



ELREC NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING EQUALITY - FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION
FOSTERING GOOD RELATIONS

From the Chair

Welcome to ELREC's Newsletter I hope that you have all had a good summer.

The last few months have been steady yet busy with events and some changes. We had the Climate Challenge festival in July which was a big success, well done to Jean Mathieu from Communities for Conservation and his team for organising this.

Young People against Hate project is coming to an end from the 30th September 2019, we want to thank Jackie and Anna for their hard work and efforts in making the project a success and the impact it's had in the schools. Hate crime will not be tolerated at any level so we hope to continue this work again.



Some staff changes too this quarter – Jackie and Anna are leaving ELREC at the end of September 2019 and Aleksandra will also be moving on soon. It's sad to see these ladies go but we wish them all the best for their new careers and thank them for their contributions to ELREC.

Fatin who was our African Link worker on the CFC project has left and we have recruited someone for this post, due to start next week.

We are currently working on new proposals for future work here at ELREC so follow us online to stay updated on future ventures.

Thank you to all ELREC staff and Volunteers for their continuous hard work and contributions as well as our funders, partners and members. Please become a member if you are not already.

Thank you

Foyso Choudhury MBE

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Support and Advice Service: Parveen Ishaq

True Colours Project: Didem Kaner Ural

Open Arms Project: Mitra Rostami

Young People Against Hate: Jackie Massie, Anna
Baran

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 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
(W) www.elrec.org.uk
Charity Number: SC007896
Company Number: SC183419

From the Chair

Paul Pogba missed a penalty and was subjected to racist abuse that alarmed especially those associated with football.

His club has expressed “disgust” and said that it will continue to support the #AllRedAllEqual initiative. The club also stressed that it will take action against those involved. Pogba’s team mate Rashford has said that, ‘Enough is enough’.

Edinburgh and Lothian Regional Equality Council (ELREC) has worked with the law in dealing with racism. As Chair of ELREC, I can inform the public that the Board and staff are working to reduce racism. Racism in football is totally unacceptable because it encourages racism outside the stadium.

Phil Neville said that the football community should “send a powerful message” and boycott social media for six months in response to this rise in racist abuse. Pogba was the third player to receive racist abuse within one week. Twitter said that it is aware of racism in the media and has taken action by permanently suspending a series of accounts for violating their Hateful Conduct Policy. The Professional Footballer’s Association (PFA) will meet Facebook to discuss the problem. Trade Unions have asked social media to work to control racism. If this is not done someone will get seriously hurt and racism will continue to spread from the stadium to the community.

Racist language should not be tolerated inside and outside the stadium. Racist laws that apply outside the stadium should apply inside. Racism online should also be subjected to race relation laws...racism is unacceptable and must not be permitted to damage players or our National game.

Foysol Choudhury MBE



source: UEFA.com

From



POLICE
SCOTLAND
 Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Edinburgh's Preventions, Interventions and Partnerships Department August 2019 newsletter

Edinburgh Policing Division's Preventions, Interventions and Partnerships Department is responsible for the delivery of equality and diversity issues across Edinburgh. Our aim is to increase awareness of what a hate crime is, why you should report it, how you can report it and what action and support will then be undertaken. If you don't report hate crime, we won't know about it and can't bring the offender/s to justice.

As part of this role we carry out regular engagement with minority communities across Edinburgh, covering all the protected characteristics of disability, race, religion, sexual orientation and transgender identity.

Some of the recent activities we have been involved in include the following:

- Work with our partners, the City of Edinburgh Council and Community Justice Scotland, to create a Restorative Justice Programme for persons harmed by hate crime. This project is initially aimed at cases that have been through the criminal justice system where the offender/s have been convicted of a hate crime offence.
- Delivery of hate crime awareness training to key student support staff at Edinburgh College
- Work with Transport Scotland and Disability Equality Scotland to pilot their hate crime transport charter.
- Training of 55 police officers as hate crime champions across Edinburgh. These officers have enhanced knowledge of hate crime and can act as experts for front line officers dealing with such incidents, offering advice and guidance.
- Increasing the number of third party reporting sites, with staff now trained at Score Scotland and Victim Support Scotland. Napier University staff are due to be trained in the near future.
- Bystander training has commenced at Heriot Watt University and a large media campaign has recently been undertaken around not being a bystander to incidents including hate crime.
- Engagement with members of the Chinese community around hate crime and personal safety awareness.
- New Syrian refugees were given a hate crime and crime prevention input at their welcome meeting recently at the City Chambers, as part of an ongoing resettlement programme undertaken by Edinburgh Council.
- Working with our partners as part of Inclusive Edinburgh to improve the mental health of the homeless community.
- A week long hate crime campaign was launched as part of Edinburgh Festival, where we invited along groups and representatives from each of the protected characteristic groups for "themed" days of action.
- We were actively involved in the Edinburgh Pride parade and held a stall at Edinburgh University afterwards, engaging with the community and providing assistance and support.

Planned activities for the coming month include:

- Working with Lothian Buses on creating a training programme for around 2500 of their staff, raising awareness of hate crime and how it affects people.
- Working with our partners and planning raising awareness of mental health for the upcoming suicide prevention week and world suicide prevention day on the 10th of September
- Hate crime awareness walk, in partnership with Edinburgh College of Art, will be taking place in The Meadows at 11.30am on Saturday 28th September (meet at 11am at the playpark end of the park)
- Launch of the Edinburgh Hate Crime Initiative focussing on key "hot spot" locations where hate crimes have taken place.
- Participation in the National Hate Crime Awareness Week in October.



Young People Against Hate

So this is the final few months of Young People Against Hate.

During this time we have trained 10 amazing peer educators and gone in to schools all over Edinburgh and the Lothian's raising awareness of Hate Crime.

Over the past year and a half we have worked with over 1000 young people with 85% saying they have a better understanding of what Hate Crime is and 83% saying they are now more likely to report a Hate Crime. We have worked with so many amazing schools and community projects and had so much support.



In the last few months we will continue to work in school and make a positive impact in our community. Thank you to everyone that has supported us and a big big thank you to our amazing peer educators.

If anyone is looking for session regarding hate crime and or bullying for young people ages 7-14 please contact Didem on didem.kaner@elrec.org.uk



Jackie Massie and Anna Baran
 Young People Against Hate Project
jackie.massie@elrec.org.uk



There is a perception in Scotland that people here are in general more open-minded than others when it comes to accepting those who are LGBT or of other minority groups, and that hate crimes are committed less here. But this isn't entirely accurate. There are in fact many people in Scotland who identify as being unaccepting of LGBT. This was shown by a research which suggested that over 1 in 5 Scots (21%) would not describe themselves as open-minded and accepting of LGBT lives. This attitude against those that are LGBT is reflected in the amount of hate crimes that are committed against them. Hate crimes against LGBT people is in fact at its highest ever recorded level in Scotland, with 1,216 crimes in the year to the end of March 2019 and is up by more than a third in just 3 years. Some examples of anti-LGBT crimes reported in recent months, including the burning of rainbow flags in Fife, homophobic graffiti at a graveyard and an attack on a couple in Edinburgh.

Also newly published police figures reveal that reports of hate crimes against transgender people have increased by 81% in just a year. The home office said the increase is largely down to more people telling police about incidents, and forces more routinely classifying and recording such incidents as hate crimes. But equal rights charity Stonewall says the increases reflect "a society where transphobia is everywhere".

There also seems to be a level of intolerance against religion. This is due to the many events where places of worship have either been vandalised or ransacked. Just last August in 2018, the Guru Nanak Gurdwara Sikh temple in Leith and the Leith Methodist Church had their doors set alight in petrol bomb attacks. But the culprit was jailed for 4 years after admitting two charges of wilful fire-raising, aggravated by religious prejudice.

Also an incident that was considered to be a religious hate crime was when a man had trained his partner's dog to offer Nazi salutes and react to the proposal to "gas the Jews," and posted videos on YouTube. This offence was treated as 'aggravated' by religious prejudice, and so the man was then convicted and fined £800. This suggests that the scope of hate crime is widening and even things that may seem minor to many can result in a conviction, if it's thought to offend a protected group.

In fact almost 85% of hate crime prosecutions now result in a conviction, according to the CPS' 7th Hate Crimes and Crimes against Older People Report, the number of cases referred to the CPS has also increased. This suggests that more people are now more comfortable going to the police and letting them know about hate crimes that they have faced, in comparison to the past.

There are also incidents of hate crime due to a person's race. In June 2019 a Pakistani woman was subjected to racist abuse when a man yelled racist slurs at her on a train. Instead of just leaving quietly she asked a train staff for help, who took witness statements from fellow passengers and also called the police for her. This led to the man being arrested and charged. He was then convicted of a racially aggravated public order offence. This is an example of why more people need to report every incident of hate crime they experience instead of just letting it happen, as that is what results in convictions.

There are high rates of hate crime against minority groups in Scotland and the rest of UK. But convictions regarding hate crimes are increasing due to more people reporting hate crimes and more police forces recognising certain incidents as hate crimes. This is a positive step to hate crimes lessening in the future, with more people being aware that there will be consequences if they act in a certain way that is in anyway discriminatory or offensive.

Natasha Kabir

Sources:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48756370>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/30/hate-crime-22-mosques-receive-funding-security-uk>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jun/23/victim-race-hate-crime>

<https://www.theweek.co.uk/101987/why-are-transgender-hate-crime-rates-soaring>

<https://pinksaltire.com/2019/08/12/more-than-1-in-5-scots-dont-accept-lgbt-people/>

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1158773/SNP-fund-protect-places-worship-security>

http://report-it.org.uk/cps_conviction_rate_for_hate_crime_at_all-time_

True Colours



Greetings from the TRUE Colours group!

Just back from summer holidays, we hope everyone had a nice and restful break! In June, we delivered four week block workshops in Liberton Primary School and Broughton Primary School. Also we did sessions on stereotypes and hate crime in Citadel Youth Centre.

Our group also had meetings with North Edinburgh Arts Centre and we reached out to various libraries in the city. Some of our volunteers participated in the Eating Disorders workshop run by other young people who volunteer for our projects.

We published the first two videos on bullying on our Facebook page and on Youtube. Please check the links below and have a look. If you would like to take part, please email didem.kaner@elrec.org.uk or call 0131 5560441.

In the second half of August, True Colours group together with our YPAH project delivered a number of Hate Crime sessions to S1s and S2s in The Royal High School. Please check the news link below and see what the head teacher says about it:

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/education/edinburgh-head-teacher-speaks-out-over-support-in-schools-to-stamp-out-endemic-racism-1-4992119>

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!

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



@TrueColoursEdi



/ truecoloursgroup

Communities for Conservation

A warm welcome to our new Spanish Community Link Officer, Verena Aedo who will be working with the Spanish and Spanish speaking communities to help people become greener!

Home Energy Advice

The Community Link Officers have conducted over 330 home energy visits to ethnic minority households since the start of the project in April 2018. They have helped people and families to become more efficient and to get warmer in their home. Our partnership with home Energy Scotland has also proven to be very beneficial with many vulnerable households obtaining gas central heating at no cost through the Warmer Home Scotland's scheme!

Film screenings

We had a fantastic turnout of 200 at the screening of Sir David Attenburgh's documentary, Climate Change: the facts on August 1st. We had some excellent discussion after the film facilitated by Zarina Ahmed (CEMVO) and David Somervellin. This was a partnership event with Transition Edinburgh.



Fuel Efficient Driving Training

Sometimes driving is unavoidable and not everybody can afford an electrical car. That is why in the past few months we have helped people drive more efficiently thanks to our driving instructor James Coutt. Driving more efficiently is possible and can make a big difference!



Food growing

Our food growing initiatives keep on growing! Our community gardens have produced a tonne of vegetables over the growing season! At Drumbrae, Iqra Academy, the Royal Botanic Garden, Wardieburn, Edinburgh College and the Befriending through Gardening project, participants have enjoyed getting their hands dirty and harvesting organic veggies!



@ELREC_CFC



@elrecuk



ELRECC4C



Edinburgh-Sustainable-Meetup



@ELREC Edinburgh and Lothians

ELREC Cycling Club

In the past year and half, over 270 participants have taken part in our cycling activities! In addition to our cycling classes and our led cycle rides, we continue to lend bikes for free as part of our Bike Library. We can lend you both e-bikes and regular bikes:

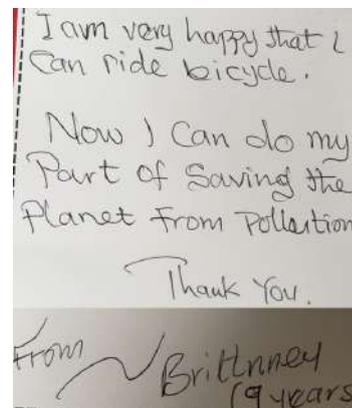
“I wanted to let you know that I bought my own e-bike a month ago, and have been thoroughly enjoying it. Having an e-bike has saved me many cross-city car journeys, and is keeping me fit. I’ve also found, surprisingly, that I’m generally happier, and I’m sure it’s due to the regular pleasure of bike-riding! I’m discovering parts of Edinburgh I’ve never seen before, and am taking on some volunteering jobs in various parts of the city that I would have balked at previously, as they would have required a car journey, or an hour’s bus travel each way.”

Our cycling classes have continued to be extremely popular over the summer:

“I’m so glad I have taken part in the cycling classes. I have always wanted to ride a bike. The classes have been excellent and the teachers have been patient, friendly, welcoming and supportive, It’s a great atmosphere and all the students have been supporting each other too. I would recommend the cycling classes to everyone, it’s a fun way to learn to ride a bike and make a contribution to fighting climate change!”

We are proud to have recently been awarded Cycling Scotland’s Cycle Friendly Employer accreditation by the Edinburgh Bike Station.

A huge thanks to all of our volunteers who are helping us to deliver our activities.



From Tone- CFC Volunteer:

My name is Tone and I have been volunteering with ELREC since May this year, when I saw a post online about the Climate Festival and decided to see if I could get involved. I had recently become unemployed and even before that I was unhappy with the direction my career was going. I wanted to make a positive impact in the world rather than work only for myself, especially regarding the environment and the climate. Since then I have not only been a big part of the climate festival and all the inspiration, enthusiasm and learning that brought, but I have also met a lot of lovely people and found out about many more conservation projects through the communities for conservation here in Edinburgh. I now volunteer at 2 other organisations as well as ELREC, and I am finding it incredibly rewarding.





My name is Mary Njoki, I am a PhD student at Stirling University.

I am currently looking for people to interview for my research.

Research Invitation

DO YOU

- **HAVE MEMORY PROBLEMS OR DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA?**
- **DO YOU IDENTIFY AS BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITY, FOR EXAMPLE OF ASIAN, AFRICAN, CARRIBEAN, MIDDLE EAST BACKGROUND ?**
- **DO YOU RECEIVE DIRECT PAYMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL?**
- **LOOK OR SUPPORT SOMEONE WITH DEMENTIA?**
- **HAVE SOMETIME I TALK TO YOU FOR 30MIN-1 HOUR?**

REASONS FOR THIS RESEARCH

My research is exploring the experiences of people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities with dementia or memory problems who currently use Direct Payments. I am interested in why people choose Direct Payments and the benefits and challenges of this. I hope that the research will help improve how Direct Payments are delivered.

If interested, please get in touch with me with contact details below

Interview will take about 45 mins-1 hour

The information you provide will be kept anonymous

Thank you very much

CONTACT DETAILS

Mob: 07459878311

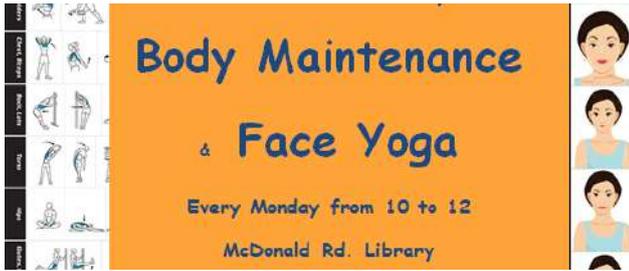
Mary.njoki1@stir.ac.uk





BIG thanks for hardworking Volunteers who took a break from their work at Aegon, Scottish Government and Standard Life and came to help us painting the office.
And also, huge thanks for Jackie and Lauren for organising this.
You rock!





The course starts on Monday 16th September and will run every Monday until 16th December ----- breathing exercises, stretching exercises, exercises to maintain your joints, exercises to tone up your muscles, face yoga, massage your face with natural home-made lotions, drink detoxing natural and herbal infusions ----- to book a place, contact Mitra on: mrostami@elrec.org uk or 0131 556 0441

Every Monday at ELREC's Office
12.30 -2pm
cfc@elrec.org.uk



What's on at ELREC

Saturday, 21 September 2019
1pm- 4pm
Leith Community Croft
John's Place
EH6 7EL

info@edinburghgardenpartners.org.uk



Drop in Mon-Fri
ELREC, 14 Forth Street
Pay as you feel
Phone: 0131 556 0441
email: cfc@elrec.org.uk

Every Saturday
NKS, 7 Gillespie st, Edinburgh 1
Phone: 0131 556 0441
email: cfc@elrec.org.uk



Come to our FREE event
All items will be free. You will be able to find:
Women's, Men's and Children's toys, books, CDs
DVDs, Kitchen utensils
Out of The Blue, 36 Dalmeny St
12- 4.30pm

Support and Advice



The Support and Advice Service is always busy here at ELREC.

Since the last quarter we have had 15 cases from discrimination, housing, unfair dismissal matters, benefits/council issues and neighbour disputes as well as unsocial behaviour. Some of these cases are very complicated and require a lot of research, time and support.

The Advice service has a legal volunteer every Friday who can assist with cases as well offer basic legal advice.

The service is doing well as always and we are currently working on making it not only a permanent feature of ELREC but a prominent one. If you are interested in volunteering please get in touch.

Parveen Ishaq
Support and Advice worker
pishaq@elrec.org.uk



Open Arms at ELREC

Open Arms has been busy planning our weekly, women-only Squash sessions in association with the Scottish Squash Association. We are very excited to start these weekly sessions soon! We have delivered 3 sessions of crafts making workshops, in partnership with Communities for conservation project. People made some dolls and borsches out of recycled materials and had a lot of fun!

Moreover, we ran a session of Women's Health workshop which saw a good attendance. The venue, lunch and material was funded by Baillie Gifford at Foundation Scotland.



We have terminated our contract with the Projekt42, and instead, we are about to start a very exciting fitness course called "Body maintenance and Face Yoga" which will include stretching and Pilates like exercises, besides face yoga and massage using natural home-made lotions and drinking plenty of herbal detoxing infusions! The course will run from Monday, 16 September to 16 December, every week, at McDonald Road Library. Please contact Mitra: mrostami@elrec.org.uk to sign up or for more information.

Mitra Rostami
Open Arms Project Coordinator
mrostami@elrec.org.uk



@elrecopenarmshealth

Edinburgh Climate Festival

The Edinburgh Climate Festival 2019 is a free, family friendly & community-led event that took place for the first time in the Meadows on Saturday 6th July. It aimed at celebrating and at inspiring climate action. It featured live music, performances, stalls, kids and adults' activities and much more. Highlights of the festival included a main stage with live music and dance, outstanding guest speakers, a family/kids area, eco food stalls, upcycling workshops, face painting and henna painting, storytelling and arts and craft, cycle rides, clothes repairs, bike repairs, electric bike trials, swap shops, yoga classes and more. The event was very well attended with an estimated 6-8,000 participants. The main stage was powered by solar panels and was a platform for music, dance and speakers. We had 16 speakers throughout the event who inspired the public to take climate action: Ross Greer MSP, Evie Murray from Crops in Pots, Extinction Rebellion, Dylan Hamilton, Arron Barclay, Emil Griffin and Kenneth MacIver from the Scottish Youth Climate Strike, Dave Bell from Mad Challenges, Cllr Adam McVey, Poet Jane Aldous, Alastair McIntosh, Dr Richard Dixon from Friends of the Earth, Chris Jardine from Greenpeace, Adil Ibrahim from the Welcoming, Danielle Rowley MP and Zarina Ahmad from CEMVO. The event was hosted by Jean-Matthieu Gaunand, main coordinator for the event. 11 bands performed throughout the day: the Sitar Project, Dance Ihyami, Samba Sene, the Hi-Hats, Sandy Brechin, the Victor Pope Band, Chango Munks, Luke La Volpe, Cat Named Jack and Edinburgh Carnival's Samba drumming bands.

We had 66 stalls and activity providers, most of them ran one or more activities or workshops, e.g. bike's repairs, bikes and ebikes' trials, swap shop, discussions, energy efficiency games, eco activities, upcycling, clothing repairs, cycle rides, garden tour, climate change games etc....

The event was organised by a consortium of CCF projects and led by ELREC. Organisers included ELREC, The Welcoming, Scorescotland, NKS, and Leith Crops and Pots. The event was funded by the Climate Challenge Fund and the National Lottery Fund. The event was featured by the Edinburgh Evening News, Radio Forth, Keep Scotland Beautiful, That's TV Scotland and many more media. The event was supported by 40 volunteers who were key to the success of the festival.

Feel free to follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @EdClimateFest and with the hashtag #EdinburghClimateFestival

“That was the best Climate event held in the Meadows. Probably one of the best of all time (...) Yours really did attract an audience that had never been before and it made it possible for people with young children to attend. Congratulations again.”

“There was a feeling of some good, joined-up thinking, towards a common goal. Well done to the organisers; I was really pleased to see so many folk visiting, joining in and enjoying the event.”

“Congratulation on bringing so many people together! Outstanding ability to work with and support all in attendance. It wonderful to view so many people on the shalls displaying living and sharing climate change in their lives.”

Watch the videos of the event here: <https://bit.ly/32dpEWs>



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 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

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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