



# TRUE Colours



Newsletter  
Sectarian Edition

February 2013

## The Launch of TRUE Colours

On 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012 TRUE colours held their successful launch event at the Hibernian Stadium at Easter Road. This was our first step towards many more successes to come.

Although the launch lasted a couple of hours, only the TRUE colours' members know how many hours, weeks and even months it took to plan it all! But the hard work paid off, with food, guests, entertainment

and smiling faces; no one could have guessed the number of technical difficulties we had just minutes before the event!

### Presentations


The event went spectacularly well as we had so much support, from our guest speakers to our talented performers (Logan Scott from Gracemount High school and Latitude Fifty Five from Drummond Community High school). The day involved a presentation from the founders

Saaliha Hussain and Ezgi Denli, followed by a few words from Tam Baillie (Scotland's Commissioner For Children and Young People) and Dave Scott (Campaign director for



Members of TRUE colours and ELREC with guest speakers at launch

Nil By Mouth). Everyone participated in various workshops which helped raise awareness of issues that not only concern the youth but also involves EVERYONE in society and that is what the real purpose of our event was: to inspire more people to grab any opportunity they receive to make a difference.

 **Our Fight:** TRUE colours gained many keen young people who want to join

our youth group from the launch-the more members the better! This launch was the first step towards our fight against racism, discrimination and sectarianism. With such a successful first event, we are positive TRUE Colours will continue to prosper and succeed.

By Saaliha H  
TRUE Colours member

**TRUE Colours**  
Tackling Racism Uniting Everyone

**Student-led group based at ELREC. Our aims are:**

*As young people to get our voices heard.*

*Promote a regime which thoroughly addresses equality in schools.*

*Raise awareness of the causes of racism and sectarianism*

*Come and join us !*

**Fridays 2.30-4pm**  
at ELREC office

14 Forth Street.  
Edinburgh, EH1 3LH

# What next?!

## The TRUE Colours Sectarianism documentary



Often dubbed Scotland's shame — Glasgow's 'sectarian' divide

What better way to start a new project for TRUE colours than to create an anti-sectarianism based documentary? This documentary will not only help raise awareness of sectarianism in Edinburgh but will also encourage our members to use their talents to produce an estimated fifteen minute long video. Whether you want to be behind the camera, interviewing, editing, writing a script or even want to use this experience to find out more about sectarianism, then this TRUE Colours project needs you! The video will consist of asking various questions to different people around

Edinburgh, regarding their thoughts on sectarianism. TRUE Colours can change the negative attitudes created due to sectarianism through this documentary. All contributions made towards this documentary will be used productively and with great gratitude. The more help, the more successful this documentary will be. So please come forth and do your part to stamp out sectarianism in Edinburgh.

*By Saaliha H. TRUE Colours member*

## Did you know ?

- In Scotland, Catholics make up 16% of the population but account for around 60% of the victims of Sectarian attacks
  - More than 260 Sectarian incidents occurred at football stadiums in Scotland last year
  - Out of Scotland's 32 Local Authority areas, 27 recorded sectarian incidents last year
  - Around 60% of those charged with a sectarian offence were under 30 years old
  - In 2011 there were 693 sectarian incidents reported to the police in Scotland
  - In 49% of sectarian incidents reported to police, alcohol was a factor
- \* Information from the Scottish Government website*

*Join us and raise your voice against Sectarianism in Edinburgh!*



# Sectarianism

## THE BIGGER PICTURE!

Our documentary is part of a wider campaign by the Scottish Government to investigate sectarianism at a national level.

At present, the Scottish Government is taking steps to tackle sectarianism and bigoted behaviour, this can be seen through the introduction of legislation such as the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. The Act criminalises behaviour which is threatening, hateful or offensive at football matches including chanting or singing offensive songs and also makes the communication of threats of violence and threats intended to incite religious hatred a criminal offence.

The Scottish Government established an advisory group tasked with tackling sectarianism in September last year.



*"The Scottish Government is determined to wipe out the legacy of sectarianism in Scotland. Our young people deserve to grow up in an equal and fair society based on mutual respect and understanding. A society where everyone is valued for the individual contribution they make and not excluded because of their background. Bigotry inhibits personal development and blights communities."*

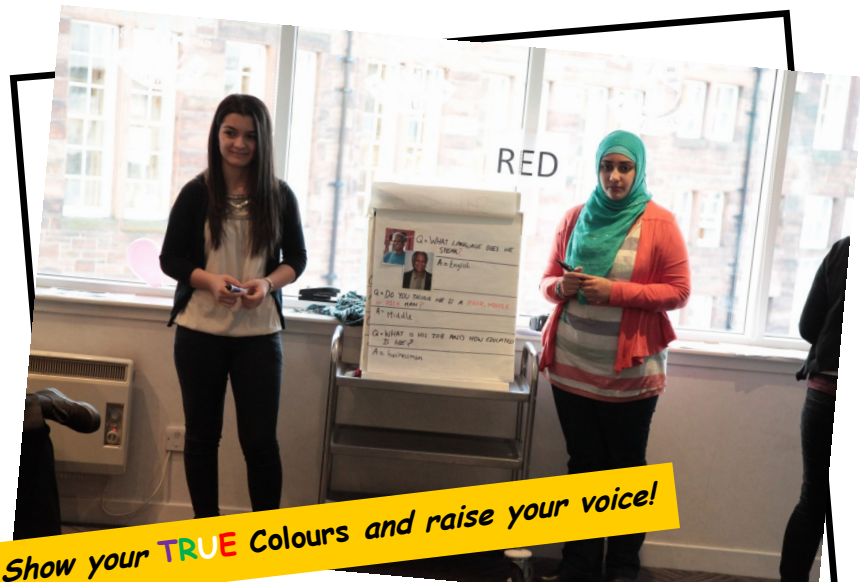
First Minister, Alex Salmond on tackling the issue of sectarianism



*Dave Scott from Nil By Mouth giving a talk on sectarianism at the launch of TRUE Colours*

The standard definition of a sectarian individual taken from the Oxford English Dictionary is someone who **'adheres in a bigoted or narrow-minded fashion to a sect or body of persons who have agreed upon particular doctrines or practices'**. Sectarianism isn't limited to Catholic and Protestant communities but can relate to other religions, for example Sunni and Shia Muslims within Islam, and Orthodox and Reformist Jews within Judaism.

At present, we are focused on making our documentary on sectarianism and you have the opportunity to take part. Shockingly, the percentage of incidents of sectarianism within Scotland is growing. This is one of the reasons why TRUE Colours was formed. Students from different schools within Edinburgh will be part of this documentary and in order to get more information out there on the subject, the documentary will cover peoples views of sectarianism within schools, between football teams and in relation to religious conflicts within communities. If you have experienced sectarianism or would like to be part of this documentary, now is the time to get involved! We are currently looking for new members to join our group and have a number of fun and exciting activities lined up each week for our members to take part in. These include: making a documentary on sectarianism, music recording, photography, video production work shops and much more! There will also be opportunities to meet



**Currently recruiting new members and High School ambassadors!**

people from different organisations and to take part in conferences and events that concern the group's aims. If all this sounds like fun, then why not come along on the day and give it a try? You don't have to sign up the first time you come and you are more than welcome to bring a friend or friends. By *Cherelle F. & Kelsey M. TRUE Colours members.*

 [www.twitter.com/TRUE\\_group](http://www.twitter.com/TRUE_group)

 [www.truecolours.org.weebly.com/](http://www.truecolours.org.weebly.com/)

 [www.elrec.org.uk/services.htm](http://www.elrec.org.uk/services.htm)

 [www.facebook.com/truecoloursgroup](http://www.facebook.com/truecoloursgroup)

If you want to get involved, contact us at [admin@elrec.org.uk](mailto:admin@elrec.org.uk) or by phoning **0131 556 0441** and asking to speak to Patricia.

**Looking for new members!**

**Campaign for young people's rights**

**Become part of a strong pressure group**

**Learn new skills, meet new people, make new friends**

**Get involved in different projects**

**Make your voice heard**

**Bring your friends with you!**

**All secondary school students welcome!**