

Equality Scotland Housing for Older People

Wishing you a happy
and prosperous New Year

LANDMARK CONFERENCE MARKS A DECADE OF SUCCESS

A spectacular multicultural gathering at Scotland's first Ethnic Minority Older People's Conference marked a colourful new chapter for the Equal Opportunities Programme as it celebrated its 10th anniversary.

The event, hosted by the Trust Hanover (Scotland) and Bield housing associations, was organised in partnership with the Scottish Government's Age and Older Team, and held in October at MacDonal Inchyra Hotel in Falkirk.

The landmark event was attended by more than 350 guests from minority ethnic groups across Scotland and the main speaker was Alex Neil MSP, Minister for Housing and Communities who endorsed the work of the Equal Opportunities Programme and highlighted the important role of ethnic minorities in Scotland.

Dr. Sabine Schulz of the Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration of Germany

also spoke at the conference about the work being carried out for Migrant Elders across Europe.

Guests enjoyed a lunch from different cultures and live entertainment including traditional Indian dancers, Chinese dancers and African drummers. They also watched the first public showing of a special commemorative film which encapsulated the work of the Equal Opportunities Programme over the last 10 years.

" I am aware of the excellent work Trust, Hanover and Bield Housing Associations have done over the last 10 years in the Equal Opportunities Programme. I would like to congratulate them on their outstanding achievements."

**First Minister,
Rt. Hon Alex Salmond MSP**

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- 'Good Practice' recognition for equal opps
- Memories Project
- Get up and go awards 2009 runners up

Event Photos

www.EqualityScotland.com



Alex Neil, MSP with Chairs and the Chief Executives of Trust, Hanover (Scotland) and Bield Housing Associations



Guests at the Conference



Indian Classical Dance



Dr Schulz with Alex Neil, MSP

Event Photos continued



Chinese Dance



African Dance

OLDER PEOPLE SERVICES PROJECT EXTENDS REACH

The Older People Services Development Project is at the end of its second year and continues to help ethnic minority older people across Scotland to successfully claim the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

To date, more than 450 benefit checks have been carried out and over £366,000 in benefits has been raised. The additional income in each household has benefited many families, helping them cope financially during the prolonged recession.

In the third year we are looking to extend our services further north reaching communities living in Forfar, Aberdeen and the Highlands. We are keen as ever to make contact with hard to reach communities and to inform as many older people as possible of our services.

The project co-ordinators continue to hold surgeries in partnership with day care centres



LOTTERY FUNDED

and community organisations. Information on these surgeries is advertised within local communities.

If you are 60+ or know someone who may benefit from our services, no matter where they live in Scotland, we are able to help. Please contact Neeru (0131 444 4952) or Anthony (0131 444 4941) for an appointment.

DON'T DELAY, CLAIM TODAY!!!!!!

Rani Dhir appointed Chair of Happy to Translate



HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

The Happy To Translate project has appointed Rani Dhir, Executive Director of Drumchapel Housing Co-operative as the new Chair of its Strategic Advisory Group and welcomed on board six new members, including its first private sector members.

Rani takes over the post from outgoing Chair Helen Murdoch, Chief Executive of Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association who has been involved with the project since it began in 2004. We would like to thank Helen for her dedication to the project over the last five years and for her continued support.

Rani is a valuable new recruit to the position as she brings years of experience in serving some of the most deprived communities in Scotland. She is a pioneer of community ownership in housing and holds a number of other positions in the private and public sectors.

Happy to Translate continues to grow in influence and has welcomed six new members to the initiative, including its first private sector members, The Angel Group in Glasgow, a property specialist and City Warm Ltd, a consultancy specialising in gas.

The other new members include: **The Scottish Criminal Cases Review; Drumchapel Housing Cooperative; Cube Housing Association; and East Kilbride & District Housing Association.**

We are excited that the initiative continues to break new ground and attract more members in public-facing industries. We look forward to new growth opportunities in 2010.

If you are interested in finding out more on this project please contact:

Katrina McEntegart

Development and Marketing Officer on

0131 444 4951 or

kmcentegart@trustha.org.uk or visit our website:

www.EqualityScotland.com

JOB OPPORTUNITIES PROJECT SECURES NEW FUNDING



The Job Opportunities Support Project has secured funding from the Capital City Partnership which will enable it to continue its innovative work for a further two years.

The project, which delivers greater access to job opportunities for people from ethnic minority backgrounds and develops links between communities and employers, will revisit and revise its activities and expand its contacts and partnerships.

The project has successfully developed further partnerships and links with community organisations as well as with various agencies working in a similar field or providing additional support services such as 'Working for Families', Shakti, and CORE.

As well as providing guidance and support to individuals seeking paid employment, the project works closely with employers to arrange work placements. Placements provide valuable work

experience for trainees, giving them new skills, increased confidence and a valid reference.

They have proven to be very successful, with positive outcomes for both trainees and also employers who regard the placements as an excellent opportunity to benefit from the project.

The project has already assessed 42 individuals and provided them with support. Referrals have come from organisations, word-of-mouth, and also self referral. Previous clients are still in contact and two individuals have secured permanent jobs via the project.

We have already organised two new placements and made arrangements with employers for further placements aimed at helping to break down barriers and create job opportunities.

The Project ensures support services are relevant to the needs of ethnic minority people as well as to employers.

If you know someone who could benefit from the project please contact:

Nasreen Amjad
Job Opportunities Development Officer on
0131 444 4953 or
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or visit our website:
www.EqualityScotland.com



Memories Project

The Memories Project involved the collection of personal stories about immigration to Scotland in the 1950s and 1960s by people from minority ethnic communities.

A book displaying sample double-page spreads of immigration memoirs from 10 individuals from a minority ethnic background was produced with additional original photography, archive visual material we have collated, and transcripts of research interviews with a further 18 older people.

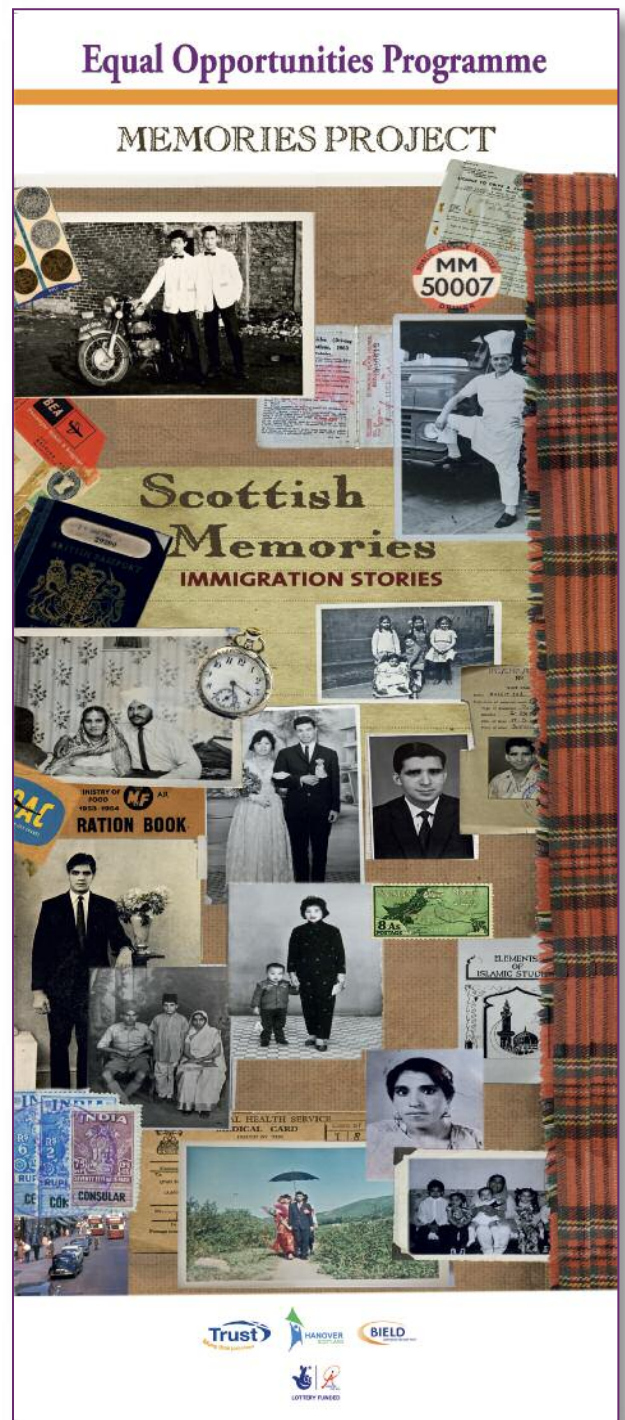
For background, the project was carried out by a special team assembled by the Equal Opportunities Programme. The project team comprised a book designer, writer and editor, photographer and interpreters.

The stories and images in the book concept are intended to show the style of full-length book we intend to produce if we are granted further funding for this project.

The stories were compiled following extensive individual research interviews with the subjects. The research required patience and an understanding of older people's feelings and their need to proceed at their own pace when recalling their early lives as immigrants.

Key findings from the Memories Project include the fact that older people from minority ethnic backgrounds represent a valuable untapped source of first-hand information about an important aspect of modern immigration history in Scotland (and the wider UK).

Awards for All funding enabled us to achieve all of our key goals for the 'Memories Project' and categorically demonstrated that it has the potential to be further developed into a unique and vibrant historical memoir.



Italian health delegation comes to Edinburgh

A delegation of Italian health visitors came to Edinburgh on a fact finding mission to learn more about the innovative projects undertaken by the service providers.

The Italian group was keen to focus on proactive work with ethnic minority groups and to assess how they could transfer ideas developed in Scotland to Italy.

The visitors participated in a lively mutual exchange of ideas over lunch and left with an array of information on the individual projects run by the Equal Opportunities Programme.

Italy has the fourth largest population within the European Union and a total of 7.5% are from immigrant nations.

STAFF JOINS MIGRANT ELDERS EVENT IN EUROPE

Rohini Sharma Joshi and Helen Murdoch (Chief Executive, Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association) represented the Equal Opportunities Programme in a special international workshop focused on improving the lives of migrant elders across Europe.

The workshop, which took place in Brussels in October, was organised as part of the Active Ageing and Migrant Elders in Europe (AAMEE) project and was held in partnership with the European Commission.

Discussions included ways in which mutual integration, active ageing and empowerment of older people can contribute to happier and more fulfilled lives for migrant elders across Europe.

The main speakers were from the European Commission, Parliament and the AAMEE project.

Statistical data shows that the number of elders aged 65-79 will increase throughout the European Union over the next 20 years while the number of younger people will decrease significantly, presenting significant demographic, social and economic challenges.

'GOOD PRACTICE' EUROPEAN RECOGNITION FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES PROJECT

The high quality work carried out by the Equal Opportunities Programme has been recognised with inclusion in a new European publication showcasing 'Good Practice' by organisations working to improve the lives of Ethnic Minority older people.

The new 'Good Practice' publication is being produced following a successful European Conference and Good Practice exchange programme in year 2008 called 'Active Ageing and Migrant Elders in Europe (AAMEE).'

The Equal Opportunities Programme is delighted to have achieved recognition at a European level and to be included as an example of 'Good Practice.'

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Get up and Go Awards 2009

We are delighted that the 'Equal Opportunities Programme' received the certificate for Runners Up for **"Encouraging the Participation of Older People in Edinburgh"** at the Get up and Go Awards.

The awards ceremony was held on Wednesday 22 July in the City Chambers.



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This newsletter is a joint publication by **Trust, Hanover (Scotland)** and **Bield Housing Associations**. Previous issues can be viewed at **www.EqualityScotland.com** If you would like to make comments or suggestions, or if you want your event or project to be considered for publication, please contact:

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