

Directory of Community Groups for Engagement & Participation in Aberdeen City

Overview

This resource has been developed by the Aberdeen Equalities Participation Network, to improve engagement with equality-related groups and organisations in the City. Apart from ‘general’ organisations (page 2), all groups are listed by characteristic, and may be listed in two or three categories if relevant.

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All the details below are publicly available, or shared with permission. For most instances where the only contact is an individual’s private email or telephone number, they can be contacted through GREC. **If you would like details of your group added, changed or removed, please contact info@grec.co.uk.**

Please note that this list does not cover every group related to a protected characteristic – it focuses on reaching groups that tend to be left out. For example, under ‘religion,’ most ‘mainstream’ churches are not included. Instead, we have included minority religions (e.g. Islam and Judaism) and Christian churches that cater to ethnic minority populations or other marginalised groups.

Tips for Positive Engagement – First Steps

Keep public information up to date, and provide **multiple formats**. For example written information can have versions in different languages, large text or easy read, and video should have subtitles, with BSL or other languages if possible.

Provide different ways to ask questions – not just email, but a phone number and (post-Covid) a location or event where people can ask questions in person.

Have realistic expectations. Don’t expect the group to have all the answers or do the work for you – seek ‘partners not donkeys.’

Tips for Positive Engagement – Reaching Out

Think about who to contact, and **how** to reach out. Is your issue/project relevant for a specific group? **Your approach needs to make sense to the community.**

Think about why you’re contacting the group. What is the objective? Do you want feedback about your services, help developing a new policy, participation in an event? Be clear about what you need from people.

Go to the source, and avoid tokenism. When making policies or decisions that affect ‘seldom heard’ communities, it’s important to go directly to the people themselves (and sometimes to organisations who work with those people).

Start early in the process – not just as a tick-box at the end. Where possible, invite people in the community to be involved at **all stages**.

Ensure people feel genuinely listened to. Take a culturally aware approach, try to understand context, and treat people with dignity and respect.

Build and maintain relationships – not just when you want something. Make sure to **follow-up** and let the community know what’s happening.

Ask people how they want to be involved, and **what they need**. For example, some meeting times, places or formats will work better than others, or interpreters may be required.

Communicate in appropriate ways – avoid jargon, use clear language, and talk about things in ways that make sense to people without specialist knowledge.

Be aware of power dynamics. Avoid being paternalistic or talking down to people. Make sure people have **real power** in the discussion, take their views **seriously**, and make the process **worthwhile for everyone**.

Don’t waste people’s time. Ensure you’re engaging on something that can actually lead to change. If nothing is likely to change, or you’re seeking support for the status quo, reconsider whether community engagement is worthwhile.

General Charities and Organisations

Organisation	Contact	Website
ACVO: Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations Umbrella body for all charities in Aberdeen.	01224 686058 enquiries@acvo.org.uk	acvo.org.uk
GREC: Grampian Regional Equality Council Charity tackling discrimination and promoting positive community relations in North East Scotland	01224 595505 info@grec.co.uk	grec.co.uk
University and College Students' Associations General points of contact for student groups across all equalities characteristics.	Aberdeen University: ausa@abdn.ac.uk	ausa.org.uk
	Robert Gordon University: hello@rguunion.co.uk	rguunion.co.uk
	North East Scotland College: nescolsa@nescol.ac.uk	nescol.ac.uk/college-services/students-association
Staff Networks Contacts for equalities networks in large organisations, e.g. Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian, etc.	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>
Progress in Dialogue Scotland-wide alliance of marginalised communities	01356 630349 enquiry@progressindialogue.org.uk	progressindialogue.org.uk

Specific Charities and Community Groups (listed by Characteristic)

Age (Children and Young People)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Aberdeen Care Experienced	Local information for looked after children and young people	aberdeencareexperienced.org.uk
Aberdeen City Youth Council	The voice of young people age 12-25 in Aberdeen city`	sites.google.com/view/aberdeen-city-youth-council/home
Aberdeen Foyer	Housing, training and support for young people in Aberdeen	aberdeenfoyer.com
Abernessities	Charity providing practical support for families with children	abernecessities.co.uk
Action for Children	UK-wide charity supporting children and young people	actionforchildren.org.uk
African Youth Group	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>
Befriend a Child	Aberdeen-based charity supporting school-age children	befriendachild.org.uk
Kings Community Church Young People's Group	Church-based youth group	<i>Please contact through GREC</i>
LGBT+ Youth Scotland	Scotland-wide charity supporting LGBT+ young people	lgbtyouth.org.uk
Mermaids	UK-wide charity for gender-diverse children and young people	mermaidsuk.org.uk
SHMU Train	Employability-based programmes for young people age 16-25	shmu.org.uk/train
Sunrise Partnership	Aberdeen-based charity supporting bereaved children and young people	sunrisepartnership.org
WeToo	Aberdeen magazine for children with additional support needs	weto.org.uk
Who Cares Scotland	Scotland-wide charity for care experienced young people	whocaresScotland.org
Zone Youth LGBT+ Group	Aberdeen youth group for LGBT+ young people	facebook.com/zoneyouthlgbt

Age (Older People & Intergenerational)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Aberdeen Voice of Experience	Aberdeen-based group for older people	<i>Please contact through GREC</i>
ACC Sheltered Housing Group	Network of 40 sheltered housing complexes across Aberdeen	channaford@aberdeencity.gov.uk · 01224 522839
Age Scotland	Scotland-wide charity supporting older people	ageuk.org.uk/scotland
Care and Repair	Practical advice and assistance for Aberdeen residents aged 60+	aberdeencareandrepair.co.uk
Castlehill Housing Association	Provider of affordable, sheltered and amenity housing	castlehillha.co.uk
Generations Working Together	UK-wide charity to connect older and younger people	generationsworkingtogether.org
Silver City Surfers	Tech support and workshops for older people in Aberdeen	silvercitysurfers@gmail.com

Disability (General)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Aberdeen Action on Disability	User-led disability charity	aad-online.com
Advocacy Aberdeen	Free advocacy for people with mental health and learning disabilities, domestic abuse victims, carers, and those receiving social care	advocacy.org.uk
DEP (Disability Equity Partnership)	ACC partnership promoting inclusion and removing barriers	equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Future Choices	User-led charity providing social inclusion and recreation	future-choices.org.uk
Inclusion Scotland	Scotland-wide disabled people's organisation	inclusionscotland.org
Scottish Disability Sport	Charity developing sport and physical recreation for disabled people	scottishdisabilitysport.com
Shopmobility/AbleDeen	Mobility support for shopping and getting around Aberdeen	shopmobilityaberdeen.org.uk · abledeen.org.uk
WeToo	Aberdeen magazine for children with additional support needs	wetoo.org.uk
Help for Heroes	UK-wide charity supporting wounded veterans and their families	helpforheroes.org.uk

Disability (Specific)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Archway	Parent-led charity for people with learning disabilities and their families	www.archway.org.uk
Asthma and Allergy Foundation	UK-wide charity providing health information, advice and support	asthmaandallergy.org.uk
British Deaf Association	UK-wide organisation run by and for deaf people	bda.org.uk
Cerebral Palsy Aberdeen	Local charity supporting people with cerebral palsy and their families	facebook.com/groups/1715722131995909
Contact Scotland BSL	Scotland-wide interpreting video relay service	contactscotland-bsl.org
Dates and Mates	User-led group for people with learning difficulties	dates-n-mates.co.uk/aberdeen
Deaf Club Aberdeen	Social club for BSL users	TBC
Deafblind Scotland	Scotland-wide charity supporting deafblind people	dbscotland.org.uk
Fibromyalgia Support Group	Facebook support group for Aberdeen residents with fibromyalgia	facebook.com/groups/80670548093/
Grampian Autistic Society	Parent-led charity providing support for autistic people and their families	grampianautisticsociety.co.uk
Guide Dogs	UK-wide charity training dogs to assist blind and visually-impaired people	guidedogs.org.uk
The Leanne Fund	Supporting people with cystic fibrosis in Grampian, Highlands & Islands	theleannefund.co.uk
Learning Disability Group of Aberdeen and Shire	User-led group for people with learning disabilities	ldgroupa.wixsite.com/aberdeenandshire
Mencap	UK-wide charity for people with learning disabilities	mencap.org.uk
MHA (Mental Health Aberdeen)	Local charity providing counselling and information on mental health	mha.uk.net

Disability (Specific) (continued)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
MS Society	UK-wide organisation for people with multiple sclerosis	mssociety.org.uk/care-and-support/local-support/local-groups/aberdeen-group
NESS (North East Sensory Services)	Grampian-based charity for people with sight loss and/or hearing loss	nesensoryservices.org
Our Positive Voice	Grampian-wide charity run by and for people living with HIV/AIDS	ourpositivevoice.org
Rosie's Social Enterprises	Vocational training, support and work experience for people recovering from acquired brain injuries, mental health issues, and other conditions	turningpointscotland.com/getting-support/aberdeen/rosies-social-enterprises/
SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health)	Scotland-wide charity providing mental health and support services	samh.org.uk
Scottish Women's Autism Network (SWAN)	Scotland-wide organisation by and for women with autism	swanscotland.org
Singing Hands	Aberdeen-based BSL choir	TBC
Triple-As + One Stop Shop	Autistic led peer support, training, 1:1 support for autistic people, their families and professionals, soon to be called Adapt	webspaces.triplea.uk.com/ webspaces.oss-aberdeen.co.uk/

Disability (Housing/Care)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Blackwood Homes & Care	Accessible and supported housing for people with a range of needs	blackwoodgroup.org.uk
Camphill	Community based care for people with learning disabilities and other support needs	camphillscotland.org.uk
Cornerstone	Scotland-wide social care provider	cornerstone.org.uk
Disabled Persons' Housing Service	Aberdeen-based charity providing advice, support and advocacy	dphsaberdeen.org
Granite Care	Consortium of health and social care providers	granite.care/members
Inspire	North East provider of residential and social care for people with learning disabilities and additional support needs	inspireptl.org.uk
Turning Point	Scotland-wide social care provider	turningpointscotland.com

Race/Ethnicity (General)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Aberdeen Multicultural Centre	Local charity with a range of services, activities and events	abmc.org.uk
City of Sanctuary	Creating a welcoming place for those fleeing violence and persecution	aberdeen.cityofsanctuary.org
Ethnic Minority Forum	Identifying issues that affect the diverse communities of Aberdeen	facebook.com/emfaberdeen
GREC (Grampian Regional Equality Council)	Promoting equalities, historically with an emphasis on race equality	grec.co.uk
In-Trans	Social enterprise providing interpreting and translation services	in-trans.co.uk
MECOPP	Scotland-wide charity supporting ethnic minority carers	mecopp.org.uk

Race/Ethnicity (English for Speakers of Other Languages)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Aberdeen City Council ESOL classes	Free ESOL classes for Aberdeen residents	acceal.org.uk/english-classes-for-adults
Cameo International Women's group	'Come And Meet Each Other,' based in the Mission Church (all welcome)	facebook.com/cameoabz
GREC Language Support	Informal English practice and ESOL classes for work	grec.co.uk/language-support
Learning English in Aberdeen	Facebook page listing Aberdeen ESOL opportunities	facebook.com/LearnEnglishAberdeen
NESCOL (North East Scotland College)	Full-time and part-time ESOL classes	nescol.ac.uk/search/esol/
WEA (Workers' Education Association)	ESOL classes in Aberdeen	TBC

Race/Ethnicity (Specific)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Aberdeen/shire Bangladeshi Association	TBC	TBC
Aberdeen Bangladeshi Welfare Trust	Promoting Bangladeshi sports, religion, education, arts and culture	abwt.org.uk
African and Caribbean Christian Fellowship	TBC	TBC
African Catholic Community	Aberdeen religious community group for African Catholics	facebook.com/African-Catholic-Community-Aberdeen-ACCA-107501427570084
African Catholic Women's group	TBC	TBC
African Council	Scotland-wide charity for African communities	africancouncil.org.uk
African Women's Group	Charity for empowering African women across Scotland	africanwomenscotland.org.uk
African Youth Group	TBC	TBC
Article 12	Scotland-wide charity for Gypsy/Travellers	article12.org
As-Salaam Project + Women's group	Syrian New Scots led group	facebook.com/SalaamAberdeen

Race/Ethnicity (Specific) (continued)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Bengali Cultural Association	Aberdeen community group celebrating Bengali culture	https://www.facebook.com/aberdeenbengali
Bornomala Aberdeen	Bengali Language School	Please contact through GREC
Brazilian group	Brazilian community group	Please contact through GREC
Cameo International Women's group	'Come And Meet Each Other,' based in the Mission Church (all welcome)	facebook.com/cameoabz
Chinese Housing Project	Based in Castlehill Housing Association	TBC
Chinese Christian Church (Bon Accord Terrace)	Chinese Christian Church (Bon Accord Terrace)	Please contact through GREC
Chinese Christian Church (Crown Terrace)	Church services in Mandarin and Cantonese, community/youth groups	aberdeenchinesecc.org.uk
Chinese School	Based at Cults Academy, currently inactive due to lockdowns	aberdeenchineseschool.org.uk
Filipino Association	Filipino community group	Please contact through GREC
Ghanaian Association	TBC	TBC
Grampian Gypsy/Traveller Interagency Group	Group of public and third sector organisations, and Gypsy/Traveller community members, seeking to address inequalities and discrimination	Gypsy/Traveller liaison officer: Amanda Farquhar afarquhar@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Igbo Community Aberdeen	Igbo community group in Aberdeen	ica-uk.org
Indian Association of North East Scotland	Community group celebrating Indian religious and cultural festivals	facebook.com/ianesaberdeen
Lithuanian Society (ALNES)	Lithuanian community group in Aberdeen	facebook.com/AlnesAssociation
Malawi Association	TBC	TBC
Malayalee Association	Support for Malayalam speakers in North East Scotland	facebook.com/Aberdeenmalayalee
Nepalese Himalayan Association	Community group promoting Nepalese language and culture in Aberdeen	nepalesehimalayan.org
Organisation for Nepalese Culture & Welfare	Community group promoting Nepalese culture and traditions in Aberdeen	oncw.org.uk
Nigerian Association	TBC	TBC
Polish Association	Community group for Polish people in Aberdeen	paaberdeen.co.uk
Polish Sunny School	Polish-language school, promoting Polish language and culture	sites.google.com/site/polishsunnyschool
Romanian Church	Romanian Orthodox Church, also offering community support	parohiaaberdeen.org.uk
Russian Education and Support Centre (Slovo)	Promoting Russian language and culture in Aberdeen	slovo.org.uk
South American group	TBC	TBC
Sunshine Mothers	Aberdeen-based African mothers' Group	TBC
Tamil Association Aberdeen	TBC	TBC
Thai Buddharam Temple	Thai Buddhist temple and cultural centre	thaibuddharam.org.uk
Turkish Education and Culture Trust	Aberdeen-based Turkish community group	facebook.com/aberdeenturkisheducationculturetrust

Religion/Belief (General)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Aberdeen Holocaust Memorial Day Committee	Aberdeen-based group that organises HMD commemoration events	<i>Please contact through GREC</i>
Aberdeen Interfaith	Building connections between faith groups in Aberdeen	facebook.com/InterfaithAB
City of Sanctuary	Creating a welcoming place for those fleeing violence and persecution	aberdeen.cityofsanctuary.org

Religion/Belief (Minority Religious Groups)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Aberdeen Bahá'í Community	Local Bahá'í community	aberdeenbahai.org.uk
Aberdeen Buddhist Group	Currently on hiatus due to Covid-19	aberdeenbuddhistgroup.org.uk
Aberdeen Gurudwara	Aberdeen Sikh Sangat	aberdeengurudwara.com
Aberdeen Hindu Association	Hindu temple and community organisation	aberdeentemple.org.uk
Aberdeen Methodist Church	Aberdeen Methodist Church	aberdeenmethodist.org.uk
Aberdeen Mosque and Islamic Centre	Mosque and Madrasa	aberdeenmosque.org
Aberdeen Muslim Women's Association	Muslim women's community group	facebook.com/aberdeenmuslimwomenassociation
Aberdeen Muslims	Community group and information resource for Muslims in Aberdeen	aberdeenmuslims.org
Aberdeen Synagogue	Synagogue and Jewish Community Centre	asjcc.co.uk
African Catholic Community	Aberdeen religious community group for African Catholics	facebook.com/African-Catholic-Community-Aberdeen-ACCA-107501427570084
African Catholic Women's group	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>
Al Hikmah Mosque	Mosque and community space	masjidalhikmah.org.uk
Al-Noor Islamic School	Islamic education for Muslim children	alnoorschoolaberdeen.com
Cameo International Women's group	'Come And Meet Each Other,' based in the Mission Church (all welcome)	facebook.com/cameoabz
Chinese Christian Church (Bon Accord Terrace)	Chinese Christian Church (Bon Accord Terrace)	<i>Please contact through GREC</i>
Chinese Christian Church (Crown Terrace)	Church services in Mandarin and Cantonese, community/youth groups	aberdeenchinesecc.org.uk
City of God / Jesus House	Redeemed Christian Church of God	jesushouseaberdeen.org
Crown Terrace Mosque	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>
The Father's House	Church with additional community services	the-fathers-house.org.uk
Foresterhill Mosque (ARI)	Mosque on the grounds of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary	aberdeenmosque.org/Index/dynamic/17-prayer-places/foresterhill
Fountain of Love	Church with additional community services	fountainoflove.org.uk

Religion/Belief (Minority Religious Groups) (continued)		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Greek Orthodox Church	St Matthew Greek Orthodox Church in Aberdeen	facebook.com/GreekOrthodoxChurch
Hindu Temple Trust	Hindu community group	<i>Please contact through GREC</i>
Kadampa Meditation Centre	Buddhist meditation centre	meditateinaberdeen.org
Kings Community Church	Christian church	kingschurchaberdeen.com
Kings Community Church Young People's Group	Church-based youth group	<i>Please contact through GREC</i>
New Life International Church	Church with additional community services	newlife-internationalchurch.org
Polish Ministry of Aberdeen	Catholic Polish language services	aberdeen-pl.rcda.scot
Quakers	Aberdeen Quaker meeting house	quakerscotland.org/aberdeen
Romanian Church	Romanian Orthodox Church, also offering community support	parohiaaberdeen.org.uk
Sacred Heart Torry	Catholic church with services in Polish	sacredhearttorry.com
Seventh Day Adventist Church	Churches in the City Centre and Bucksburn	aberdeensda.org
Thai Buddharam Temple	Thai Buddhist temple and cultural centre	thaibuddharam.org.uk
Varapunya Buddhist Society	Buddhist meditation centre	varapunyabuddhistsociety.org
<i>Other Churches w/Ethnic Minority populations</i>	<i>Still to add</i>	<i>Still to add</i>

Sex/Gender		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Aberdeen Muslim Women's Association	Muslim women's community group	facebook.com/aberdeenmuslimwomenassociation
Aberdeen Women's Alliance	Women's community group, with history sub-group	facebook.com/Aberdeen-Womens-Alliance-111157498951625
African Catholic Women's group	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>
African Women's Group	Charity for empowering African women across Scotland	africanwomenscotland.org.uk
Cameo International Women's group	'Come And Meet Each Other,' based in the Mission Church (all welcome)	facebook.com/cameoabz
FearFree	Supporting male and/or LGBTI+ victims of domestic abuse	sacro.org.uk/services/criminal-justice/fearless
Grampians Women's Aid	Emotional and practical support for female victims of domestic abuse	grampian-womens-aid.com
Hysteria	Monthly performance night for women, trans and non-binary people	facebook.com/hysteriaABDN
Men's Sheds	Practical and social support in Bridge of Don, Ferryhill, and Cove/Altens	scottishmsa.org.uk/find-a-shed
Rape Crisis Grampian	Support and information for rape survivors age 13+	rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk

Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Reassignment/Transgender Identity		
Organisation	Description	Website or Contact
Aberdeen Fronrunners	Aberdeen-based LGBT+ inclusive running group	aberdeenfronrunners.co.uk
Equality Network	Scotland-wide LGBT+ charity	equality-network.org
FearFree	Supporting male and/or LGBTI+ victims of domestic abuse	sacro.org.uk/services/criminal-justice/fearless
Four Pillars	Aberdeen-based charity supporting LGBT+ people	fourpillarsuk.org
Fruit Salad	Aberdeen queer performance night	facebook.com/fruitsaladaberdeen
Grampian Pride	Annual event celebrating the LGBT+ community	grampianpride.org
Hysteria	Monthly performance night for women, trans and non-binary people	facebook.com/hysteriaABDN
LGBT+ Health	Scotland-wide charity promoting LGBT+ health and wellbeing	lgbthealth.org.uk
LGBT+ Youth Scotland	Scotland-wide charity supporting LGBT+ young people	lgbtyouth.org.uk
Mermaids	UK-wide charity for gender-diverse children and young people	mermaidsuk.org.uk
North East LGBT+ Development Group	<i>Currently inactive</i>	<i>Please contact through GREC</i>
Scottish Trans Alliance	Scotland-wide charity supporting transgender people	scottishtrans.org
Stonewall Scotland	Scotland-wide charity for LGBT+ people	stonewallscotland.org.uk
Zone Youth LGBT+ Group	Aberdeen youth group for LGBT+ young people	facebook.com/zoneyouthlgbt