Survey on
Diverse communities in public life and their participation in
the democratic process

SURVEY RESULTS (BRIEF)

ELREC- DIVERSITY IN PUBLIC LIFE, OCTOBER 2015

Supported by:
Aims: Diversity in Public Life & The Democratic Process

• To identify the actions that can be taken to increase democratic participation and representation
• To implement the identified actions to increase participation and representation
• To engage and work with public and private sector stakeholders to positively advance the participation
WHY?

• Scottish Parliament: only **1.5%** of the 129 MSPs are from ethnic minorities, well below of the 4% of Scotland's non-white population.
WHY ? Local Authority

• In the 2012 Local Government Elections, only 32 candidates were from non-white backgrounds across the 14 local authorities. Almost half (13) of them stood for Glasgow City Council.

• Total 17 BME Councillors out of a total 1223 seats in Scotland. This represents 1.4% of the total Scottish BME (4%) population.
WHY ? Local Authority

• Out of 32 local authorities 7 have BME representation
• The City of Edinburgh Council, 2nd largest (8% BME) non-white population
• Glasgow hosts 7 out of 17 Councillors in Scotland
• 4 BME women Councillors in Scotland
Why ? UK Parliament

• After the 2015 General Election, 43 BME MPs were elected which equates to 6.6% of the House of Commons MPs, compared with about a 14% BME population in the UK
Why ? Elsewhere

• Community Council: No Ethnicity information available
• Public Appointment: 3.3% of applicants came from a minority ethnic background, with 2.5% being appointed
QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

• Launched July 2015
• Paper based & Online
• 500 questionnaire distributed
• Concluded - 26 September
• 195 response received
• Outreach & support
SURVEY RESPONDENT: ETHNICITY

Ethnicity (%) of the survey respondents

Chienese: 5%
Polish: 7%
African / Caribbean: 7%
Bangladeshi: 9%
EU Others: 9%
Indian: 16%
Pakistani: 12%
Asian others: 9%
Scottish: 9%
British: 7%
Mixed/Others: 5%
Arabian: 5%
Irish: 2%

N = 116
SURVEY RESPONDENT: GENDER

Survey respondents by Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to answer</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 185
Who is representing you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>I know them</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEP</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Cllr</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSP</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 185
ELECTION & VOTE REGISTRATION

- Voting Rights
- Nationality
- Immigration Law

MORI (2015) 68% vs 58% | Scott Indy 84.5%
INTEREST IN POLITICS

Are you generally interested in politics?

- Not Sure: 8%
- No: 23%
- Yes: 69%

Are you a member of any UK/Scotland based political party?

- No: 90%
- Yes: 10%

N=181
N=179
Political involvement: UK vs Non UK

Do you belong to any Non-UK political party?

- Yes 26%
- No 74%

- Interest
- Belongingness/ Experience
- Confidence / Perception
- Non acceptance

Are you a member of any UK/Scotland based political party?

- Yes 90%
- No 10%

N=179

- Int’t Human Rights situation: Back home
- Get together with community
- Culture and Heritage
Involvement in politics

Would you consider joining a political party

- No: 61%
- Yes: 32%
- Not sure: 7%

N=172
## Non – political involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community groups, (e.g. Language school, Mosque, Library, Community Centre, Associations, Charity, Church), Citizen Advice Bureau</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood Planning, Community Councils, Local Forums, Gala, Residents association</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public appointments</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Barriers: Non Political involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not interested</th>
<th>Don't have time, busy with work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>don't know how to get involved / don’t know much of these</td>
<td>Never been asked or see the opportunity to do so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never encouraged or get support</td>
<td>Do not know about public appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never had the opportunity to do so</td>
<td>Didn’t know how to become involved with community councils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never got an invitation for interview of public appointment</td>
<td>Un-welcoming atmosphere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Involvement in public life

More people from BME & Women should involved?

- 90% Yes
- 10% No

Positive actions/ measures to increase participation?

- YES 50%
- NO 50%

N=108
Barriers : Public Life

Barriers to enter in public life & the democratic process

- Resource: 11%
- Aspiration: 13%
- Interest: 15%
- Encouragement: 24%
- Family: 26%
- Role model: 30%
- Education: 35%
- Confidence: 37%
- Support: 39%
- Prejudice: 41%
- Awareness: 50%

N = 172
Percentage (%) of respondents
What next?

- Study and Research
- Promotional Events
- Engagement with BME ‘role-models’
- Facilitating Mentoring/apprenticeships
- Support and advice
- Awareness & Information

PUBLIC LIFE CHAMPION

Eligibility:
Motivated individuals from BME communities
Live/Work in Edinburgh & Lothians

Benefits:
Customised support provision
Panel of highly experienced mentors
Greater flexibility

The Public Life Champion (PLC) scheme designed to increase participation of minority ethnic individuals into various levels of Public Life.
For detailed information and enrollment, contact: mrahman@elrec.org.uk
Community Group: Partnership

Don't Lose Your Vote

Bottle Registration

Bangladeshis in Scotland (CBS), a community partner of the ELREC - Diversity in public life and the democratic process Project (October 2015)
Please send your feedback

Mizan Rahman, Equality Engagement Officer
E-Mail: mraham@elrec.org.uk
Diversity in Public Life and the Democratic Process

ELREC’s New project aimed at Increasing engagement of the under represented minority ethnic community in public life and the democratic process across Edinburgh and the Lothians

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Study and research
- Promotional events
- Dialogue with BME ‘Role-models’
- Mentoring
- Support and advice
- Information service
COMMUNITY EVENT: ENGAGING DIVERSE COMMUNITY INTO
PUBLIC LIFE & DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

28 October 2015, Wednesday
6.00pm - 8.30pm
City of Edinburgh Methodist Church
25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX
(Beside the Mosque Kitchen)