point for Bageshri, as she vowed there and then that she was going to learn how to ride a bike. "I decided by that by the next Big Bike Revival I'd be able to ride a bike. So I put my mind to it and learned to cycle". The speed of Bageshri's cycling journey surprised herself. She didn't realise how quickly she'd build confidence and be able to go a bike. It only took a couple of lessons.

"One of my friends is a volunteer and she organised cycling classes for beginners," explains Bageshri. "She lives close to me and after I decided I wanted to learn to ride a bike I contacted her and I went to the lessons. I did three or four lessons with her to give me a bit of confidence. When an ELREC bike ride came up from Bangholm outdoor centre in Trinity to Cramond beach, I joined them and it was a wonderful experience."

The cycle training helped to blow away the cobwebs and improve cycling skills for Bageshri, as she'd learned to ride as a child but had no experience of on-road cycling. "I didn't ride on roads, just on school grounds or with someone helping and supporting me while I was riding," she says. "The ELREC Cramond beach ride was the first time I cycled on a road. It was about 6-7 miles and was a wonderful experience. I did it in February, it was winter and it was freezing cold when we got to the beach."

Didn't the winter weather put her off as a novice cyclist? "I was so determined I wanted to do it so it was nice anyway," she replies. "When I got to the beach and realised I had completed the distance I was so happy at the power of myself!"

Spurred on by the Big Bike Revival in 2016, when the project returned to Scotland for 2017, Bageshri was ready for ELREC's Big Bike Revival led rides and could attend them with her friends and family. "I really enjoyed the rides," Bageshri says. "They have given me more confidence to cycle and the next step for me is to take my cycling a bit further."

Understandably, roads are still a challenge, as traffic can be a daunting prospect for a new rider. "I'd like to be able to cycle to work, but I still feel scared when I ride on the roads. I have no problem cycling on cycle paths, but my work is in the city centre and I am not confident about cycling in traffic. I'd like to be able to ride my bike in the city but it is too scary."

So what's next for Bageshri to overcome this challenge? More cycle training to boost her confidence is an option she is exploring. "I would like to do further levels of Bikeability training to build my confidence. I want to keep up my cycling and that will help with my confidence, too. I am looking forward to more cycling with my family."

One thing's for sure with this new rider: if Bageshri puts her mind to it, it's going to happen.

Communities for Conservation (cont'd)

She echoes this sentiment with her own advice for people who are thinking about getting back on their bike. "If you decide to do it, it's not difficult," she says. "It's just a skill, you need to learn it like anything else. When you start first time you'll think 'oh I can't do it' but once you decide, you can do it. Nothing is impossible!"

After two decades off a bike, Sam is pedalling forward thanks to the Big Bike Revival

The Big Bike Revival is a project working across Scotland that has partnered up with grassroots community groups to offer cycling activities and sessions, with a particular focus on new or returning cyclists. Sam is a returning rider with limited access to a bike but the Big Bike Revival activities have helped on her cycling journey:

"I used to cycle when I went to school, but it's been well over 20 years. I want to keep up cycling, and would love to be more active, get around by bike and explore more places. I'm also keen to cycle further distances!" Sam, Big Bike Revival Scotland participant

"We did a ride to Cramond, which was about 16km up and down," Sam says. "We also went to the Scottish arts museum which is 10km up and down. I enjoyed the rides because you get to explore the city and see the gorgeous scenery as well as getting to work out and keep fit."

Sam also found the sociable aspect of the cycling activities to be a big bonus, getting to spend quality time with her nine-year-old son. "I cycle with my son, although he's still a bit hesitant I take him as I know it's very beneficial and I want him to take up a healthy lifestyle," Sam explains. "He's still getting used to cycling, but once he gets into it he enjoys it, too. When we went out with ELREC and the Big Bike Revival, the whole group went for a picnic on the bikes, sat together and had fun. We had a really nice time."

These benefits have been a real push for Sam's cycling. Before she got involved with ELREC and the Big Bike Revival, the last time she had been on a bike was two decades ago. "I used to cycle when I went to school, but it's been well over 20 years. I want to keep up cycling, and would love to be more active, get around by bike and explore more places. I'm also keen to cycle further distances!"

When the time is right for her, Sam would also like to cycle to work because it would help to keep her fit and healthy. "I'm not working at the moment as I am on a career break, but I am into fitness and if I was working I would want to ride to work, now that I am cycling again. You can burn so many calories riding your bike, and that really appeals to me." Case studies sourced from: <http://www.cyclinguk.org>



Bright Choices

This has been an award winning summer for the Bright Choicers! Our tireless efforts and innovative approach to services won us the Scottish Social services Award in the 'Head above the Parapet' category in June. The winning has given us a great boost for keeping up with the good work.

Also, in this summer, Bright Choices has introduced community workshops in health related areas, offered to women from ethnic minority back grounds. The workshops can be arranged to run in various community venues or at ELREC.

Another important achievement has been working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council Child Protection Committee in provision of honour-based violence inter-agency training. The first training which was provided to practitioners from the public and thirds sector organisations on the 28th of July at Spartan's football club was returned with a very good feedback.



Mitra Rostami

mrostami@elrec.org.uk

Bright Choices

Workshops for Communities

Bright Choices can arrange for free in-house delivery of the following 'BME women only' health and wellbeing workshops:

- 1) **Young Women's Health.** Highlights of the session include:
 - Menstruation, regular and irregular bleeding
 - Fertility
 - Pregnancy and child birth
 - Infections, how to identify, how to prevent
 - Breast and cervical cancer, how to identify
 - Diet and skin
 - Depression

- 2) **Mature Women's Health.** Highlights of the session include:
 - Menopause
 - Physical and emotional changes
 - How to make menopause easy
 - Natural anti-aging recipes and massage techniques

- 3) **Ready for Marriage.** Highlights of the session include:
 - Emotional readiness
 - Physical readiness
 - Different types of marriage
 - Family
 - Legal aspects

For booking or information, please contact Mitra Rostami: mrostami@elrec.org.uk

**bright
CHOICES**

**SCOTTISH SOCIAL
SERVICES AWARDS
2017 WINNER**



**MC
FR** multi-cultural
family tree

sacro

Routes to Roots—Adopting Scotland as a Homeland



Spring was a busy period for Routes to Roots with a number of heritage visits, podcast footage filmed and interviews conducted. Have a look at our various media pages below for all our content!

Interviews:

Over the last three months we have conducted a total of 10 interviews. These have been with people from four of the five communities we are working with: three Chinese, four Spanish, one African, and two South Asian. This brought our total number of interviews to 16 which has been a great start. We are getting fascinating stories and information from all. We will start publishing these interviews in the coming weeks.



Podcasts:

Our podcasts are continuing and we have released a few more on Korrika 20 and our trip to the Great Polish Map of Scotland. We also interviewed Prof. Robert Frost of Aberdeen University about the historical connections between Poland and Scotland including the parallels between the Union between Scotland and England and the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth. These will be released in the next few weeks.



Heritage site visits:

We organised two site visits in April and May. The first was to Edinburgh Central Mosque. This was our best attended visit yet with 17 participants. We had a very informative tour of the mosque conducted by Imam Yahya Barry followed by a long, in-depth discussion about Islam and the community in Edinburgh. In May we visited the Great Polish Map of Scotland. The map, the largest of its kind in the world, was built in the 1970s by Polish war veterans and is currently being restored. We were given a tour by members of MAPA Scotland.



Africa Day

On the 25th of May, in partnership with Communities for Conservation and Equalities Engagement, we organised Hello Africa; a celebration of the African community and its culture. The event included stalls, speeches, and live performances. You can find out more about the event in this newsletter.



Neil Ogilvy



ELREC Routes to Roots



@ELREC_Roots



Multicultural Heritage Meetup



ELRECUK

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:

www.elrec.org.uk/member.htm

OUR FUNDERS



Equalities Engagement

Update from the Equalities Engagement Project

We are delighted to announce that ELREC Equalities Engagement project has received Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund (PECF) from Equality unit, Scottish Government until June 2020. The major activities will be carried out under Diversity in Public Life project, which aims to increase representation and participation of BME communities in Public Life and the Democratic process across Edinburgh and the Lothian. Last quarter has been very busy with activities in relation to 8th June UK General election and PLC (Public Life Champion) scheme.

Training session on public speaking

ELREC Diversity in public life hosted a training session on 29 June 2017 at Macdonald Road Library, Edinburgh. The course was specially designed for participants of the PLC (Public Life Champion) scheme who is committed getting involved in public life. Around 15 people took part on the course. Participants learned tips, tricks and techniques to improve their self-confidence and personal presentation and public speaking skills in a community meetings, consultations and campaign settings. The course facilitated by Mairi Damer, former BBC journalist and communication expert from WORD UP communication. Feedback from the participants shows that everyone has enjoyed the interactive delivery of the session.



Workshop on BME Women in Public Appointment



The workshop on BME women in public appointment took place on Monday, 15 May 2017, Time: 6pm – 8pm at ELREC conference room, 14 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH1 3LH. The workshop aims to encourage BME women to get involved in public appointments and it covers following -

- What an appointment is and why you should consider applying;
- What the appointment process entails and how to complete an application;
- How long the process takes and who makes the final decision.

The workshop hosted by experienced public appointee Neelam Bakshi. She tells her personal journey towards public life, which was very inspirational to the audience. The workshop was co-

Equalities Engagement (cont'd)



Shamin Akhtar - Only BME Councillor in Lothian

Shamin Akhtar elected in May council election for Haddington and Lammerrmuir ward for the 2017 East Lothian Council from the Labour party. She was a former councillor for the Fa'side ward in 2012. Prior to being elected a councillor, Shamin had worked in the voluntary sector for most of her career, firstly in the National Union of Students, where she served as president, and then at the charity umbrella body Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO). She was board member of ELREC. Shamin Akhtar lives in Pencaitland with her family. She is Cabinet Spokesperson of the council's education and children's services.

African & Caribbean Councillors in Scotland for first time



Ade Aibinu has been elected first-ever black councillor in Scotland from Victoria Park ward of Glasgow City Council. The 28-year-old Biological & Biomedical Sciences research student at Glasgow Caledonian University. He is originally from Nigeria and who moved to Glasgow in 2008. He decided to join the Conservatives in 2015

Graham Campbell has elected as a councillor from Springburn Robroyston Ward, Glasgow city council. He is the first African- Caribbean background councillor in Scotland. Graham is an experienced charity fundraiser, community development activist, joined the SNP after the EU Brexit vote in June 2016. He attended Strathclyde, Glasgow and Middlesex universities and University of the West Indies doing Caribbean Media. He lived in Scotland for 15 years, raised in North London and born in Jamaica.



Nomination for the Edinburgh Awards opens

The Edinburgh Award was established in 2007 and is now a prestigious annual award to honour an outstanding individual who has made a positive impact on the city and gained national and international recognition for Edinburgh.

Nominations for the 2017 Award are now open.

Nominations are sought annually from communities, businesses and individuals across Edinburgh and the winner is selected by a panel chaired by the Lord Provost.

Nominations can be made by post or [online](#) and must be received no later than Friday 1 September 2017. For more information, contact: Lord.Provost@edinburgh.gov.uk



Equalities Engagement (cont'd)

Bereavement Issues – Introducing the ‘Burying our Differences’ Study

The ‘Burying our Differences’ study is being conducted at the University of Edinburgh’s Alwaleed Centre, where I am a researcher. For this project I am interested in getting the views of BME people from Edinburgh and the Lothians, so please read on!

In the ‘Burying our Differences’ study I’m looking at the issue of bereavement and how services in this area can be improved for BME and migrant-origin communities. Times like this can be very difficult for any family, but migrant-origin families can have some especially difficult decisions to make. For example, whether to repatriate their loved one and strengthen ties to the place of origin, or to lay down permanent roots in Scotland by conducting the funeral here.



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH The Alwaleed Centre

Other difficult decisions may include:

Finding a funeral director who will be sensitive to the needs of the family and respect religious and cultural traditions.

Dealing with local councils, health professionals and other authorities regarding the legal and administrative aspects of the funeral.



Burying our Differences

Negotiating faith and space in contexts of death and diversity.

The decisions that families take about where and how to conduct the funeral of a loved one can say a lot about how they feel about their identity. Also, there may be tensions within and between communities regarding funerals. For example, differences of opinion may exist within communities over how to adapt funeral rituals to fit with Scottish laws and local authority regulations.

If you are interested in contributing to the study by giving an interview, I would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact me by (Dr Alistair Hunter) by email on alistair.hunter@ed.ac.uk or by phone on 0131 650 4324. Further information about the study can be found at <http://www.bod-project.llc.ed.ac.uk/>

Remade in Edinburgh

Remade in Edinburgh is running a crowdfunding campaign throughout September to raise £30,000. The money raised will allow them to continue to maintain and grow the services that they run in Leith which are for the benefit of everyone in Edinburgh. Specifically the funds raised will enable Remade to continue their free Thursday evening repair surgery for IT, textiles and woodwork repairs at the Edinburgh Remakery, continue their partnership with Edinburgh charity CHAI to provide furniture donations to people coming out of homelessness, and finally to provide laptops to refugees and asylum seekers through the Edinburgh Council Resettlement Project and the Welcoming Association.

Please donate to this cause and help us build a stronger community with reuse and repair at its centre. For more information and to donate you can text 'REMA98 £10' to 70070 or please visit

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/remadeinedinburgh/community>

For more information on how the funds will be spent watch this video:

<https://youtu.be/NcCJoA-W1Qs>

To Donate visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/remadeinedinburgh/community>





ADVERTISING

We welcome organisations to advertise in the ELREC Community Newsletter for:

- Promoting services
- Disseminating flyers
- Campaigns
- Vacancies
- Consultations
- General marketing

This service is available for a contribution of £100 to £250 depending on the size and placement of the advertisement. To find out more, please contact Didem Kaner Ural on 0131 556 0441 or email: admin@elrec.org.uk

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

CONFERENCE ROOM BOOKINGS

You can book our 20-seat meeting room on an hourly basis for £20 per hour (reduced rate for small charities and community groups)

Tea & Coffee £1 per head
Please contact the ELREC office for additional information or to make a booking.



FUNDERS

ELREC is funded by:

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

VOLUNTEERS

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SERVICES

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC), founded in 1971, is a voluntary body and charitable company made up of individual members and representatives from a wide range of organisations. ELREC has a remit to work across the areas of City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils.

Our Objectives

- to work towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination
- to reduce inequality and promote a culture of human rights
- to promote good relations between persons of different groups without distinction

We pursue our aims through:

- Engagement with communities of protected characteristics
- Complainant aid for victims of discrimination and harassment.
- Support for communities in influencing change by facilitating interaction between communities and authorities
- Consultancy on equality policies, procedures and delivery of customised training on equality matters

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Larger print newsletter available on request

