

Equality Engagement / Diversity in Public Life

ELREC Newsletter June 2021

Diversity in Public life project was very busy over the last quarter as biggest democratic event, the Scottish Parliament election held on 06 May 2021. Key priority of diversity in public life project was to raise awareness among BME



electorate to register their vote so that they can take part in Scottish Parliament election. There was another priority to encourage BME electorate to sign up for postal ballot. It was essential to avoid visiting to the polling station. We have provided one-to-one support to the 45 BME families to register/update their electoral record. Nature of support involved dealing with people's personal information and liaising with the election registration office. Therefore, one to one support has been proven very effective. We have also disseminated information BME candidates and provided support to the BME party members who are willing to take part in campaigning.



We have raise aware ness on how voting system works in Scotland. Relevant Message, posts and information were reached over 500

people.

The information about polling day and covid-19 instruction was disseminated throughout various channel of social media.

Our covid 19 support and advice work is ongoing among the participants of PLC (public life champion) scheme. Useful information and support was given to the affected families regarding benefit, housing, income maximisation, technical help in accessing useful information and key services online i.e book a Covid-19 test online, online order of prescription, apply for UK passport etc. Over the period, 29 families have received support from the project.

Diversity in the Scottish Parliament Election: At a glance

Scottish Parliament election took place on 06 May 2021. It was great achievement of the BME candidates in this election. Three more MSPs from BME background has been elected this year. Overall participations of public in the election was substantially high despite restriction from the pandemic.

ELREC Chair Foyso Choudhury MBE has elected as a MSP for Lothian at this election. He was first ever-Bangladeshi MSP in Scotland. Also, Foyso Choudhury MBE was first ever Bangladesh Male parliamentarian in the UK. He was also first ever BME MSP in Lothian. We would like to congratulate him for his great success.



List of the MSPs from Equalities and Ethnic group

| Name of MSPs | Constituency | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Foyso Choudhury MBE | Lothian region (Lab) | First Bangladeshi MSP |
| Pam Gosal | West of Scotland (CON) | First Shikh/Indian MSP |
| Kaukab Stewart | Glasgow Pollok (SNP) | First BME Female MSP |
| Anas Sarwar | Glasgow Region (Lab) | First BME party leader |
| Humza Yousaf | Glasgow Pollok (SNP) | First BME Cabinet Secretary |
| Pam Duncan-Glancy | Glasgow region (Lab) | First wheel chair user MSP |
| Paul O'Kane | West of Scotland (Lab) | First openly gay MSP |

There were more BME candidates ever all over the Scotland at this year Scottish parliament election. Thanks to the political parties for taking positive step within their strategic framework to promote diversity within their candidates.

In Edinburgh and Lothians, there were four BAME candidates. Graham Campbell (SNP) stood on a regional list, Foyso Choudhury MBE (Labour) on regional list, Irshad Ahmed (ALBA) on regional list and Parvinder Singh (All For Unity) on regional list.

You can find your MSPs : <https://www.parliament.scot/msps>

Police Scotland Diversity Recruitment

Police Scotland Positive Action Team will be hosting an online information/recruitment event aimed at people from Minority Ethnic communities across Scotland.

Saturday 5th June 2021, 10am - 12pm



This event will give attendees and their families a fantastic opportunity to hear from serving Minority Ethnic officers and their experiences as a police officer in Scotland as well as the opportunity to ask questions. The event will also focus on the recruitment process and the training, with a unique insight in to life at the Scottish Police College at Tulliallan from a Minority Ethnic perspective.

To sign up, please contact the following email address:
recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk

If anyone from BAME community, lived around Edinburgh & Lothian, needs any information/support in terms of registration or participation, please get in touch with

us, we are happy to help. Contact: Mizan Rahman, Equality Engagement Officer, E-mail: mrahman@elrec.org.uk

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Scottish Youth Parliament Election 2021

In November 2021, elections to the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) will take place. The SYP represents Scotland's young people. Democratically elected members ensure that young people's voices are heard by decision-makers. The SYP represents an excellent opportunity for young people to influence the decisions that affect their lives. Recent successful campaigns have contributed to votes for 16 year olds, free bus travel for young people (due later this year), and the move to incorporate UNCRC into law.

We are very keen that we have a range of candidates that represent the demographic of Edinburgh so that a wide variety of voices can be heard.

All young people aged between 14 and 25 years old can stand for election to the SYP, and for all those involved the SYP represents an outstanding learning opportunity. More information is available on the SYP website: www.syp.org.uk, including about their next campaign, Bounce Back, which will focus on the response to the pandemic and its aftermath <https://syp.org.uk/campaign/bounce-back/>

The attached briefing, which we will update fortnightly between now and November, sets out our recent activity to support the elections.

The SYP has produced videos and graphics which can be used to promote the elections: <https://syp.org.uk/about-syp/syp-elections-2021/>

We hope that every young person who is passionate about making a difference, changing things and/or helping other young people will consider standing for election. We are asking youth workers, teachers, social workers and others who work with young people who may be interested in standing to encourage them to find out more - or find out more on their behalf.

For more information, please contact SYP Election Coordinator: Jackie Barr Jackie.Barr@edinburgh.gov.uk. We are at diversity in public life will be happy to help with the nomination, portfolio and campaign etc.

Key dates:

- 1 April to 30 June: Expression of interest to be a candidate, promotion of SYP to schools, youth groups and community organisations
- 1 July to 31 August: Confirmed candidate – interested young people commit to standing for election
- September onwards: Promote the vote – campaigning
- 8 – 21 November: Voting takes place across Scotland

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ARE YOU INTERESTED TO STAND AS COUNCILLOR AT THE NEXT YEAR'S LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTION?

If you lived around Edinburgh and Lothian and member of BME community. Please contact us and let us know about your express of interest

One-2-One support, advice, logistics and information will be provided.

Contact: Tel 0131 556 0441 E-mail MRahamn@elrec.org.uk
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