



# ELREC Newsletter

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council

*Promoting Equality • Fighting Discrimination • Fostering Good Relations*

ISSUE 52: October 2017

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Una Dosen

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Mitra Rostami

### Routes to Roots Project

### Coordinator

Neil Ogilvy

### Communities for Conservation:

### Coordinator — Jean Matthieu

Gaunand

### Link Officers — David Tai, Ewelina

Lukaszek, Dina Ahmed, Fahmida

Huczewska, Irene Alvarado

### Midlothian Hate Crime

Sana Zia

## From the Chair

Hello and welcome to our October Newsletter.

We have had a busy few months with many activities and events taking place. Three activities planned by our Routes to Roots project happened in August and September, with a visit to the Royal Botanic Garden on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August, followed by a heritage walk in the New Town area of Edinburgh on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September and a trip to the Verdant Works Jute Museum in Dundee on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.



Additionally, we held our African Cultural Event on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September which was a great success, and hosted an Autumn Celebration as part of the Scottish Climate Week 2017 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. This evening brought many local communities together to develop knowledge about ways we can all be more eco-friendly and lead more sustainable lifestyles!

ELREC was also invited to take part in Fresher's Week for Edinburgh College in early September and had a stall at the Volunteer Recruitment Fair on the 20<sup>th</sup> of that month. These events were both very successful in promoting ELREC and attracted a great deal of interest in our work, with many people looking for more ways to get involved.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Bright Choices, our partnership project with SACRO and MCFB, once again for its outstanding work. We had the honour of receiving Mark McDonald, the Minister for Childcare and Early Years in early October to discuss the work we do through this project and I am extremely proud of this vote of confidence for Bright Choices. I look forward with anticipation for our future successes!

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

**Foysoyl Choudhury MBE**  
**Chair**

## From the Vice Chair

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Dear All,

Welcome to our October newsletter.

The past three months have seen little change in our staff, but excellent work being carried out all around.

As expected, our three new additions to the ELREC team (Irene Alvarado, Sana Zia and Gray Davis) have all made fantastic contributions to this organisation and we look forward to their excellent work in the months to come. Likewise, the rest of our team has continued to be exemplary and I am very proud of the work each and every one of our staff does for this organisation.

Finally, I would like to recognise our unparalleled volunteers—your time and dedication make ELREC great; thank you!



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

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

## From the Project Lead Officer and Fundraiser

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Dear All,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the beginning of autumn.

There have been no changes to staff since our last newsletter, however, our projects are all in full swing now that the school year has started up again and we have had the pleasure of hosting and participating in many wonderful events.

Our Midlothian Hate Crime Project, funded by the Midlothian Council, is underway and we have been successful in securing a full set of workshops to be delivered to the entire S3 class at Lasswade High School. This concentration of efforts and resources will give the project greater focus and has the potential to impact positively other areas of equality and diversity development. I am very excited about this project, which will run through the end of January 2018, and hope that this will allow us to extend the hate crime prevention work of ELREC to other schools in the Midlothian area and beyond.

Throughout the past few months ELREC has hosted and participated in a variety of events and workshops. Our Routes to Roots project held multiple events in August and September, including a visit to Edinburgh's Botanic Garden, a heritage walk through our historic New Town and a day-trip to Dundee's Verdant Works Jute Museum. All three were excellent successes and we look forward to more in the months to come! The Communities for Conservation project also hosted an environmental quiz and a screening of the film 'Sustainable', as well as our regular cycling classes. On September 10<sup>th</sup> we held an African Cultural event which was well-received and was followed by our Autumn Celebration, as part of the Scottish Climate Week 2017 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. This evening brought many local communities together to develop knowledge about ways we can all be more eco-friendly and lead more sustainable lifestyles!

Additionally, we continue to deliver excellent trainings and workshops through our TRUE Colours project and have hosted a variety of events for BME individuals to increase involvement and diversity in public life through our Equalities Engagement project. We were also honoured to receive Mark McDonald, the Minister for Childcare and Early Years in early October to discuss the work we do through Bright Choices, our partnership project with SACRO and MCFB addressing honour-based violence, and are very proud of this vote of confidence for the work we are doing!

I would like to thank all of the staff and volunteers at ELREC for their hard work and dedication, and I look forward to working with each and every one of them to continue the growth and development of this organisation.



**Rachel Vette**

**[rachel.vette@elrec.org.uk](mailto:rachel.vette@elrec.org.uk)**



My name is Silvia and I started volunteering in ELREC in May 2017 for the Support and Advice project. I joined ELREC because since I was in Law school I always showed a preference for Human Rights and I always knew I wanted to work for a charity. I am helping Martin provide legal advice regarding all sort of legal areas including discrimination and hate crime. Recently, I am helping to organise a jumble sale to obtain funding.

Volunteering for ELREC makes me feel more in contact with people and the real problems of our society. I am happy that I can help people that would normally feel they are alone. I can really see what a difference ELREC makes to our clients lives and I am always uplifted by what we do.

I really like everybody in ELREC! Thank you all for the opportunity.

I chose to do voluntary work here due to my work experience course for school and also it looked quite interesting. On my first day I was lucky enough to be involved in a meeting which talked about pacific factors like how different communities are developing in different areas and such. Later on I had the chance to witness a home visit which was about helping people with a different background figuring out to pay they're gas bills which was quite a thrill for my first. Throughout the rest of the week I edited a video to help people understand how to save electricity and also wrote a couple of information sheet for some trips like, a brief summary of Hinduism for people visiting a Hindu temple and many more things. From volunteering here I could it's so much more than I thought it was because I was welcomed kindly and I never felt bored. Thank you for helping me get involved ELREC.

Qais Mirza



Hello everyone!

My volunteering experience with ELREC started in August 2017 and from the very beginning I felt so welcome by the great team- people from around the world.

From variuos of interesting different projects, I have choosen Communities for Conservation because I want to be involed in climate change action.

I have participated in the organization of Autumn Celebration event- part of the Scottish Climate Week, had a chance to promote ELREC during volunteering fair and Africa in Design event.

Recently I started to work with polish communities from Edinburgh and Livingstone- organizing upcycling workshops and another eco activities.

I enjoy giving a hand with editing videos and other small things.

The team is very helpful and supportive. It is inspiring to cooperate with people who really are passionate about their projects and put a lot of heart into them.

Volunteering is mutual advantage. I've learnt so much new things in such short time, so I feel excited about what's next! Thank you ELREC!

Ola

"I started volunteering in March 2017 and have been learning about ELREC's work and helping with fund raising and writing grant applications. This has been a great opportunity to learn something new, and try to understand complex issues, and there has been lots of training and workshops over the months. The staff and volunteers are very friendly and very committed. I've also been looking at options for future outdoor and conservation activities. I organised a walk round the New Town and Water of Leith as part of the Communities for Conservation and Roots to Routes projects, to raise awareness of heritage and international historical connections on the doorstep and to signpost Edinburgh's greenspaces and walking routes. I'm planning another walk in North Edinburgh to the coast soon. It's been really good to try new things, understand different points of view, and remember old skills that had grown rusty."  
Michael Pearce



## True Colours



Hello all,

Greetings from the TRUE Colours group. We're delighted to announce that the project will continue for another three years thanks to funding from the Voluntary Action Fund: Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund. The project will be funded until June 2020 and we are very grateful to the volunteers who worked on the proposal, our staffs' support and of course the Voluntary Action fund.

We have been working full steam ahead in the last three months. The main focus has been developing new workshops on the topic of gender including gender fluidity and gender awareness and equality.

Additionally, we have already successfully completed a four week programme on racism and immigration, that will be followed by a second one focusing on raising awareness on islamophobia and refugee crisis. [ELREC at LGBT Summer Celebration](#)



In July we had an opportunity to be involved in the LGBT Health & Wellbeing's Summer Celebration Event. it was am amazing day and we had a chance to chat to people about our work and find out what is important to them as a part of LGBT community in Scotland.

Currently we have set out to deliver an additional 10 workshops by the end of the year which means we will us to exceed our targets this year once again. This of course couldn't have been possible without all TRUE Colours volunteers and I'd like to thank all of the volunteers for their hard work and support over the last three months. We really couldn't run the project without them.

I would especially like to thank Diline and Romina for their dedication to the project and Persefoni for creating our new TRUE Colours poster.

**Una Dosen**

**TRUE Colours Project Coordinator**

**[udosen@elrec.org.uk](mailto:udosen@elrec.org.uk)**

# TRUE

TACKLING RACISM UNITING EVERYONE

## colours

ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL!



### HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Contact Una Dosen on:  
[UDoseneelrec.org.uk](http://UDoseneelrec.org.uk)  
OR DROP INTO OUR OFFICE TO SAY HI

ELREC (Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council)  
14 Forth Str, Edinburgh, SH1 3LH

*WE WOULD LOVE TO JOIN US IN OUR QUEST FOR A HAPPIER SOCIETY! YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT, AND IS IMPORTANT FOR CHANGE*

Become a TRUE COLOURS volunteer: Learn about equality and human rights. Challenge bullying and discrimination. Develop fun and interactive workshops. Build up your confidence. Add new skills to your CV and meet other awesome people!



[www.facebook.com/truocoloursgroup](http://www.facebook.com/truocoloursgroup)

## Honour Based Violence Awareness and Response: Inter-agency training

**When:** 26 June, 2017, 9:00 to 13:00

**Where:** Spartans Community Football Academy, Ainslie Park, 94 Pilton Drive, EH5 2HF

*Spartans is located close to Ferry Road in North Edinburgh, in the same grounds as Ainslie Park Leisure Centre (just behind Morrison's supermarket). Lothian Buses 21 and 27 stop on Ferry Road, within a short walk away.*

- ◆ Refreshments are provided
- ◆ Free parking available on-site

This training has been designed to provide an insight into the causes, types and signs of Honour Based Violence (HBV). It explores coercive control, forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and includes guidance and protocols for responding to the risk or signs of these practices taking place.

This course is aimed at staff within Police Scotland, Health, Social Services, Education and the Third Sector, as well as anyone interested in developing their cultural understanding of these cultural practices and improving their knowledge of safeguarding and legal duties in their specific area of work.

### Course Highlights:

What is Honour and Honour-Based Violence?

Different forms of Honour Based Violence

Recognising and Responding to Honour Based Violence

### Forced Marriage

Definitions and Statistics

Underlying motivations for forced marriage

Arranged vs. Forced Marriage

Indicators

Responses

Case Studies

### Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Definitions and types of FGM

Global and local prevalence

Health Implications and indicators

Inter-agency response

Please book by [completing the Booking Form](#) and emailing: [training.childprotection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:training.childprotection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

## Communities for Conservation

The past quarter has been extremely fruitful. We now have over 20 volunteers in the team who are helping different project strands. The project has been nominated by Home Energy Scotland to the CCF Awards and was recently shortlisted as a finalist under the *Energy* category in the CCF Awards!

### ENERGY SAVING

The team's hard work is bearing fruits as people who have received home energy visits from our community link officers report beneficial changes.

### WORKSHOPS

Since July, we delivered our Eco-Workshops to ESOL classes at the Edinburgh College, engaging with students on climate change and environmental issues. We have screened the environmental movie 'Sustainable', ran climate change quizzes and upcycling sessions with Milan, the Positive Future's group, Shakti Women's Aid and Leith conversation café. Moreover, we took part in the Edinburgh MELA, the Volunteer's fair, the Edinburgh College Fresher's fair, and other community events where we engaged with people on ways to be more energy efficient at home.

The video of The Edinburgh Climate Festival 2017 is LIVE!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVM2lo2p0e0>

### CYCLING CLUB

In the past month, we have organised cycle rides with people from all levels. One of the cycle rides was to Davidson's Mains & Ravelston Woods and it was organised in partnership with the Woodland Wheels project. Participants thoroughly enjoyed getting on bikes and discovering local woodlands.

"One of the best experiences I had with cycling was with Elrec".

ELREC is now registered to the Cycle-to-Work Scheme! This is a Government scheme offering tax incentives to promote healthier journeys to work and to reduce environmental pollution. It allows us to loan cycles and cyclists' safety equipment to employees as a tax-free benefit.

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

 [ELRECC4C](https://www.facebook.com/ELRECC4C)  [@ELREC\\_CFC](https://twitter.com/ELREC_CFC)



# Saturday Cycling classes

Start date: 30th of September

Beginners: 10 to 11am

Intermediate: 11:30 to 1pm

All welcome

Fun family time

Health and well being

Get new skills

Relaxed learning environment

Socialising

NKS, 7 Gillespie st, Edinburgh, EH3 9NH

Book your space now:

E-mail: [cfc@elrec.org.uk](mailto:cfc@elrec.org.uk)

Phone: 0131 556 0441

Or register your interest with Al-Furqan

Bikes and helmet provided

Al-Furqan in partnership with ELREC



## Communities for Conservation (Autumn Celebration 2017)

In celebration of [#ScotClimateWeek](#) 2017, the Communities for Conservation held the Autumn Celebration 2017. The evening brought 150 people from many local communities together to develop knowledge about ways we can all be more eco-friendly and lead more sustainable lifestyles. It was a festive event with great diversity of people, stalls and activities to celebrate climate action. Stallholders included Home Energy Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, the Cyrenians, Love Food Hate Waste, Face Painting and Henna painting, Upcycling, Food growing, and Energy efficiency activities. Thank you to all who came down and contributed to a wonderful event particularly to all the volunteers. Thank you to the funders the Climate Challenge Fund managed by the excellent environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful for making those events possible. The evening culminated in a mesmerizing performance from the renowned Syrian classical Guitarist, [Ayman Jarjour](#). Ayman performed a wide range of the classical guitar repertoire, ranging from the traditional Spanish/Latin American, through Baroque and Classical, to contemporary music.



Video Excerpt from Ayman Jarjour's performance.

Some feedback from the event:

"We enjoyed everything, especially music, food and different people"

"I learnt what upcycling was, energy saving tips, how to waste less food "

"Upcycling is fun"

"I enjoyed the beauty of bringing so many communities together"

"We enjoyed most the feel of everyone being together"

"Continue doing all the wonderful interesting activities!"

"Good job, appreciate your hard work for a better world"

People said they will take action on climate change by...

"phoning to council to get recycling bins"

"being more aware and careful on our daily consuming and product knowledge"

"installing energy efficient bulbs"



# Communities for Conservation (Autumn Celebration 2017)



## Help us raise Funds for Rohingya

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Dear friends,

Help us to raise funds for Rohingya.

Described as the world's most persecuted people: 1.1 million Rohingya people live in Myanmar. The Myanmar government treats them as stateless people. Violence broke out in northern Rakhine state on 25 August, 2017, when militants attacked government forces. In response, security forces, supported by Buddhist militia launched a "clearance operation" that has killed at least 1,000 people and forced more than 500,000 to flee their homes. The UN has warned that Myanmar's treatment of its Rohingya minority appears to be a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing".

ELREC is raising funds to help the Rohingya people who are victims of the unimaginable massacre we have observed. ELREC has launched this urgent appeal to help children and adults. All the funds collected will go directly to Rohingya refugees.

Thousands of victims are in need of your help. Your support is urgently needed, no matter how big or small. Please donate now by clicking on this link: [www.gofundme.com/ELREC4rohingya](http://www.gofundme.com/ELREC4rohingya)

Food for 1 family: £50; food for 2 families: £100; tube-well (to install and maintain) in refugee camp: £250; shelter, medical treatment and food for 1 family: £500.

Please register with the attached sheet to join our charity cycle ride (contact details below and attached).

**When: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017 from 11pm**

**Where: Meeting at 11am** in front of [Scottish Parliament 1 Horse Wynd, EH99 1SP](#)

We will cycle along the Innocent Railway on cycle paths and cycle back to the Parliament. Please bring your own bike. If you don't have a bike please let us know; we have a limited number to lend out that will need to be picked up beforehand.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations to help the Rohingya people.

For further information, please contact Jean-Matthieu: [JGauband@elrec.org.uk](mailto:JGauband@elrec.org.uk) or phone 0131 556 0441.

Foyso Choudhury MBE

Chair  
Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council

# ELREC Cycles for **ROHINGYA**



## **EMERGENCY APPEAL**



### **CYCLE RIDE START:**

**5th November Sunday 11am**

**Scottish Parliament EH99 1SP**

**Along the Innocent Railway: 11 miles**

### **AID PLAN**

**£50**

**Food for  
1 Family**

**£100**

**Food  
for 2 Families**

**£250**

**Tube-well in  
Refugee Camp**

**£500**

**Shelter, Treatment,  
Food for 1 Family**

**DONATE NOW**

**Register** 

[www.gofundme.com/ELREC4rohingya](http://www.gofundme.com/ELREC4rohingya)



# Scottish Parliament Cycle Ride



## Registration

**You must register for the ride. Registration costs £10 (£5 conc.) You can register on the day, but it's easier if you register early. To register Several people, enclose a list of names and addresses. When you register, you'll get more details and a sponsorship form - all money raised helps Rohingya victims.**

**Name:** .....

**Address:**.....

**Phone:**.....

**Send the completed form to:**

**Payment enclosed**

**Rohingya Appeal  
ELREC, 14 Forth Street,  
EH1 3LH  
Edinburgh**

**Registration Fee: (£10/£5 each).....**

**Donation** .....

**Total** .....

**Tel: 0131 556 0441**

**Email: [cfc@elrec.org.uk](mailto:cfc@elrec.org.uk)**

**Find ELRECUK on**  

**I understand that I am responsible for my own safety throughout this event and that ELREC bears no liability.**

**Signature:** ..... **Date:** .....

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

## Calling for new members at ELREC!!

ELREC strives to embody the principles of transparency; integrity; equity; mutual co-operation; and participatory democracy.

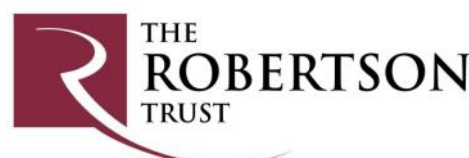
ELREC welcomes all individuals and organisations who share our aims, visions, and values to join us as members. As a member you will have the opportunity to shape ELREC policy direction; participate in ELREC's annual Management Board election; and attend ELREC events and lectures. Our members also act 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](http://www.elrec.org.uk/member.htm)

### OUR FUNDERS



## Routes to Roots—Adopting Scotland as a Homeland

Hello everyone, join us as we run through the start of the second year of our Routes to Roots project.

### Heritage site visits:

Since June we have facilitated three more visits to heritage sites. In June we visited the "Graham Fagan: the Slaves Lament" exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery where we discussed Robert Burns' connection to the slave trade in the Caribbean. In August we visited the Royal Botanic Gardens and were given a tour of the Chinese Hillside which contains the largest collection of wild Chinese plants outside of China. In September we visited the Verdant Works Jute Museum in Dundee to explore the connection between South Asia and Scotland through the Jute trade. As an added bonus, in partnership with Communities for Conservation, we also organised a New Town Heritage Walk conducted by ELREC's volunteer Michael Pierce. Coming up we have plans for visits to a number of further religious sites and galleries around the city. If you would like to get involved in our trips head over to our Multicultural Heritage Meetup to find out more.

### Podcasts:

Over the last few months we have released a total of seven podcast videos. In July we released a video about the Great Polish Map of Scotland in the Borders and followed this up in August with a series "In Conversation with Prof. Robert Frost" about the historical links between Scotland and Poland. Keep an eye out for further videos about a range of different topics, including the Chinese Hillside at the RBG and the Africa in Design event that took place in September. All of our videos can be found by searching ELREC on YouTube or by following the social media links below.

### Interviews:

The last few months have been a bit quieter for interviews as many people have been away over the summer. However we have completed 6 more interviews with the Polish community and African communities taking our total to 22.

**Neil Ogilvy**

**nogilvy@elrec.org.uk**



# Routes to Roots—Heritage Site Visits



ELREC Routes to Roots



@ELREC\_Routes



Multicultural Heritage Meetup



ELRECUK

## Equalities Engagement

Equality Engagement project had a busy time over this quarter with various events, outreach and networking with the project beneficiaries. Major focus was on West Lothian Community Council election held over September – October. Widespread outreach work carried out to support BME nominations. Month of October is Black History Celebration time. Autumn conference of major political parties were took place over this month which was significant. I attended to the SNP and Green Party conference to learn more about their Equality and Diversity works and to establish connection within the parties.

### Workshop on Diversity in West Lothian Community Council



Diversity in Public Life project hosted a workshop at the wake of West Lothian Community Council election 2017. The event took place on 12 September 2017. 6pm – 8pm at Howden Park Centre, Livingston, West Lothian.

Keynote speech given by Moi Ali, a senior public appointee and communication consultant. She highlighted the importance of being involvement of BME communities in the local democracy via community councils. Dr David Olwa, Chair of the West Lothian Community Race Forum, pointed out ways forward to increase inclusion and diversity in the public life. Anne Walsh,

Secretary of Auddiwell CC, shared her own experience being a community councillor over the past 8 years.

Kristoffer Boesen, Communication Officer from Improvement Service, mentioned about various resources, tools and support provided to the community councils by the government throughout the website: [communitycouncils.scot](http://communitycouncils.scot).

Councillor Car John thanks everyone for attending to the meeting and requests to submit nominations before the deadline. Information about community council nomination and guidelines provided to the prospective candidates. The event was facilitated by Mizan Rahman, project coordinator, diversity in public life



### Seminar on British Honours System and Diverse Communities

Diversity in public life hosted a seminar in collaboration with Scottish Government Honours team on British Honours System and Diverse Communities on 23 October 2017, 4pm at Leith Community Education Centre. The aims of this event was to increase participation of the BME communities in the British Honours and raise awareness. The seminar inaugurated by ELREC Chair Foyso Choudhury MBE.

Keynote address was given by Sir Professor Geoff Palmer OBE. Details about nomination process and UK honours system discussed by Gail Clapton, Honours Manager, Scottish Government.

Speakers requested everyone to nominate someone who deserves to be recognised for their valuable work both voluntary, in the community or within their career. The nomination process is very simple and any kind of support and assistance may be given by the Scottish Government Honours team or Diversity in Public Life. During the Q & A session, audience took part in the conversation.

## Equalities Engagement (cont'd)

Participants highlighted that many people from the BME community lived in Edinburgh, have been contributed towards community development, inclusion and charitable activities. Therefore, recognition should be made through City of Edinburgh civic awards and other Lothian based civic awards. Foysol Choudhury MBE mentioned that ELREC have recently undertaken an excellent initiative; the annual Equality Champion Awards ceremony to recognise outstanding achievements of local BME community.



### West Lothian Community Council Election 2017

Community Council election held in West Lothian council in September. The election took place every four year. By the end of election process, total 32 community councils across West Lothian has came into effect on 26th October. Total 11 members from local BME communities were duly elected over 5 Community Councils. The Deans Community Council has newly established by majority members from diverse community. The role of community councils is to express the views of the community to local authorities and other public bodies, and to take action in the interests of its community. ELREC Chair Foysol Choudhury MBE congratulated to the all newly elected councillors. Representation of diverse community in the local democracy will be fostered by involving into community councils.

## Equalities Engagement (cont'd)



### SNP Equality Day: Bashir Ahmed Scholarship launched

Ahead of SNP autumn conference, Equality day event took place on 07 October 2017 at the SEC Centre, Glasgow. Different equality organisations took part and provided thematic presentation on the day. The event co- chaired by Scotland's first BME female MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh and Transport Minister Humza Yusaf MSP.

Humza Yousaf announced the launch of Bashir Ahmed Scholarship, which is a new initiative encouraging a greater number of black, Asian and minority ethnic people into political decision making in Scotland.

The scholarship, named in memory of the late SNP MSP Bashir Ahmad, will provide political mentoring and internship opportunities to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic members of the SNP. Bashir Ahmad made history in 2007 when he was elected as a Member of the Scottish Parliament, representing Glasgow on the regional list. He was the first Asian-Scot and non-white parliamentarian to sit in Holyrood. Bashir Ahmed died in February 2009.



### Dr Thomas Webber : Placement report (August 2017)

As an Assistant Support Lecturer in Law at the University of the West of England, I was delighted when I was given the opportunity to spend a month placed with an organisation relevant to my research interests. Given my interests lie in human rights, ELREC was a clear choice for me. Having made contact I was quickly placed primarily with Mizan Rahman in the Equalities Engagement team for my time at ELREC.

I say I was primarily placed with Mizan because I quickly learned that at ELREC volunteers are encouraged to mix around the various projects as much as possible. The Diversity in Public Life Project served to highlight the lack of representation and participation in democratic institutions in Edinburgh and the Lothians. It also taught me the importance of grassroots democratic mechanisms to open doors to participation in the democratic system in Edinburgh and Lothians.

While my background is academic, my experience at ELREC has both broadened my horizons and helped reemphasize the need for action on the ground to ensure the human rights of all are practical and effective.

I would commend volunteering at ELREC to anyone, but especially to young people looking to get an insight into the challenges facing civil society and who want to make an impact and difference with their time. The team at ELREC are exceptionally friendly and willing to share their knowledge and experience with you. So whatever your experience, you're sure to learn something worthwhile and new. Thank you everyone at ELREC for a wonderful month!



### Vacancies: Public Appointments

#### Company Secretary - Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

Location: Edinburgh

Remuneration: Circa £55K depending on qualifications and experience

Closing date: 15 November 2017 at midnight

For full details please visit: <https://www.sruc.ac.uk/jobs>



#### Independent Prison Monitors

Location: Various locations throughout Scotland

unremunerated - reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be met

Closing date 03 November 2017 at midnight

For an application please visit <https://applications.appointed-for-scotland.org>

#### Professional Members - Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel

Location: Edinburgh, and to other locations throughout Scotland

Remuneration: None

Closing date: 10 November 2017 at midnight

For an application please visit <https://applications.appointed-for-scotland.org>

## Support And Advice Service

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Support and Advice has been busy with many new cases. We are coping with an increased workload but thanks to the extra day and a half of office time, we can finally make a dent on some of our autumn case load.

We have made an appearance on Forth F.M news as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week, explaining to listeners to report whatever hate crimes they witness. It was good to get ELREC's name on the radio for an entire morning.

Case wise we have been helping with the case of a non-English speaker's negative experience of the child services in Scotland. For this, we are organising materials into an information letter that we hope to get to the First Minister as she reviews yet more increase in the powers of social services. We are also dealing with a harassment case that is high in complexity and difficulty. We hope to assist the victim in creating a safe space and supportive relationship to help them through reporting the crime.

We have taken charge of our own funding initiative and are preparing to host a jumble sale in Christmas working myself and Support and Advice volunteer Silvia Porcel working with Communities for Conservation and Bright Choices.

**Martin Krumins**

**[martin.krumins@elrec.org.uk](mailto:martin.krumins@elrec.org.uk)**





# STOP HATE CRIME



## 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](mailto: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
- Voluntary Action Fund
- Big Lottery Fund

## VOLUNTEERS

Adithya Suriyapperuma, Aileas Pringle, Alex Rainbow, Alexander Slowman, Alice Barker, Arati Chavan, Arran Imrie, Barbara Ena Ostrowska, Ceri Strang, Choi Ling Lzung, Christina Hellevik, Christophe Brogliolo, Connie Yeung, David Panton, David Weir, Deborah Nombebe, Diline Abushaban, Duncan Howard, Elle Bain, Emma Buchan, Ewan Logie, Francisco Saura Carillo, Gregor Hardie, Hazel Kapepala Makunku, Henry Omorere, Holli Kerr, Holly Smith, James McDonald, Jenny Scholtysik, Katerina Taliatzi, Kirsty Landale, Larissa Engelmann, Laura Sinclair, Lauren Bradley, Leda Mappouridou, Madhavi Lathha, Marilyn de Santos, Marta Gordon, Martina Massoli, Matilda Marshall, Mina Omarchevska, Nagat Hamed, Neena Agarwal, Paolo Cavaliere, Pawel Bladocha, Ratiba Kabli, Rebecca Hutchison, Roisin Bathe, Rong Fu, Russel Marlborough, Ryan Whyte, Sara Fitzimons, Sara Ridolfi, Stephanie Smith, Stuart Black, Tamsyn Londale-Smith, Thomas Sutcliffe, Wendy Tsang, Yueyue Fitzgerald, Yuklan Wong, Zach Allan

## 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

### Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC)

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Charity Number: SC007896

Company Number: SC183419

Larger print newsletter available on request

