



**Issue 2:
October 2012**

Midlothian Council, Community Learning and Development

Issue 2, October 2012

Film making on Equalities Issues



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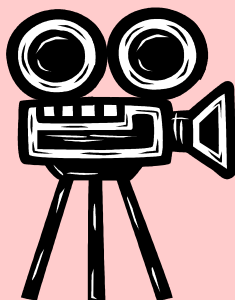
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What next?



MPEG have recently completed a drama film. The group wrote, produced and starred in the film. The drama tells three different stories: Sandy and David try to support each other after the death of Sandy's wife, however Sandy's sister feels he is taking on too much supporting someone with learning difficulties when he should be focusing on himself before helping others. Sandy points out that David is supporting him. Ronnie runs a café. One day, Evgenia visits the café, and Ronnie decides to question her about

why she has moved to Scotland, raising a lot of his perceptions he already has about immigration. Ronnie finds out she is supporting his son at school. Daniel and Ryan are a gay couple. They decide the time is right to come out to their parents. Daniel's mum is very

and to make people think about their own perceptions of different people. The film will be shown to different community groups and will be shown in public. After watching the film, each group will take part in a workshop / discussion based around the



supportive, while Ryan's mum doesn't want to accept the fact that her son is gay. The aim of the film is to raise awareness of certain issues,

issues raised in the film. Everyone who took part in making the film enjoyed the experience and are happy with the finished film.

Ryan Sturrock

**MPEG Film Launch Workshop and AGM
Thursday 22nd November 2012 4.30—7.30pm,
Dalkeith Arts Centre
Please come and join us, for discussion on
equalities issues and refreshments.**

Presenting on Equalities Issues



MPEG members are becoming more in demand to present or advise on equalities issues.

They have presented to the East and Midlothian Equalities Forum; the Fire Service Equalities

Event; Midlothian Community Engagement Training events and local community councils.

They are participating in local consultation events such as on disability Towards a good life– To-

wards an equal life, and at the Midlothian Local Development Plan Community Planning and Health Stakeholder Workshop in Loanhead.

Caroline's Story



My name is Caroline Crozier. I was born in 1955 as a young boy and I attended Dunbar Primary and Dunbar Secondary School. I was about five to six years old, possibly slightly younger, when I knew that I was trapped in the wrong body. During the 1960's you could not talk about being trapped in the wrong body. While I was attending school I did not like doing the male activities like sport, woodwork and so on. I would have preferred to

participate in doing more female orientated activities. To hide how I felt I went into the army and later took a job as a building site labourer. I went on to have a female partner and we had five children. I still felt I was trapped in the wrong body so in 1996 I approached my GP about having a sex change, or to give my condition the right terminology, about my gender dysphoria. In order to be allowed to have a sex change operation I had to live in my future

role as a woman. In October 2000 I had my gender reassignment surgery. I have not regretted having the surgery and I continue to be the happiest I have ever been. I still suffer from depression, however. I also have angina, high blood pressure, diabetes and other related illnesses. I do suffer badly with depression. I have a lot of dark moods worsened because I am on my own. It is hard to always be positive.

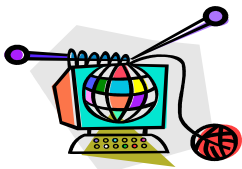
“I was about five to six years old, possibly slightly younger, when I knew that I was trapped in the wrong body”

The 2012 Wellbeing Mela

The 2012 Wellbeing Mela in March was a big success with more than 200 people attending this year.

Excellent what diverse entertainment

The partnership between Health in Mind, Midlothian Council and MPEG members is working very well in facilitating a fun family day which celebrates equality and diversity. The quote here is reproduced from the graffiti wall where people were invited to comment on how they found the day. Comments were very positive.



Remote Reporting

Remote Reporting is a way of reporting crimes, incidents and/or information to the police by way of a third party. The third party organisation will in turn communicate directly with the police, while encouraging and supporting the victim throughout any subsequent investigation process. Crimes, incidents or information of **any nature** can be reported through Remote Reporting. However, it is NOT suitable for reporting incidents that need an immediate response or urgent contact with the police - always call 999 in an emergency.

There are occasions when information the police obtain through Remote Reporting is of such a serious nature that the police

have to report it to the Crown Office. Therefore any subsequent course of action taken by the Crown Office or Procurator Fiscal service cannot be guaranteed.

It is hoped that Remote Reporting will:

- make it easier for all members of the community to access the police
- offer an alternative method for victims of/witnesses to crime to contact the police
- increase confidence in the police and the services provided

Throughout Midlothian there are a variety of organisations where victims, witnesses, carers or others can speak privately to a member of staff, who



action to be taken. or signpost to agencies who can help.

The following organisations work within Midlothian and offer Remote Reporting Facilities.

Victim Support Mid and East Lothian

5 Nicholson Square
Edinburgh
EH8 9BH
Telephone: 0131 668 2556

East and Midlothian Gypsy Travellers Site

Old Dalkeith Colliery
Dalkeith
Telephone: 0131 654 2095

Citizen Advice Bureau - Remote Reporting Service

8 Buccleuch Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1HA

Anne Torrance

Charitable Status and a New Website!

In February 2012 MPEG was successful in applying to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

MPEG is also in the process of developing an interactive website with the help of MPEG member - Evgeniya Kennedy an experienced website designer. Evgeniya moved to Scotland from Russia five years ago. The website will enable

people in the community to ask questions and make comments on the contents—hopefully encouraging a dialogue on equalities issues and new people to become involved with MPEG. People will be able to access our reports from the PRA courses and our Newsletters. Look us up on: - **www.midequalitygroup.com** and our facebook page...

Midlothian People's Equality Group



A More Equal Midlothian

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MPEG is directed by a steering group of local people representing diverse local interests including disabled people, young people, older people, people from ethnic minorities and people from Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities

Together We Aim To:

- Promote equality and challenge prejudice
- Build relationships across Midlothian communities of interest where people feel valued and trusted
- Provide a platform for Midlothian people to:
 - learn, educate, and communicate about local equality issues of concern and interest
 - have a voice in local policy and planning

Midlothian People's Equality Group MPEG is a registered charity:
 Charity Number: SCO42949

What the Midlothian People's Equality Group are planning next!

Who are the Midlothian People's Equality Group?

A friendly group of local people who have experience of and aim to learn about and challenge different forms of discrimination related to age, disability, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and socio-economic background.

Can anyone join?

Yes, the idea is to bring people together across

equality issues so that we can learn from each other and raise awareness and challenge prejudice in the wider community and improve the delivery of services.

What kind of things are you planning?

One of our members has taken part in a "living library" event and we want to bring the idea to Midlothian.

In a living library the

books are people who can be "borrowed" to ask questions, discuss and find out more about the experience for example of being an immigrant to Scotland, or of being a disabled person, or transgender and so on. We hope to take the idea into schools.

We have funding for A Challenging Myths About Immigration Project

We will be using our completed **equality film** for workshops.

What Equality Means to Us

If you are breathing you are in!

Not less than but different

A right to the support you need