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 ethnic minority groups are.

Characteristic	page(s)
Organisations serving multiple communities	2
Age	3
Disability	4
Race/Ethnicity (including ESOL)	
Religion/Belief	7
Sex/Gender	8
Sexual Orientation and/or Trans Identity	8

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

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 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.

(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: grec.co.uk
Charity tackling discrimination and promoting
positive community relations in North East Scotland

Mental Health Aberdeen (MHA): mha.uk.net 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:

<u>rgu.ac.uk/about/governance/equality-diversity/staff-student-networks</u>

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

(all groups are locally-based unless otherwise noted)

Age

Children, Young People and Families

Aberdeen Care Experienced

facebook.com/AberdeenACE

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: www.archway.org.uk

Parent-led charity for people with learning

disabilities and their families

Befriend a Child (UK-wide): befriendachild.org.uk

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: fersandsscio.co.uk

Support and services for local families in poverty

Home Start Aberdeen: homestartaberdeen.org.uk

Support for children and families

Fersands and Fountain Centre: fersandsscio.co.uk

Support and services for local families in poverty

Home Start Aberdeen: homestartaberdeen.org.uk

Support for children and families

Fersands and Fountain Centre: <u>fersandsscio.co.uk</u>

Support and services for local families in poverty

Home Start Aberdeen: homestartaberdeen.org.uk

Support for children and families

LGBT+ Youth Scotland (Scotland-wide)

Igbtyouth.org.uk

Supporting LGBT+ young people

Mermaids (UK-wide): mermaidsuk.org.uk

Supporting gender-diverse children & young people

The Period Place: theperiodplace.co.uk

Promoting positive menstrual health and wellbeing

Sereniti: <u>serenitiaberdeen.com</u>

Faith-based family support organisation

SHMU Train: shmu.org.uk/train

Employability programmes for young people, 16-25

Sunrise Partnership: <u>sunrisepartnership.org</u>

Supporting bereaved children and young people

WeToo: wetoo.org.uk

Magazine for children with additional needs

Zone Youth LGBT+ Group

facebook, threads or x: zoneyouthlabt

Aberdeen youth group for LGBT+ young people

Older People

ACC Sheltered Housing Group

email: channaford@aberdeencity.gov.uk

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: silvercitysurfers@gmail.com

Tech support and workshops for older people

(all groups are locally-based unless otherwise noted)

Disability

Aberdeen Action on Disability: aad-online.com

User-led disability charity

Archway: www.archway.org.uk

Parent-led charity for people with learning

disabilities and their families

Aurora Autistic Consulting: auroraconsulting.scot

Autistic-led training, advice and consultancy

British Deaf Association (UK-wide): bda.org.uk

Organisation run by and for deaf people

Contact Scotland BSL (Scotland-wide)

contactscotland-bsl.org

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:

facebook.com/groups/727856080622703

Social club for BSL users

Deafblind Scotland (Scotland-wide):

dbscotland.org.uk

Supporting deafblind people

Disability Equity Partnership (DEP)

email: equality and diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Aberdeen City Council partnership promoting

inclusion and removing barriers

Disabled Persons' Housing Service:

dphsaberdeen.org

Housing advice, support and advocacy

Fibromyalgia Support Group

facebook.com/groups/80670548093

Support group for people with fibromyalgia

Future Choices: future-choices.org.uk

User-led organisation providing social inclusion and

recreation opportunities

Guide Dogs Aberdeen

facebook.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

facebook.com/100064281175981

Support group for people with ME

Mencap (UK-wide): mencap.org.uk

Support for people with learning disabilities

MS Society (UK-wide)

mssociety.org.uk/care-and-support/local-

support/local-groups/aberdeen-group

Organisation for people with multiple sclerosis

North East Sensory Services (NESS)

nesensoryservices.org

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: rosies@turningpointscotland.com

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: abledeen.org.uk

Mobility support for shopping and getting around

WeToo: wetoo.org.uk

Magazine for children with additional needs

(all groups are locally-based unless otherwise noted)

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): mecopp.org.uk

Support for ethnic minority carers

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Aberdeen City Council ESOL classes

<u>sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/ealaberdeencity/home</u>
Free ESOL classes for Aberdeen residents

Cameo International Women's Group

facebook.com/cameoabz

'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

facebook.com/LearnEnglishAberdeen

Listings for Aberdeen ESOL opportunities

Learning English in Aberdeen

facebook.com/LearnEnglishAberdeen

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

facebook.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

africulture.org.uk

Promoting African cultural heritage and history

Afristyle Dance Club: <u>afristyledanceclub.com</u>

African arts and culture group for young people

Albyn Polish School

facebook.com/100063470531607

Polish school based at Albyn School

Article 12 (Scotland-wide) article12.org

Supporting and empowering Gypsy/Travellers

Bengali Cultural Association Aberdeen

https://www.facebook.com/aberdeenbengali

Community group celebrating Bengali culture

Black and Scot: blackandscot.com

Network for Black professionals and allies

The Bridge Centre

facebook.com/thebridgecentretorry

Community space, Kings Community Foundation

Cameo International Women's Group

facebook.com/cameoabz

'Come And Meet Each Other,' based in the Mission Church (women welcome from all faiths and none)

(all groups are locally-based unless otherwise noted)

Race/Ethnicity (continued)

Community Groups (non-religious)

Diversity Bridge: facebook.com/61557907528451

Support for ethnic minority communities and

promotion of equality

Elderly Chinese Housing Project

email: housing.officers@castlehillha.co.uk
Based in Castlehill Housing Assoc, Links View

FACEYOUTH: faceyouth.org

Youth education and empowerment, with a special

focus on Nigerian children and young people

Igbo Community Aberdeen (ICA): ica-uk.org

facebook.com/ICAberdeen

Igbo (Nigerian) community group

Indian Association of North East Scotland

facebook.com/ianesaberdeen

Celebrating Indian religious and cultural festivals

Latinos of Aberdeen

facebook.com/groups/771522633435477

Community group for South and Central Americans

Lithuanian Society (ALNES)

facebook.com/AlnesAssociation

Lithuanian community group in Aberdeen

Malayalee Association

facebook.com/Aberdeenmalayalee

Support for Malayalam speakers in NE Scotland

Mamacita Foundation: mamacitafoundationuk.com

Practical support and cultural activities for ethnic

minority communities

Nepalese Himalayan Association

nepalesehimalayan.org

Promoting Nepalese language and culture

Nigerians in Aberdeen

facebook.com/groups/111946898821994

Community group for Nigerian people in Aberdeen

Organisation for Nepalese Culture & Welfare

oncw.org.uk

Promoting Nepalese culture and traditions

The Period Place: theperiodplace.co.uk

Promoting positive menstrual health and wellbeing

from menarche to menopause

Polish Association Aberdeen: <u>paaberdeen.co.uk</u>

Community group for Polish people in Aberdeen

Polish Sunny School (Tullos): slonecznaszkola.co.uk

School promoting Polish language and culture

Russian Education and Support Centre (Slovo)

facebook.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

facebook.com/groups/244660579041747

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

 $\underline{facebook.com/aberdeenturkisheducationculturetrust}$

Turkish community group

(all groups are locally-based unless otherwise noted)

Religion/Belief

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

Houses of Worship and Religious Groups

Bahá'í

Aberdeen Bahá'í Community aberdeenbahai.org.uk

Buddhist

Aberdeen Buddhist Group aberdeenbuddhistgroup.org.uk

Kadampa Meditation Centre meditateinaberdeen.org

Thai Buddharam Temple: thaibuddharam.org.uk

Varapunya Buddhist Society: varapunyacentre.com

Christian

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: kingschurchaberdeen.com

Includes Trussell Trust Food Bank

Quakers: quakerscotland.org/aberdeen

Sereniti: <u>serenitiaberdeen.com</u>

Faith-based family support organisation

Seventh Day Adventist Church: aberdeensda.org

Churches in the City Centre and Bucksburn

Time to Heal: ttoheal.org

Christian-based support for ethnic minority

survivors of domestic abuse

Christian Orthodox

Greek Orthodox Church

<u>facebook.com/GreekOrthodoxChurch</u>
St Matthew Greek Orthodox Church

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

Hindu

Aberdeen Hindu Association aberdeentemple.org.uk

Jewish

Aberdeen Synagogue: asjcc.co.uk

Muslim

Aberdeen Mosque and Islamic Centre (Frederick St)

<u>aberdeenmosque.org</u>

Aberdeen Muslims: aberdeenmuslims.yolasite.com

Community group and information resource Also: facebook.com/AberdeenMuslims

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

facebook.com/africanchoiraberdeen

Filipino Catholic Community

facebook.com/groups/386658666016103

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

Sacred Heart Torry: sacredhearttorry.com

Sikh

Aberdeen Gurudwara: aberdeengurudwara.com

(all groups are locally-based unless otherwise noted)

Sex/Gender

Aberdeen Ethnic Minority Women's Group

abdn-emwomen.org.uk

Connecting/empowering ethnic minority women

Aberdeen Women's Alliance

facebook.com/111157498951625

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

facebook.com/cameoabz

'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: fearfree.scot

Supporting male/LGBT+ victims of domestic abuse

Grampians Women's Aid

https://grampian-womens-aid.com

Support for female victims of domestic abuse

Men's Sheds: https://scottishmsa.org.uk/find-a-

shed

Practical and social support in Bridge of Don,

Ferryhill, and Cove/Altens

The Period Place: theperiodplace.co.uk

Promoting positive menstrual health and wellbeing

Rape Crisis Grampian: rcgrampian.co.uk

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: ttoheal.org

Christian-based support for ethnic minority

survivors of domestic abuse

Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Reassignment/Transgender Identity

Aberdeen Frontrunners

<u>aberdeenfrontrunners.co.uk</u>

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: fourpillarsuk.org

Supporting LGBT+ people in Aberdeen

Grampian Pride: grampianpride.org

Annual event celebrating the LGBT+ community

LGBT+ Health and Wellbeing (Scotland-wide)

https://lgbthealth.org.uk

Promoting LGBT+ health and wellbeing

LGBT+ Youth Scotland (Scotland-wide)

Igbtyouth.org.uk

Supporting LGBT+ young people

Mermaids (UK-wide): mermaidsuk.org.uk

Supporting gender-diverse children & young people

Scottish Trans Alliance (Scotland)

scottishtrans.org

Supporting transgender people

Stonewall Scotland (Scotland-wide)

<u>stonewallscotland.org.uk</u>Supporting LGBT+ people

Zone Youth LGBT+ Group

facebook, threads or x: zoneyouthlgbt

Aberdeen youth group for LGBT+ young people