

November 2015 - Equality Advisory Group Membership Details

Chair: Vacant

Vice Chair: Vacant

Committee Members:

Bill Gray, Fife Disability Trainers

Susan Anderson, Mental Health Act Facilitator, NHS Fife

Monica Lee-MacPherson, Reciprocal Exchange Network Development Officer

Heather McVey, YouthLink Scotland

Diego Quiroz-Onate, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Michele Burman, Criminologist, University of Glasgow

Maureen Sier, Interfaith Scotland

MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Chair: Vacant

Bill Gray, Disability Equality Trainer: Qualifying through the Open University course in 1990, Bill established the Fife Disability Equality Trainers and now works with a wide spectrum of organisations in the public and private sectors. His training and facilitation work extends to special projects, such as the Portuguese Government's evaluation of social services for disabled people and the introduction of disability legislation and reviews of service provision in this country. Bill is a Tribunal member for Social Security appeals, Vice Chair and founder member of Dunfermline Citizen Advocacy Initiative and Committee member and founder of Fife Independent Disability Network. Bill is a wheelchair user and a qualified Yacht Master, sailing his 30 foot yacht round the coasts of Scotland, Northern England and Ireland.

Susan Anderson, Mental Health Facilitator NHS Fife: Susan joined the NHS in 1978 as a psychiatric nurse where she worked in acute and rehabilitative psychiatry. She is currently the Mental Health Act Facilitator for NHS Fife and her role includes facilitating and coordinating the implementation of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, in partnership with clinical and managerial colleagues, using knowledge and expertise on the legislation, and acting as a specialist resource for professional colleagues. In addition, she provides advice, training and support in all areas of legislation affecting mental health and learning disability services.

Monica Lee-MacPherson, Reciprocal Exchange Network Development Officer. Monica has been a volunteer and a working interpreter in the

Highlands & Moray areas for 22 years. She works alongside several ethnic minority communities at grassroots level to promote race equality and equal opportunities. Her passion and experience in this area has led her to become involved in many community consultations and projects that bring cultural awareness to the Northern part of Scotland. She is currently a member of the Northern Constabulary Community Advisory Group, the Moray College Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Moray Council Equality Forum, Crimestoppers Advisory Board as well as a member of the Loch Ness Rotary Club. She is chairperson of the Scottish Highlands & islands and Moray Chinese Association (SHIMCA). She joined CEMVO Scotland in May 2009 working as a part-time Reciprocal Exchange Network (REN) Development Officer based in Inverness. Her responsibilities included developing the REN as a tool to encourage partnership, exchange skills, resources and best practice, promoting it and supporting members to get involved in the REN. In 2009 Monica was awarded an MBE for her contribution to the Chinese community in the Highland & Islands and Moray.

Heather McVey, Senior Practice Development Officer, YouthLink

Scotland: Heather has substantial experience representing youth work and advocating for the needs of young people at local, national and international levels. Equalities work has been central to this through championing inclusion, promotion of accessible of services and the mobility of young people. With particular focus in practice development; development of resources, seminars and training of youth workers and other associated professionals as well as influencing the formation of policy. Heather have worked predominantly in public and voluntary sector settings. Specific characteristics covered; Age, Gender, LGBT and BME. Themes of work have included; health and well being, homelessness, literacy, poverty, financial capability, participation, democracy and justice.

Diego Quiroz-Onate, Policy Officer at the Scottish Human Rights

Commission: Originally from Colombia. Most recently, Diego was an independent expert on Human Rights Institutions for the European Commission's Peer Review Mission to Turkey on Judiciary and Fundamental Rights (2011). Before joining the Commission he held a lectureship in Law at the Robert Gordon University and was a visiting lecturer at Universitat Jaume I Spain, and ESC Clermont, France. Diego has a LLM in International Human Rights Law, Organisations and Humanitarian Law from the Lund University, Sweden, and his academic work in the areas of human rights law, asylum and immigration and the responsibilities of non-state actors under international law has been published internationally. His research has led to him working with the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Business and Human Rights at Harvard University, United States.

Michele Burman, Professor of Criminology and Deputy Head, School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Glasgow. Michele is a

founding co-Director of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR). She has held research positions at Edinburgh and Aberdeen Universities, as well as within the Scottish Executive where she was a senior research officer in criminology in the central research unit. Michele has a long-standing research interest in violence against women, in particular the criminal justice response to rape, sexual assault and domestic violence. She has allied research interests in the areas of gender, crime and criminal justice, with a particular interest in young women and girls at risk of being drawn into the criminal justice system.

Maureen Sier, Director of Interfaith Scotland: Maureen has a PhD in Religious and Cultural Studies from Aberdeen University and has worked in the field of interfaith relations for over 12 years. She became the Director of Interfaith Scotland in 2012. Interfaith Scotland is a national organisation which aims to: provide a forum for religions to dialogue with one another; support wider interfaith dialogue within society; promote education about interfaith dialogue; encourage civic engagement by religions in Scotland and support religion and belief equality in Scotland. Maureen's commitment to interfaith engagement has led her to undertake interfaith activities in Europe, America and Asia Pacific. In 2007 she received a UK/US Fulbright International Interfaith Scholarship. The Fulbright Scholarship led to Maureen spending time in America contributing to, and learning from, interfaith work in the US. Prior to working for Interfaith Scotland Maureen taught Sociology and History at the National University of Samoa in the South Pacific and Maureen has been privileged to return to Samoa to assist in developing an interfaith programme for the National University of Samoa.

Policy Division
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