



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of Divinity

New College Equality, Diversity, & Inclusion Newsletter

We are delighted to share our third newsletter on EDI-related issues at New College! The purpose of this newsletter is to strengthen communication between the EDI Committee and the NC student body. Specifically, it offers a round-up of the various activities held each semester and provides contacts and resources for students to access support. This semester we engaged a number of issues, such as most recently examining questions of gender, gender based violence and sexual harassment. We also had activities that included explorations of sexuality. We discussed the relationship between queerness and mental health alongside thinking about queerness and wellbeing, both, capaciously. And, we celebrated queerness, diversity and difference as the EDI committee joined NC Pride in the festivities of the Edinburgh Pride March!

Another cause for celebration at New College was International Women's Day which gave us an opportunity to celebrate all women, but especially Women of Colour and religious minorities with a special talk from OBE Trishna Singh! The celebrations continued with our Eid potluck, which is becoming a fantastic tradition for the school, bringing together staff and students of all faiths and none from across the university and the wider community !

While Dr Alysa Ghose has happily served as interim director of EDI, we will be delighted to welcome Dr Shadaab Rahemtulla back to the role of director of EDI as Alysa steps down from the leadership position but continues to serve on the committee.

If you have any questions about the newsletter, feel free to write to Dr. Alysa Ghose at alysa.ghose@ed.ac.uk. If you have any EDI questions or concerns in general, please don't hesitate to contact the EDI Director, Dr Shadaab Rahemtulla, at s.rahemtulla@ed.ac.uk

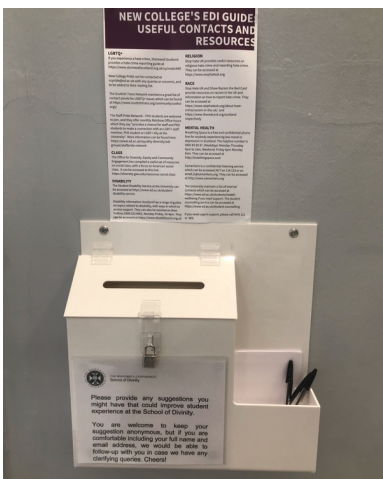
GENDER

Equally Safe

Just this month we were very fortunate to be offered some preliminary information/training by the specialist team, Equally Safe, which has advanced the School's EDI plan and objectives. Equally Safe offer support to staff and students alike who have experienced Gender Based Violence and/or sexual harassment. This discussion was part of a wider effort to continue and further conversations around wellbeing. Two of the team's caseworkers joined us to share important knowledge regarding gender inequality and abuses of power and privilege as well. Additionally, they laid out how we can access concrete support through this university service and facilitate the support of our students, colleagues and peers. The caseworkers provided information on referral services and anonymous reporting methods that collect macro-data and wider statistics without the need for disclosing personal information, though this is also available, of course. The team has expressed enthusiasm about ongoing engagements so look forward to further discussions and more bespoke training!

International Women's Day Event

To celebrate International Women's Day, we were exceptionally pleased to have Trishna Singh, OBE, join us in conversation with our very own PGR, Chloe Gardner (both pictured below). During this event, which was co-organised between the EDI committee and the Scottish Network for Religion and Literature, the two discussed Trishna's experience as a Sikh woman in Scotland. They explored Trishna's excellent work and intersectional themes of religiosity, racialisation, gender and kinship through her founding of Sikh Sanjog (formerly Leith Sikh Community Group) as well as her book, *A Silent Voice Speaks: A Memoir*. The School's dialogue with Trishna is ongoing and we look forward to potential collaborations in future!



***Have a suggestion?
Want to give feedback on EDI?
Feel free to use our
"EDI Suggestion Box" in the
Foyer of New College.***

***Online links are also available
on the UG / PG SharePoint sites.***



SEXUALITY

New College Pride

Just this past weekend, the EDI committee joined thousands of others and showed its Pride in support of not just queer students and staff at New College but the wider Edinburgh LGBTQIA+ community! The celebration gave us the opportunity to highlight our solidarity with folks marginalised at various intersections of sexuality and gender identity but also emphasise joy!



WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Queering Wellbeing Workshop

Co-badged with New College Pride, the EDI committee held a Queering Wellbeing Event wherein queer students spoke candidly about their experiences of wellbeing and mental health in the school. The discussion was moving and a list of action points were created based off of the presentations to ensure that the school's queer community has sufficient resources and support but also that queer members of our community and queer studies are mainstreamed and not considered niche. The environment was an inclusive setting where queer experiences were centred but the conversation was open to all experiences of wellbeing and also spanned topics presented by participants who may not have identified as queer but shared relevant experiences along other axes of oppression. All attendees expressed that they had benefited and learned from this important event!

MULTI-FAITH FOCUS

Eid Potluck

The Eid potluck was an extremely successfully (and delicious) get together to celebrate Eid-al-Fitr! Our religiously diverse NC community comprised of staff and students of all faiths and none welcomed friends and family as well as numerous attendees from elsewhere in the university and the wider public to Rainy Hall for festivities around one of the happiest days of the Islamic calendar.

We were especially honoured to have Madinah Javed (pictured below), a leading female recitationist (qari'a) join us, to recite from the Qu'ran and give a brief presentation about the meaning and significance of Ramadan. This is quickly becoming one of the School's most beloved traditions, giving us all a chance to reflect our cultural backgrounds through food, dress and faith!



NEW COLLEGE'S EDI GUIDE: USEFUL CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

June 2023

NEW COLLEGE EDI NEWSLETTER

LGBTQ+

If you experience a hate crime, Stonewall Scotland provides a hate crime reporting guide at <https://www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/cy/node/640>

New College Pride can be contacted at ncpride@ed.ac.uk with any queries or concerns, and to be added to their mailing list.

The Scottish Trans Network maintains a great list of contact points for LGBTQ+ issues which can be found at <https://www.scottishtrans.org/community/useful-orgs/>

The Staff Pride Network – PhD students are welcome to join, and they offer monthly Rainbow Office Hours which they say “provides a chance for staff and PhD students to make a connection with an LGBT+ staff member, PhD student or LGBT+ Ally at the University”. More information can be found here: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/equality-diversity/edi-groups/staffpride-network>

SOCIAL CLASS

The 93% club is a student-led network and charity in the UK that provides support for working-class and state-school educated students in the Higher Education sector. Their website can be accessed here: <https://www.93percent.club/>

The Office for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement has compiled a useful set of resources on social class, with a focus on American social class. It can be accessed at this link <https://diversity.gwu.edu/resources-social-class>

RACE

Stop Hate UK and the Red Card provide resources on racism in the UK and information on how to report hate crime. They can be accessed at <https://www.stophateuk.org/about-hate-crime/racism-in-the-uk/> and also see <https://www.theredcard.org/scotland>

The Staff BAME Network welcomes all Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic academic and professional services staff, including PhD students. Their website is: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/equality-diversity/edi-groups/staff-bame-network>

RELIGION & INTERFAITH

The University Chaplaincy provides personal, emotional, communal, spiritual, faith, and belief support, for all members of the University. People of no religion use it as much as people of particular faiths. The chaplaincy is also a good resource for reaching out to specific student faith groups and networks. Their website is <https://www.ed.ac.uk/chaplaincy>

DISABILITY

The Student Disability and Learning Support Office at the University can be accessed at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service>

Disability Information Scotland has a range of guides on topics related to disability, with ways in which to access support. They can also be reached on their hotline, 0300 323 9961, Monday-Friday, 10-4pm. They can be accessed at <https://www.disabilityscot.org.uk>

NEW COLLEGE'S EDI GUIDE: USEFUL CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

June 2023

NEW COLLEGE EDI NEWSLETTER

MENTAL HEALTH

The University Student Wellbeing Service operates Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. Their website is <https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-wellbeing-service> and they can also be reached at student.wellbeing@ed.ac.uk

The student counselling service can be accessed at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling>

Breathing Space is a free and confidential phone line for anybody experiencing low mood or depression. The helpline number is 0800 83 85 87, Weekdays: Monday-Thursday 6pm to 2am, Weekend: Friday 6pm-Monday 6am. They can be accessed at <http://breathingspace.scot>

Samaritans is a confidential listening service which can be accessed 24/7 on 116 123 or on email jo@samaritans.org. They can be accessed at <http://www.samaritans.org>

If you need urgent support, please call NHS 111 or 999.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

As detailed above, Equally Safe as a specialist support team within University dedicated to supporting students and staff who have been affected or are they themselves supporting some affected by Gender Based Violence (GBV) or who has experienced sexual harassment.

The Equally Safe Team can support those who have experienced GBV historically or those who are experiencing it currently.

Among one of their most useful resources for survivals can be the report and support service which provides an opportunity for reporting experiences of sexual assault, GBV, and/or harassment anonymously. Further details on report + support can be found here: reportandsupport.ed.ac.uk.

For more information regarding the Equally Safe team more broadly, visit: edin.ac.uk/GBV-support or email equallysafeteam@ed.ac.uk

MEET THE EDI COMMITTEE



DR SHADAAB RAHEMTULLA
(he/him)

S.Rahemtulla@ed.ac.uk

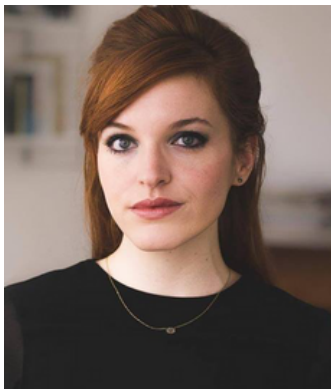
Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (on leave)
Lecturer in Islamic Studies



DR ALYSA GHOSE (she/her)

alysa.ghose@ed.ac.uk

Interim Director of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
Lecturer in Religious Studies and Decolonial Thought



WHITNEY BUCHANAN(she/her)

ncpride@ed.ac.uk

Head of New College Pride
PhD Student, Islam & Christian-Muslim Relations



MEET THE EDI COMMITTEE



PROF. HELEN BOND (she/her)

H.Bond@ed.ac.uk

Head of the School of Divinity

Professor of Christian Origins



DR SUZANNA MILLAR (she/her)

Suzanna.Millar@ed.ac.uk

Chancellor's Fellow in Hebrew Bible / Old Testament



JULIE ROBERTSON (she/her)

Julie.Robertson1@ed.ac.uk

Director of Professional Services



MEET THE STUDENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We would like to introduce our four student representatives on the EDI Committee, comprising of two PG students and two UG students.



DAISY ANDOH (she/her)

d.k.m.andoh@sms.ed.ac.uk

PG Representative

PhD Student, Biblical Studies



CHLOË GARDNER (she/her)

Chloe.gardner@ed.ac.uk

PG Representative

PhD Student, Religious Studies



MEET THE STUDENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS



LUCY SWALE (she/her)

l.swale@sms.ed.ac.uk

UG Representative

UG Student, Theology



ANDREA MELANI (she/her)

A.A.MELANI@SMS.ED.AC.UK

UG Representative

UG Student, Theology

