



Editors Note

Welcome to the newest edition of the GREC Community Bulletin, and our first bulletin of 2024!

The new year is off to a busy start, and in the following pages we've included a project update from our **In-Trans** service, information about our **Policy & Research** work, and events from our **PATH** project.

This edition also includes information about **International Women's Day** events and reflections from this year's **Holocaust Memorial Day** event.

If you have any questions about our projects and services, please contact us via the details opposite or follow the link below to our website. The GREC team looks forward to seeing you this year. Thanks for reading!

[WEBSITE](#)

[FACEBOOK](#) | [TWITTER](#)

CONTACT:

General Enquiries/Training:

info@grec.co.uk
01224 595505

InTrans:

Interpreting & translation services with special rates for the third sector.

in-trans@grec.co.uk
01224 576795

Casework:

Confidential advice, support and financial inclusion service.

casework@grec.co.uk
07857 180175

Counselling:

Confidential counselling for adults, children and young people.

vtu@grec.co.uk

Language & Integration:

Free English language education up to four times per week.

language-cafe@grec.co.uk
01224 576797

GREC Updates

In-Trans Service

For 17 years, GREC's interpreting and translation service, In-Trans, has supported ethnic minority communities in Grampian and beyond to access reliable interpreting and translating services.

At In-Trans, we take great pride in our ongoing development, consistently improving our services to meet the highest standards. This includes implementing external oral and written assessments in our recruitment process for community interpreters and continued professional development opportunities for fully qualified interpreters.

In-Trans currently works with over 120 skilled professionals fluent in 54 languages and provides these services to public, private, and third sector organisations.

Moreover, we believe in giving service providers the tools they need to work effectively with interpreters, so we offer specialised training sessions.

As we look back on our journey, we stay committed to our main goal: creating meaningful connections and making sure everyone has fair access to information to make informed decisions. GREC's In-Trans service is not just about language; it's about building bridges among our community members.

If you want to know more about our services, please [click here](#) to visit our website. We are also currently seeking native Lithuanian, Romanian and Turkish speakers who are fluent in English to join our pool of interpreters, Please email Rosilda at in-trans@grec.co.uk to enquire about these roles

PATH Events

Our PATH (Prejudice & Solidarity Archived Through History) project is a community-led heritage project run in collaboration with our partners at Four Pillars.

PATH volunteers conduct research into the history of Aberdeen's diverse communities. There are two exciting events this month featuring our PATH community researchers.

The first event, a collaboration with the **Egyptian Society Aberdeen** led by Dr Shaaban Abd Elgawad, took place this **Thursday 7th March** from 5pm at the GREC office, **278 King Street**. Many thanks to all who attended and to Dr Shabaan for sharing his expertise!

Our PATH volunteer Priya will also presenting research at our International Women's Day event this Saturday- see the IWD section below or [click here](#) for details.

For more information about either of these events, or to find out how you can get involved in the PATH project, please contact Louise at lhenrard@grec.co.uk



Egypt's Efforts To Preserve Its Cultural Heritage, Combat Illegal Trafficking In Cultural Property And Recover What Was Stolen.

A talk by
Dr Shaaban Abd Elgawad
Head of The Repatriation of Antiquities Department
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities , Egypt

Thursday, March 7th at 5:00

GREC - Grampian Regional Equality Council
680 King Street, Aberdeen, AB11 5BN

Free event- Drop in- registration not required.

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The Egyptian Society Aberdeen



GREC Updates

Aberdeen ESOL Map

A couple of weeks ago we launched the Aberdeen ESOL map as an online tool that helps people find ESOL support services such as English classes and language cafes in Aberdeen. Since its launch, more than 2000 people have viewed the map! [Click here](#) to check it out.

This map was created as a collaboration between GREC and the following organisations: Aberdeen City Council - Adult Learning Team, Sunnybank Community Centre, Fersands Community, Crown Terrace Baptist Church, North East of Scotland College - ESOL team, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

If you know of any other organisations that delivers ESOL services in Aberdeen or Aberdeenshire, please contact us at language-cafe@grec.co.uk so we can include them on the map and facilitate that more people can know about how to access to ESOL support services.

Policy and Research

Part of GREC's work is to carry out research to help inform policy, looking at issues in a systematic way, identifying what is happening, how it affects people and what needs to change. In December, we finished a short project about community involvement in research, funded by Research Data Scotland. In discussion groups we spoke with 40 people who have lived in Scotland between a few months and a few decades.

The top issue was making sure newcomers have access to accurate, useful information. Other topics discussed included employment, racism, culture shock, and issues around children and schooling.

Volunteer Social Events

Our Volunteer Coordinator Gosia has organised a social event for all of our volunteers later in the month. This event will take place on **Wednesday 27th March** from 6-7.30pm at the GREC office, 680 King Street.

All GREC volunteers, students, health champions, interpreters, members, trustees, and staff are invited to join us at this event to have fun doing some gardening! Family and friends are also welcome to come along, and light refreshments will be provided.

[Click here](#) to register for this event by filling out a short online form. We kindly ask that all registrations are completed by **Sunday 24th March**.

We look forward to welcoming our brilliant volunteers and other friends to our office at the end of the month. See you there!

There was also clear appetite for involvement in research and through lived experience groups. For the full report or a one-page summary, please visit the Policy and Research page of the GREC [website](#).

In February 2024, we will start collaborating in a research project led by Migration Policy Scotland and looking at different experiences on effective interventions to reduce financial disadvantage for ethnic minority and immigrant communities. We will also be publishing our annual overview of hate crime reports in Grampian.

Community Updates

International Women's Day

March is Women's History Month, and this **Friday 8th March** is International Women's Day! The theme for this year's celebration is **Inspire Inclusion**.

We are collaborating with **Aberdeen Interfaith** to host an IWD event celebrating Women of Faith on **Saturday, 9th March** from 3-4.30pm at **Aberdeen Art Gallery**.



Holocaust Memorial Day

On Friday 26th January, **Aberdeen Holocaust Memorial Committee** hosted their annual Holocaust Memorial Day event at the Art Gallery. This year's theme was the 'fragility of freedom'.

ITutu's senior dance group offered an incredible performance. Northfield Academy and Harlaw Academy participated in the event sharing learnings from the "Lessons of Auschwitz" programme and poems from Erika Schulhof Rybeck, who came to Aberdeen as part of the Kindertransport.

This event demonstrated the importance of involving young people in promoting equality and combatting antisemitism and other forms of prejudice.



This event is open to women of all faiths to share and reflect, and will include an input from our PATH volunteer Priya on her research. [Click here](#) for more information or to register for the event.

As well as the Women of Faith event, there are a number of other events happening around the city this month to mark IWD. Aberdeen University have planned several events; [click here](#) to view their events programme.

Ethnic Minority Development Fund

CEMVO Scotland and the **National Lottery Community Fund** are currently accepting applications to their Ethnic Minority Development Fund (EMDF).

The EMDF will provide funding to ethnic minority led third sector organisations whose work supports minority communities in Scotland.

[Click here](#) to visit CEMVO's website for more information about the EMDF and to download an application form. The fund is open for applications until **Monday, 15th April**.