Directory of Community Groups in Aberdeen City

Overview

This resource was developed by the Aberdeen Equalities Participation Network (EPN), using publicly-available details to improve engagement with equality-related groups in the City. All groups are listed by characteristic, and may be listed in two or three categories if relevant.

Please note: this list focuses on groups that tend to be marginalised. For example, under 'religion,' most 'mainstream' churches are not included, but those catering to religious and ethnic minority groups are.

Characteristic

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If you would like details of your group added or changed, please contact <u>info@grec.co.uk</u>.

More information about EPN: grec.co.uk/epn

Top Tips for Positive Community 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 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.'

Reaching Out

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

Think about why you're contacting a group. What's the objective? Do you want feedback about your services, help developing a new policy, participation in an event? Be clear about what you're asking for.

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 paternalism 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.

(all groups are locally-based unless otherwise noted)

Organisations Serving Multiple Communities

Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations acvo.org.uk Umbrella body for charities in Aberdeen

Advocacy Service Aberdeen: <u>advocacy.org.uk</u> Free advocacy for people with mental health and learning disabilities, domestic abuse victims, carers, and those receiving social care

Grampian Regional Equality Council: <u>grec.co.uk</u> Charity tackling discrimination and promoting positive community relations in North East Scotland

Mental Health Aberdeen (MHA): <u>mha.uk.net</u> Counselling and information on mental health

Progress in Dialogue (Scotland-wide) progressindialogue.org.uk Alliance of marginalised communities

Scottish Association for Mental Health (Scotland-wide) <u>samh.org.uk</u> Mental health and support services

Public Sector Staff Equalities Networks

Aberdeen City Council: equality and diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

NHS Grampian: gram.staffequalities@nhs.scot

Aberdeen University: <u>abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/Staff-equality-networks-and-committees.php</u>

Robert Gordon University: rgu.ac.uk/about/governance/equalitydiversity/staff-student-networks

Students' Associations

Including links to diverse student groups

Aberdeen University: ausa.org.uk

Robert Gordon University: <u>rguunion.co.uk</u>

North East Scotland College nescol.ac.uk/college-services/students-association

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Age

Children, Young People and Families

Aberdeen Care Experienced: <u>fb.com/AberdeenACE</u> Support for looked after children and young people

Aberdeen Youth Movement linktr.ee/aberdeenyouthmovement The voice of young people 12-25 in Aberdeen city

Aberdeen Foyer: <u>aberdeenfoyer.com</u> Housing, training and support for young people

Abernecessities: <u>abernecessities.co.uk</u> Practical support for families with children

Action for Children (UK-wide) actionforchildren.org.uk Supporting children and young people

Afristyle Dance Club: <u>afristyledanceclub.com</u> African arts and culture group for young people

Archway: <u>archway.org.uk</u> Parent-led charity for people with learning disabilities and their families

Befriend a Child (UK-wide): <u>befriendachild.org.uk</u> Supporting school-age children

FACEYOUTH: faceyouth.org

Youth education and empowerment, with a special focus on Nigerian children and young people

Fersands and Fountain Centre: <u>fersandsscio.co.uk</u> Support and services for local families in poverty

Home Start Aberdeen: <u>homestartaberdeen.org.uk</u> Support for children and families

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LGBT+ Youth Scotland (Scotland-wide) <u>lgbtyouth.org.uk</u> Supporting LGBT+ young people

Mermaids (UK-wide): <u>mermaidsuk.org.uk</u> Supporting gender-diverse children & young people

The Period Place: <u>theperiodplace.co.uk</u> Promoting positive menstrual health and wellbeing

Sereniti: <u>serenitiaberdeen.com</u> Faith-based family support organisation

SHMU Train: <u>shmu.org.uk/train</u> Employability programmes for young people, 16-25

Sunrise Partnership: <u>sunrisepartnership.org</u> Supporting bereaved children and young people

WeToo: <u>wetoo.org.uk</u> Magazine for children with additional needs

Zone Youth LGBT+ Group *facebook, threads or x: zoneyouthlgbt* Aberdeen youth group for LGBT+ young people

Older People

ACC Sheltered Housing Group email: <u>channaford@aberdeencity.gov.uk</u> Network of 40 sheltered housing complexes

Age Scotland (Scotland-wide) ageuk.org.uk/scotland

Care and Repair: <u>aberdeencareandrepair.co.uk</u> Practical advice and assistance for people 60+

Silver City Surfers: <u>silvercitysurfers@gmail.com</u> Tech support and workshops for older people

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Disability

Aberdeen Action on Disability: <u>aad-online.com</u> User-led disability charity

Archway: archway.org.uk Parent-led charity for people with learning disabilities and their families

Aurora Autistic Consulting: <u>auroraconsulting.scot</u> Autistic-led training, advice and consultancy

British Deaf Association (UK-wide): <u>bda.org.uk</u> Organisation run by and for deaf people

Contact Scotland BSL (Scotland-wide) <u>contactscotland-bsl.org</u> Interpreting video relay service

Dates and Mates: <u>dates-n-mates.co.uk/aberdeen</u> User-led group for people with learning difficulties

Deaf Club Aberdeen: <u>fb.com/groups/727856080622703</u> Social club for BSL users

Deafblind Scotland (Scotland-wide): <u>dbscotland.org.uk</u> Supporting deafblind people

Disability Equity Partnership (DEP) *email:* <u>equality and diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk</u> Aberdeen City Council partnership promoting inclusion and removing barriers

Disabled Persons' Housing Service: <u>dphsaberdeen.org</u> Housing advice, support and advocacy

Fibromyalgia Support Group <u>fb.com/groups/80670548093</u> Support group for people with fibromyalgia

Future Choices: <u>future-choices.org.uk</u> User-led organisation providing social inclusion and recreation opportunities

Guide Dogs Aberdeen fb.com/guidedogsaberdeenbranch Support and fundraising for training dogs to assist blind and visually-impaired people Inclusion Scotland (Scotland-wide) inclusionscotland.org

Learning Disability Group of Aberdeen and Shire Idgroupa.wixsite.com/aberdeenandshire User-led group for people with learning disabilities

ME and You Aberdeen <u>fb.com/100064281175981</u> Support group for people with ME

Mencap (UK-wide): <u>mencap.org.uk</u> Support for people with learning disabilities

MS Society (UK-wide) <u>mssociety.org.uk/care-and-support/local-</u> <u>support/local-groups/aberdeen-group</u> Organisation for people with multiple sclerosis

North East Sensory Services (NESS) <u>nesensoryservices.org</u> Support for people with sight and/or hearing loss

Our Positive Voice: <u>ourpositivevoice.org</u> Charity run by and for people living with HIV/AIDS

Rosie's Social Enterprises *email:* <u>rosies@turningpointscotland.com</u> Vocational training, support and work experience for people with brain and mental health issues

Scottish Disability Sport (Scotland-wide) scottishdisabilitysport.com Developing sport and physical recreation opportunities for disabled people

Scottish Women's Autism Network (Scotland-wide) swanscotland.org Organisation by and for women with autism

Shopmobility/AbleDeen: <u>abledeen.org.uk</u> Mobility support for shopping and getting around

WeToo: <u>wetoo.org.uk</u> Magazine for children with additional needs

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Race/Ethnicity

Aberdeen Multicultural Centre: <u>abmc.org.uk</u> Local charity offering services, activities and events

Grampian Regional Equality Council: grec.co.uk Promoting equalities, historically with an emphasis on race and ethnicity

In-Trans: in-trans.co.uk

Social enterprise providing interpreting and translation services

MECOPP (Scotland-wide): <u>mecopp.org.uk</u> Support for ethnic minority carers

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Aberdeen City Council ESOL classes sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/ealaberdeencity/home Free ESOL classes for Aberdeen residents

Cameo International Women's Group <u>fb.com/cameoabz</u> 'Come And Meet Each Other,' based in the Mission Church (women welcome from all faiths and none)

GREC Language Support grec.co.uk/language-support Information and informal English practice

Learning English in Aberdeen <u>fb.com/LearnEnglishAberdeen</u> Listings for Aberdeen ESOL opportunities

North East Scotland College(NESCOL) nescol.ac.uk/search/esol Full-time and part-time ESOL classes

Workers' Education Association (WEA) wea.org.uk/courses/esol

Online ESOL classes

Community Groups (non-religious)

Aberdeen/shire Bangladeshi Association fb.com/groups/367603286617828 Bangladeshi community group

Aberdeen Ethnic Minority Women's Group abdn-emwomen.org.uk Connecting/empowering ethnic minority women

African Council (Scotland-wide) africancouncil.org.uk Promoting and supporting African communities

African Women's Group (Scotland-wide) africanwomenscotland.org.uk Empowering African women (Aberdeen based)

Africulture Network: <u>africulture.org.uk</u> Promoting African cultural heritage and history

Afristyle Dance Club: <u>afristyledanceclub.com</u> African arts and culture group for young people

Albyn Polish School: <u>fb.com/100063470531607</u> Polish school based at Albyn School

Article 12 (Scotland-wide) <u>article12.org</u> Supporting and empowering Gypsy/Travellers

Bengali Cultural Association Aberdeen fb.com/aberdeenbengali Community group celebrating Bengali culture

Black and Scot: <u>blackandscot.com</u> Network for Black professionals and allies

The Bridge Centre: <u>fb.com/thebridgecentretorry</u> Community space, Kings Community Foundation

Diversity Bridge: <u>fb.com/61557907528451</u> Support for ethnic minority communities and promotion of equality

Elderly Chinese Housing Project email: <u>housing.officers@castlehillha.co.uk</u> Based in Castlehill Housing Assoc, Links View

(all groups are locally-based unless otherwise noted)

Race/Ethnicity (continued)

Community Groups (non-religious)

FACEYOUTH: <u>faceyouth.org</u> Youth education and empowerment, with a special focus on Nigerian children and young people

Igbo Community Aberdeen (ICA): <u>ica-uk.org</u> <u>fb.com/ICAberdeen</u> Igbo (Nigerian) community group

Indian Association of North East Scotland <u>fb.com/ianesaberdeen</u> Celebrating Indian religious and cultural festivals

Latinos of Aberdeen <u>fb.com/groups/771522633435477</u> Community group for South and Central Americans

Lithuanian Society (ALNES) <u>fb.com/AlnesAssociation</u> Lithuanian community group in Aberdeen

Malayalee Association <u>fb.com/Aberdeenmalayalee</u> Support for Malayalam speakers in NE Scotland

Mamacita Foundation: <u>mamacitafoundationuk.com</u> Practical support and cultural activities for ethnic minority communities

Nepalese Himalayan Association nepalesehimalayan.org Promoting Nepalese language and culture

Nigerians in Aberdeen <u>fb.com/groups/111946898821994</u> Community group for Nigerian people in Aberdeen

Organisation for Nepalese Culture & Welfare oncw.org.uk Promoting Nepalese culture and traditions The Period Place: <u>theperiodplace.co.uk</u>

Ethnic minority-led organisation promoting positive menstrual health and wellbeing

Polish Association Aberdeen: <u>paaberdeen.co.uk</u> Community group for Polish people in Aberdeen

Polish Sunny School (Tullos): <u>slonecznaszkola.co.uk</u> School promoting Polish language and culture

Russian Education and Support Centre (Slovo) fb.com/groups/slovoschool Promoting Russian language and culture

Scotland Malawi Partnership (Scotland-wide) scotland-malawipartnership.org Organisation for Malawians living in Scotland

Tackling Gypsy/Traveller Inequalities Partnership Gypsy/Traveller liaison officer Helen Rogers: hrogers@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Group of public and third sector organisations, and Gypsy/Traveller community members, seeking to address inequalities and discrimination

Tamil Association Aberdeen <u>fb.com/groups/244660579041747</u> Community group for Tamil people

Touch of Love Outreach: <u>touchoflove.org.uk</u> Support and advocacy for ethnic minority families

Turkish Education and Culture Trust <u>fb.com/aberdeenturkisheducationculturetrust</u> Turkish community group

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Religion/Belief

Aberdeen Interfaith: <u>fb.com/InterfaithAB</u> Building connections between faith groups

Houses of Worship and Religious Groups

<u>Bahá'í</u> Aberdeen Bahá'í Community <u>aberdeenbahai.org.uk</u>

<u>Buddhist</u>

Aberdeen Buddhist Group aberdeenbuddhistgroup.org.uk

Kadampa Meditation Centre meditateinaberdeen.org

Thai Buddharam Temple: thaibuddharam.org.uk

Varapunya Buddhist Society: varapunyacentre.com

<u>Christian</u>

Aberdeen Methodist Church aberdeenmethodist.org.uk

Chinese Christian Church (Crown Terrace) aberdeenchinesecc.org.uk Services in Mandarin and Cantonese

City of God / Jesus House: jesushouseaberdeen.org

Fountain of Love: fountainoflove.org.uk

Kings Church: <u>kingschurchaberdeen.com</u> Includes Trussell Trust Food Bank

Quakers: quakerscotland.org/aberdeen

Sereniti: <u>serenitiaberdeen.com</u> Faith-based family support organisation

Seventh Day Adventist Church: <u>aberdeensda.org</u> Churches in the City Centre and Bucksburn

Time to Heal: <u>ttoheal.org</u> Christian-based support for ethnic minority survivors of domestic abuse

Christian Orthodox

Greek Orthodox Church fb.com/GreekOrthodoxChurch St Matthew Greek Orthodox Church

Romanian Church: <u>parohiaaberdeen.org.uk</u> Romanian Orthodox Church/community support

<u>Hindu</u>

Aberdeen Hindu Association aberdeentemple.org.uk

<u>Jewish</u> Aberdeen Synagogue: <u>asjcc.co.uk</u>

<u>Muslim</u>

Aberdeen Mosque and Islamic Centre (Frederick St) aberdeenmosque.org

Aberdeen Muslims: <u>aberdeenmuslims.yolasite.com</u> Community group and information resource *Also:* <u>fb.com/AberdeenMuslims</u>

Al Hikmah Mosque (Nelson Street) masjidalhikmah.org.uk

Al-Noor Islamic School: alnoorschoolaberdeen.com

Syed Shah Mustafa Jame Mosque (Crown Terrace) shahmustafamasjid.com

Roman Catholic

Aberdeen African Catholic Choir fb.com/africanchoiraberdeen

Filipino Catholic Community fb.com/groups/386658666016103

Polish Ministry of Aberdeen: aberdeen-pl.rcda.scot

Sacred Heart Torry: sacredhearttorry.com

<u>Sikh</u>

Aberdeen Gurudwara: aberdeengurudwara.com

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Sex/Gender

Aberdeen Ethnic Minority Women's Group

<u>abdn-emwomen.org.uk</u> Connecting/empowering ethnic minority women

Aberdeen Women's Alliance <u>fb.com/111157498951625</u> Women's community group, with history sub-group

African Women's Group (Scotland-wide) africanwomenscotland.org.uk Empowering African women (Aberdeen based)

Cameo International Women's Group <u>fb.com/cameoabz</u> 'Come And Meet Each Other,' based in the Mission Church (women welcome from all faiths and none)

Ending Violence and Abuse Aberdeen weareac.org/evaa Support for women experiencing domestic abuse

FearFree: <u>fearfree.scot</u> Supporting male/LGBT+ victims of domestic abuse **Grampian Women's Aid** <u>grampian-womens-aid.com</u> Support for female victims of domestic abuse

Men's Sheds: <u>scottishmsa.org.uk/find-a-shed</u> Practical and social support in Bridge of Don, Ferryhill, and Cove/Altens

The Period Place: <u>theperiodplace.co.uk</u> Promoting positive menstrual health and wellbeing

Rape Crisis Grampian: <u>rcgrampian.co.uk</u> Support and information for rape survivors age 13+

Scottish Women's Autism Network (Scotland-wide) swanscotland.org Organisation by and for women with autism

Time to Heal: <u>ttoheal.org</u> Christian-based support for ethnic minority survivors of domestic abuse

Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Reassignment/Transgender Identity

Aberdeen Frontrunners aberdeenfrontrunners.co.uk LGBT+ inclusive running group

Equality Network (Scotland-wide) equality-network.org

FearFree: <u>fearfree.scot</u> Supporting male/LGBT+ victims of domestic abuse

Four Pillars: <u>fourpillarsuk.org</u> Supporting LGBT+ people in Aberdeen

Grampian Pride: grampianpride.org Annual event celebrating the LGBT+ community

LGBT+ Health and Wellbeing (Scotland-wide) <u>lgbthealth.org.uk</u> Promoting LGBT+ health and wellbeing LGBT+ Youth Scotland (Scotland-wide) <u>Igbtyouth.org.uk</u> Supporting LGBT+ young people

Mermaids (UK-wide): <u>mermaidsuk.org.uk</u> Supporting gender-diverse children & young people

Scottish Trans Alliance (Scotland) scottishtrans.org Supporting transgender people

Stonewall Scotland (Scotland-wide) stonewallscotland.org.uk Supporting LGBT+ people

Zone Youth LGBT+ Group *facebook, threads or x: zoneyouthlgbt* Aberdeen youth group for LGBT+ young people