



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Report of the Chair **AGM, June 2015**

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) was established in 1999 at the time of Devolution, when all the Jewish communities in Scotland agreed that there should be a single representative voice that could speak authoritatively for the entire Community to the Scottish Government and other Scotland-wide public bodies. SCoJeC's Council has representatives appointed by the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, the Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Tayside and Fife communities, plus the Highlands and Islands, Israelis in Scotland, Jewish Students and Chaplaincy, and 6 members co-opted for their experience in various walks of life.

Much of SCoJeC's work takes place behind the scenes. Our Director, Ephraim Borowski, whose work is undertaken in a voluntary capacity, and our Public Affairs Officer, Nicola Livingston, meet regularly with Government ministers, officials, MSPs, and others, and attend a myriad of meetings and briefings to ensure that the interests of Jewish people in Scotland are always taken into account. As Research and Publications Officer, Leah Granat produces digests of matters of interest in politics and the media for both ethnic minority and communal organisations, edits our quarterly *Four Corners*, drafts consultation responses, and deals with general enquiries, as well as PVG, immigration, and registration issues.

This and our outreach work are supported by the Scottish Government's Equality Fund, and we are delighted that the significant increase in this grant for 2015-16 will enable us to continue to employ Fiona Frank as our Outreach and Projects Manager, and to take on Zoe Jacobs to take forward our educational work.

SCoJeC's VAF-funded "Expanding Jewish Volunteering" cluster project, which also involved the Glasgow Representative Council, the Scottish Jewish Archives, and the Edinburgh Liberal Community, has identified and trained members of the community to respond to requests for talks about Judaism from schools and other groups. We were able to assist the Board of Deputies to put on their Jewish Living Experience exhibition in Carlisle, utilising the event as an opportunity to train these volunteers. Participants in SCoJeC's subsequent Jewish Volunteer Training Sessions, which attracted people of all ages from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, St Andrews, and further afield, reported that the sessions were "Brilliant, informative and highly professional!"

Amongst the highlights of the year, in August we marked the conclusion of our year-long Lottery-funded "YaCHaS" project to connect Israelis in Scotland with an exciting celebration of Israeli Culture and Artists in Edinburgh. We were delighted to welcome Gillian Merron, the new Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and Superintendent Ross Aitken, the new head of the national Safer Communities Department of Police Scotland, as guest speakers at SCoJeC's Council meeting in October. Within a few months hits on our website passed 1 000 000 per annum, we issued the 400th issue of MEMO, our weekly digest of information of relevance to ethnic minorities, and we published the 1,000th issue of PAB, the "Political Affairs Brief", a digest of information relevant to the Jewish community, all produced with incredible diligence by our Research and Publications Officer, Leah Granat.

Politically, much of the past year was unfortunately dominated by the unprecedented spike in antisemitic incidents last summer. In August the First Minister, the Lord Advocate, and the

Chief Constable of Police Scotland all asked to meet SCoJeC to discuss this, and sought to reassure the Community that hate crime will not be tolerated in Scotland. Then in direct response, the Scottish Government agreed in November to fund a short-term study of "What's changed about Being Jewish in Scotland?". As in our original 2012 study of attitudes and experiences of Jewish people in Scotland, we arranged a Scotland-wide programme that included ceilidhs, concerts, and other events, alongside focus groups that enabled people to share their feelings about what it's like to be Jewish in Scotland. SCoJeC then submitted a preliminary report to the Scottish Government Community Safety Unit on the initial findings, and the full findings will be published shortly.

In February this year, after the terrorist murders in Paris and Copenhagen, and the reassessment by the police and security services of the threat to the Jewish Community, the leaders of all the political parties in the Scottish Parliament, supported by other leading figures in Scottish public life, took the rare step of issuing a joint statement of support and reassurance for the Jewish Community.

Early in June SCoJeC's Director, Ephraim Borowski, and Public Affairs Officer, Nicola Livingston, met First Minister Nicola Sturgeon for their first formal meeting since she took office. They had a frank and friendly discussion, and the First Minister promised "greater engagement with the Jewish community to eradicate antisemitism and intolerance in this country", and expressed a strong desire to meet the Community and respond to their concerns first hand.

During the year SCoJeC has also submitted responses to a wide range of consultations by the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and other bodies, on matters affecting the Community including the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014, the proposed Organ and Tissue Donation Bill, Religion or Belief in the Workplace, Age and Social Isolation, a proposed Bill relating to Burial and Cremation. We have received praise from all sectors of the community for our concern to ensure that all views are properly represented in responses, especially when the subject is controversial and potentially divisive, such as same-sex marriage. All these responses can be accessed at <http://www.scojec.org/consultations/consultations.html>.

SCoJeC also acts as umbrella for the entire Community for a number of legal purposes, such as the Protection of Vulnerable Groups scheme, sponsoring visa applications on behalf of Jewish communal organisations, and confirming the authenticity of proposed marriage officiants who are not synagogue rabbis for National Records of Scotland. Our website (www.scojec.org) is increasingly popular as the source of information on the Jewish community for government and other officials, visitors, ex-pats, and others, passing a million hits in 2014 and continuing to increase.

In conclusion I wish to thank our Director Ephraim Borowski, Leah Granat, our full-time Research and Publications Officer, Zoe Jacobs, our new Education and Community Development Worker, and part-timers Nicola Livingston, and Fiona Frank for their outstanding service, not just to SCoJeC but to the Jewish Community of Scotland. We recognise that our success is entirely dependent on their good will, and that we need urgently to address how to put our work on a sustainable footing. My thanks are extended also to my fellow members of the SCoJeC Executive and the Council, for all their efforts on behalf of our organisation and the Scottish Jewish Community.

Hilary Rifkind, Chair

June 2015



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Director's Report **AGM, 14th June 2015**

The past year has unfortunately been entirely dominated by the consequences of the Gaza conflict last summer, which gave rise to unprecedented levels of antisemitic activity in Scotland and elsewhere, and therefore understandably to unprecedented levels of fear and anxiety in the Jewish Community. As a result, SCoJeC has had to become involved in casework in a way we have never previously needed to, offering reassurance and advice to individual members of the Community, assisting them with reporting incidents, and explaining to police and prosecutors what it is about the nature and context of specific incidents that makes them antisemitic. At the political level, we have explained to the Scottish Government, politicians, and others, that the effect of these incidents is cumulative, and is exacerbated by events elsewhere such as the atrocities in Brussels, Paris, and Copenhagen, so that even when the incidence of such events returns to its usual relatively low level, the Community is more likely to be aware of them, and that in turn feeds further anxiety.

One measure of the reassurance that the Scottish authorities wish to give the Community is that when the general UK security threat level was increased following the attacks in Europe, both the First Minister and the Deputy Chief Constable telephoned personally to ask for their concern for our well-being and security to be publicised. We have also met with the First Minister, Justice Ministers, the Lord Advocate, the Chief Constable, local police Commanders and Procurators Fiscal, the Scottish Government Community Safety Unit, and others, in order to explain our concerns and discuss practical measures to assist the Community. It is to the credit of the Scottish Government that, late in their financial year and at a time of increased budgetary constraint, they were sufficiently concerned by what they heard that they agreed to fund our new study of "How being Jewish in Scotland has changed", in order to gauge how widespread and how deep are the new feelings of vulnerability and alienation within the Community.

We were able to deliver our preliminary report on time at the end of March, and then devoted the entire spring issue of *Four Corners* to reporting on our findings. The full report is still being prepared and we hope to publish it on our website shortly, but it makes sobering reading, with people talking for the first time about not feeling at home in Scotland and thinking about, if not actually planning, to leave, others asking whether it is safe to attend communal events or telling us that for the first time they did not go to Yom Kippur services, and many saying they now keep their Jewish or Israeli identity hidden. We have already met the First Minister and the Communities Minister to discuss these issues, and will be pressing for practical measures as well as statements of reassurance, and as is now known, the First Minister has already agreed to address a public meeting in the Community, probably in Glasgow in the autumn, to hear and respond to people's concerns first hand.

Against that background, SCoJeC's other activities continued and indeed expanded. As part of both our general outreach work and our study of "What's Changed", which are supported by the Scottish Government's Equality Fund and Community Safety Unit respectively, we continued to hold a variety social and cultural events throughout the country. These events serve two purposes: they help people feel more connected, and so more secure, and so and more at ease with their identity as Jewish Scots, and they also bring people into the room, so they can share their feelings and concerns with us, which in turn also makes them feel better supported and so less vulnerable.

Our ever-growing website – there are now more than 10 000 pages, attracting more than 1 000 000 hits a year – has reports and photographs of most of these events, which continue to attract large numbers of people. In Inverness, where only 3 years ago, someone said “I am a community of one”, we now regularly have attendances of around 30. We have held events for the first time in Arran, Fort William, Ayr, Alloa – and even expanded into Carlisle to assist the Board of Deputies! We have also continued to hold events for the estimated more than 1000 Israelis in Scotland, and as a result they have evolved into a semi-formal group, and we have welcomed their representative, Itamar Nitzan, on to SCoJeC Council.

The many other projects that we have been engaged in – concluding our Lottery-funded CoNNeCT and YaCHaS projects, delivering our VAF-funded cluster project with other communal organisations to expand volunteering in the Community, and starting to work on some of the education materials we have wanted since our inception, are reported on formally in the Annual Report and Accounts for 2014 elsewhere in the AGM papers, and also in more detail in the reports from Fiona Frank and Zoe Jacobs below.

I wish to record my thanks to them both, and to Linda Martin, Sharon Mail, and Rebecca Hounsom, who have supported different aspects of these projects during the past year. From July, Fiona will be taking less of an active role in our events, but will continue to support Zoe and Linda, and I would like to thank her for her valued contribution over the past three and a half years as an organiser, as a researcher – and as a performer! This was also Nicola Livingston’s first full year as our part-time Public Affairs Officer; she has been of invaluable assistance both with advice and sharing the burden of meetings with politicians and officials; her detailed report is below. Our mainstay remains Leah Granat who continues to do the work of two if not three people, scouring political and news sources for anything of relevance, not only for ourselves, but also circulating digests and alerts to Scottish minority organisations (supported by the Scottish Government and BEMIS) and UK Jewish organisations (funded by the JLC), editing all our publications, maintaining our website very professionally, staying on top of a wide range of policy areas in order to draft our consultation responses, and being the first point of contact for general enquiries as well as the various regulatory services we provide for communal organisations.

However, proud as we are of our accomplishments, we have to face up to the fact that this is not sustainable – we are only able to achieve what we do because we have staff who are so committed that they are prepared to work ridiculous hours for ridiculous pay. The Scottish Community – and indeed the UK Community – needs SCoJeC; we have proved that over the last 15 years, and it has to be paid for. Our ability to deliver has been recognised by our increased funding from the Scottish Government (though that cannot be guaranteed for the future) and VAF has commended us for

“listening to what people are telling you, ... increase[ing] the reach of your work, ... address[ing] isolation, ... engag[ing] with young people, ... focus[ing] on community development. ... People feeling safe is a major priority. You’ve demonstrated how you continue to address inequality and respond to the increased work with the recent surge in anti-Semitic incidents. You’ve described how you balance what can be done, with current resources, with what needs to be done.”

More needs to be done; we need a break from fire-fighting to be able to plan strategically; that needs better structures and more and properly rewarded staff; and that needs adequate funding. We need the support of the UK national Community through the Board and the JLC, and we need to stop talking about fundraising and get on with doing it.

Ephraim Borowski, Director June 2015



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Current Matters

June 2014

Parliament and Government

“What’s changed about Being Jewish in Scotland”: implementation
General Election consequences
Scottish Election 2016: “Jewish manifesto”
Hate Crime
Community Safety Unit
Death Registration: continuing implementation issues
Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill: secondary legislation
Title to moveable property: restitution issues

Interfaith and Community Relations

Church of Scotland
Roman Catholic Church: Jubilee of *Nostra Aetate*
CCJ
Interfaith Scotland
Chief Rabbi

Projects

Equality Fund
 Education (and Volunteers)
 MEMO and other monitoring
 Outreach events
Photography
“Jewish Living Experience”

Communal Matters

Board of Deputies and JLC
Four Corners
PVG
Website

Finance and Administration

Staffing
Fundraising and sponsorship

Dates of meetings

As previously agreed: Sunday 20th September Glasgow
 Sunday 6th December Dundee (tbc)



Scottish Council of
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Consultation Responses submitted **2014–15**

- May 2015: Draft Charity Test Guidance (OSCR)
- July 2014: Women on Board: Quality through Diversity (Scottish Government)
- September 2014: Proposed Organ and Tissue Donation Bill (Scottish Parliament)
- Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014: The
Qualifying Requirements (Scottish Government)
- October 2014: Religion or Belief in the Workplace (EHRC)
- November 2014: Draft guidance relating to equality and human rights implications for the
Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (EHRC)
- Inquiry into the antisemitism emanating from the Middle East conflict of
July/August 2014 (All Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism
(Westminster))
- January 2015: Connecting Scotland – how the Scottish Government and its agencies
engage internationally (Scottish Parliament)
- March 2015: Age and Social Isolation (Scottish Parliament)
- April 2015: Proposed Bill Relating to Burial and Cremation and Other Related Matters
in Scotland (Scottish Government)
- June 2014: Assisted Suicide Bill (Scottish Parliament)

We are currently preparing a response to:

Proposals for a Lobbying Transparency Bill (July 2015)

Note that copies of all of these responses, and of responses submitted in previous years, are available on SCoJeC's website at www.scojec.org/consultations/consultations.html



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SCoJeC Events

2014–15

- July 2014: Cultural Connections http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14vii_cultural_connections/cc.html
Interfaith musical evening (Mull)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14vii_tobermory/tobermory.html
- August: Celebration of Israeli artists and culture (Edinburgh)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14viii_yachas/yachas.html
- September: Jewish Musical Odyssey
Giffnock http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14ix_musical_odyssey/giffnock.html
Ayr http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14ix_musical_odyssey/ayr.html
Edinburgh http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14ix_musical_odyssey/edinburgh.html
Aberdeen http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14ix_musical_odyssey/aberdeen.html
Inverness http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14ix_musical_odyssey/inverness.html
Glasgow http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14ix_musical_odyssey/glasgow.html
Dundee http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14ix_musical_odyssey/dundee.html
Conference – "Scottish Jewish Arts and Life 1914-2014" (Ayr)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14ix_conference/conference.html
Family Festival, Ayr (with Enjoy) http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14ix_ayr/ayr.html
Arran http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14ix_arran/arran.html
- October: Board of Deputies addresses Council Meeting
http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14x_council/council.html
- November: Interfaith Week BJS (Peebles)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14xi_peebles/peebles.html
- December: Chanukah Parties
Inverness http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14xii_chanukah/inverness.html
Alloa http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14xii_chanukah/alloa.html
Fort William http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14xii_chanukah/fort_william.html
Jewish Living Experience, Carlisle (with Board of Deputies)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2014/14xii_carlisle/jle.html
- February:
2015 BJS meet the author tour (Aberdeen, Inverness, Ullapool)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15ii_bjis2/highlands.html
Volunteer training sessions (Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Skype)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15ij_volunteer/volunteer.html
- March: BJS klezmer tour (Edinburgh, Giffnock, Dundee, Findhorn, and Peebles)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15iii_bjis2/around_scotland.html
Presented sessions at Limmud (Glasgow)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15iii_limmud/limmud.html
Interfaith Bible study (with Embassy) (Glasgow)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15iii_interfaith/interfaith.html
- April: Third Seder (Inverness) http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15iv_pesach/pesach.html
- June: Musical Memories (Inverness)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15vi_inverness/inverness.html



Scottish Council of
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**Meetings, Briefings,
Conferences, etc attended**
2014–15

Regular Meetings

Scottish Government implementation group: Death certification regulations
BEMIS
Interfaith Scotland
Police Scotland National Independent Strategic Advisory Group
Police Scotland Forth Valley Division Diversity Advisory Group
Joint Faiths Advisory Board on Criminal Justice
Scottish Joint Committee on Religious and Moral Education
NHS Spiritual Care Committees
Board of Deputies: Plenary meetings
Regional Deputies Assembly
Defence and Group Relations Division
Community Issues Division
Executive Committee

Occasional Meetings and conferences

First Minister: Alex Salmond; Nicola Sturgeon
Lord Advocate: Frank Mulholland
Minister for External Affairs and International Development: Humza Yousaf
Minister for Communities: Marco Biaigi
Minister for Public Health: Maureen Watt
SNP Westminster Leader: Angus Robertson (with Board of Deputies)
Scottish Government Justice Dept: Community Safety Unit
Various MSPs to discuss matters of concern to the community
Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Human Rights
Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Race Equality
Church of Scotland: Church and Society Council officers
National Holocaust Memorial Day
Jewish Leadership Council
CST telephone briefings on antisemitic incident statistics
Holocaust Education Trust Parliamentary reception
Crown Office and Police Hate Crime Conference
Scottish Law Commission
Education Scotland
Law Commission (England and Wales)
Voluntary Action Fund seminars
Islam Awareness Week
various interfaith events

Research and Publications Officers Report

AGM, June 2015

Political and other monitoring

- Daily monitoring of the Scottish, UK, Welsh, Northern Irish, Parliaments and Governments, the European Parliament, United Nations, and a very large number of statutory and non-statutory organisations, in order to raise awareness of relevant activities by means of MEMO, PAB, and daily briefing e-mails.
- Daily monitoring and circulation of relevant items published in the Scottish media, and weekly monitoring of the UK media.

Scottish Parliament and Government

- Liaising with MSPs and Ministers as required, for example to organise the Chief Rabbi's programme during his visit to the Scottish Parliament, and briefing them on matters of relevance to the Jewish community.

Consultation Responses

- Consulting with relevant communal organisations and drafting consultation responses as listed above that represent the views of all branches of the Scottish Jewish community.

Publications

- Designing SCoJeC's website, and updating it at least weekly; maintaining the SCoJeC CoNNeCT discussion forum. Updating SCoJeC's facebook and twitter feeds.
- Writing, editing, and liaising with the designer to produce *Four Corners*.
- Ensuring that the *Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland* (the most popular single item on the SCoJeC website) remains accurate and up-to-date.
- Assisting with the production of *What's Changed about Being Jewish in Scotland?* reports.
- Assisting in the production of briefing materials on subjects of relevance to the community.

Services to the Community

- Enabling communal organisations to comply with the **Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme**, which regulates people who work (paid or as volunteers) with children or vulnerable adults.
- Liaising with the **Procurator Fiscal Service** to avoid delays to burial that might otherwise be caused by post-mortem examinations.
- Enabling communal organisations to comply with the **Points-Based Immigration System** that governs the employment of people (paid or as volunteers) from outwith the European Economic Union.
- Liaising with **National Records of Scotland** to enable couples who want to be married by a Rabbi from outwith Scotland to comply with the relevant regulations.

Other Activities

- Responding to a wide range of e-mail and telephone enquiries from the general public, media, NGOs, and businesses on matters relating to the Scottish Jewish community.
- Providing advice and reassurance to members of the community who have been the victim, or who fear becoming the victim, of an antisemitic incident.
- Assisting with the preparation of reports to funders, in particular the Scottish Government.
- Providing IT advice to SCoJeC staff as required.

Leah Granat June 2015



Public Affairs Officer – Report for AGM June 2014 – May 2015

June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Facilitated a meeting of Jewish care organisations with Marie Curie Hospice. I regularly pass on relevant information, invitations to meetings & conferences and involve them in consultation responses. Part of ongoing work along with Rep Council to encourage closer working. ➤ Joint work with BoD on their 2015 election manifesto, suggesting how this might be adapted for Scotland. ➤ Preparing a response to SG Women on Board consultation (unequal representation of women on public boards.) Not a specific issue for the Jewish community, but was about the introduction of quotas (currently illegal) and contained questions about rolling out to other equality strands. ➤ Preparing for Chief Rabbi's visit to the Scottish Parliament (arranged at last minute and difficulties with liaison). 2 very intensive days meeting Party Leaders , MSPs, Moderator (follow up to CR's address to Assembly). ➤ Meeting with CoS to try and find common ground to repair relationship, but also to tackle the cause of the breakdown in relationship. ➤ Edinburgh Interfaith Association faith guide for schools: required radical rewrite. (important because such documents often copied by others.) ➤ Census conference, both to learn about new functions in how data is made available and to contribute to future planning. ➤ Regular meeting with Community Safety Unit re issues relating to Jewish community ➤ Meeting with staff from Scotland Office who were seconded to look at issues around forthcoming referendum
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Faith & Young People Guide ➤ Women on Board consultation ➤ BoD 2015 Election Manifesto ➤ Death Certification National Advisory Group ➤ Conference hosted by CoS on role of religious communities in society and constitutional issues for Faith communities post referendum (with Alan Kay). Led to issues about joint statement drafted by CoS in Christian terms. ➤ Planning group for EHRC Call for Evidence re Religion & Belief ➤ Outbreak of Gaza conflict – people in community making contact about concerns, reporting online anti-Israel and antisemitic comments. Good that people identified me with SCoJeC, and turned to us for help.

Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CoS restarting dialogue ➤ Equality Unit ➤ SG Public Procurement Unit re notice about Israel and the Occupied Territories (with Rep Council and UK Lawyers for Israel) ➤ Meeting with Lord Advocate re spike in antisemitic incidents relating to Gaza conflict. ➤ Jointly with Rep Council, meeting First Minister re antisemitic incidents, working on press statement etc.
Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with CST on Scottish dimension of their Hate Crime guide ➤ Dealing with issues relating to community insecurity around what was happening in Scotland during and following the Gaza conflict, particularly following Glasgow City Council decision to raise Palestinian flag and demos against stall holders in shopping centres. This included reassurance, calming people who might do or say something that got them into trouble, helping people report hate incidents/ potential crimes, and signposting people to appropriate help with legal system.
Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hate Crime advice & reporting - Gaza Conflict ➤ Public Procurement Notice correspondence ➤ CoS dialogue ➤ Assisting prepare funding request for revisiting the BJIS exercise ➤ Meeting with Israeli Embassy and Rep Council
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Faith & Young People Guide ➤ Hate Crime advice & reporting – Gaza Conflict, assisting with reporting alleged antisemitic incident. ➤ Launch of EHRC call for evidence on Religion & Belief ➤ Meeting Deputy Ambassador with Rep Council ➤ Working on funding applications
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hate Crime advice & reporting – Gaza Conflict, advice for shopping centre stall owners, discussion with SHRC re potential Equality case. ➤ Assisting prepare funding request for revisiting the BJIS exercise etc ➤ CoS seminar on Scotland's Future ➤ Equality Advisory Support Service event ➤ Updating VAF Funding Application ➤ BEMIS Multicultural Homecoming dinner
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hate Crime advice & reporting ➤ Meeting with COPFS re tracking antisemitic prosecutions, and advising on context with Jewish community. ➤ Letters to MPs & MSPs of congrats following reshuffles at Holyrood and within Labour Party and introducing myself as PAO.

Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EHRC - roundtable faith & belief, Advisory group ➤ SG International engagement consultation ➤ HMD South Lanarkshire, East Ren, Ayr ➤ Liaison meeting with Police Glasgow jointly with Rep Council ➤ Responding to community enquiries re antisemitism – new concerns following Paris attack.
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research re proposed joint faith letter on Human Trafficking/Prostitution suggesting a particular model which is controversial. ➤ Care Inspectorate seminar on Equality Duty ➤ CPG Racial Equality. Spoke about spike in antisemitic incidents, community concerned and unsettled, lack of public condemnation from MSPs and other leading figures. ➤ Arranging community & shul visits for MSPs following on from CPG ➤ Negotiating joint statement on antisemitism by party leaders and endorsement by others MSPs, MPs, faith leaders etc. ➤ Arranging Bible study event with Ambassador (with Ruth Kennedy of Centre for Scotland and Israel Relations)
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arranging community & shul visits for MSPs following on from CPG ➤ Annual meeting with SG Community Safety Unit & CST ➤ Joint meetings with Rep Council: STUC, John Mason, Ruth Davidson & Jackson Carlaw, Jim Murphy, Ken Macintosh, Bob Doris (Garnethill shul) ➤ Research for Ruth Davidson for ET article ➤ Presentation to PFs and other staff Paisley
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CoS dialogue ➤ EHRC - roundtable faith & belief ➤ Facilitating reporting of antisemitic incident at Edinburgh University ➤ Hate Crime follow up with Police and victims ➤ Final report on SG Equality funding 2012-15.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meeting with new PF single point of contact ➤ Attend visit of CoS Lord High Commissioner to Edinburgh shul ➤ Meeting with Communities minister Marco Biagi ➤ CRER Community Ambassador training SG Equality Framework ➤ South Lanarkshire Spiritual Advisory Group

Nicola Livingston, June 2015



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Projects and Outreach Report **AGM, 29th June 2015**

Since the last report to SCoJeC Council in March we have:

- completed the 'Expanding Jewish Volunteering in Scotland' project which involved four partners (Glasgow Jewish Rep Council, SCoJeC, Sukkat Shalom, and the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre), and five strands:
 - Glasgow Jewish Rep Council's project recruiting and training volunteers to represent the Jewish community;
 - Sukkat Shalom recruiting and training volunteers to mentor refugees and immigrants;
 - SCoJeC developing its discussion forum and monthly web discussions;
 - Training volunteers in generic skills eg web development training for the Rep Council and SJAC, oral history training for SJAC, communications and leadership training for Sukkat Shalom;
 - Developing volunteer policy: the project included working on development of a volunteer policy for the Rep Council and SJAC.
- completed data collection on the 'What's Changed about Being Jewish in Scotland' inquiry and produced an interim report to the Scottish Government and a special issue of 'Four Corners' on the inquiry, and are well on the way to completing the final report;
- submitted a bid to the People's Postcode trust (with the support of the Board) to bring the Jewish Living Exhibition to Scotland permanently. (Response expected by 25 June).
- supported Glasgow Jewish Representative Council on a bid to FISCAF to work in partnership with Interfaith Glasgow to roll out the course we developed as part of the 'Expanding Jewish Volunteering' project to train Jewish volunteers alongside members of different faiths.
- continued to run monthly online web get-togethers which have had a small but steady take-up of Jewish people living around Scotland. This is run by Linda Martin, our Highlands 'volunteer ambassador'.
- set up and run a 'Musical Gathering' in the Highlands – with an Edinburgh Klezmer band who just happened to be passing Inverness on their way to Thurso, a local ukelele player, a local storyteller, a singer with an international reputation who happened to be touring in the Highlands, and various other performances!
- arranged to work together with the "Israeli House" project and the Israelis in Scotland group to put on four or five joint events in the next 12 months.

We have also been developing bids for other sources of funding for SCoJeC's ongoing work.

As reported at our last meeting, Zoe Jacobs has now been taken on fulltime to develop our education, volunteer and resources activity. Her report is below.

Finally, from July I plan to reduce my role in SCoJeC's project and outreach activity, although I will continue to support Zoe and Linda's work, and will concentrate more on bid writing for both SCoJeC and for its constituent organisations.

Fiona Frank, June 2015

Education and Community Development Report

In the 7 month period from November to April, we focused primarily on the recruitment and training of volunteers who were interesting in representing the Jewish community in schools, youth, adult and interfaith groups, and creating high quality resources to use in these environments. In this time:

- A 20-hour training programme was devised, focusing on 4 major areas related to education (Curriculum for Excellence, history of Scottish Jewry, Presentation Skills, and Interfaith knowledge) , and 4 areas of Jewish life (Festivals, Life Cycle, Synagogue, Kashrut)
- 22 volunteers participated in the 20-hour training programme
- 5 of those 22 volunteers were chosen as mentors and offered extra training to support newer volunteers in their first outings
- A placement section of the training was added, offering each volunteer the chance to go into schools 4 times with their mentor, before going out in pairs together.
- High quality session plans and associated resources on the 4 major areas of Jewish life were made and have been stored in the JCC in Glasgow for use by any volunteers.

This training has been completed, the placement programme is well underway, and the resource bank is continually being added to. A number of one-off visits took place in a variety of locations, including Dunblane Primary School for a session on Judaism, Falkirk High School and Golfhill Primary School as part of Interfaith events, and St Quivox Church in Prestwick to run a Seder.

The next 14 months offer an incredible opportunity to increase power of Jewish volunteers, both in terms of the support and information they are offered, and the opportunities they get to represent the Jewish community. In the past month, placements in schools have continued, including St Mary's Primary School in Greenock, Blacklands Primary School in Kilwinning, and Moorpark Primary School in Kilbirnie. As well as these, work has been done to continue the project work from last year (including doing more placement work and adding more resources to the bank in the JCC), as well as planning new projects. These include:

- Running training for people in areas with only small numbers of Jewish people, providing information, a chance to build community, and an opportunity to gain further knowledge and pride in Jewish identity.
- Running training for younger volunteers, including high school and university students, meaning that we gain a wider geographic base over time
- Creating Jewish resource boxes, one to be given to each Educational Authority in Scotland, spearheaded by Joe Goldblatt
- Advertising our services to schools, youth, adult and interfaith groups, increasing communication, understanding and friendship.
- Creating a central booking system that will provide a professional service for outside users, and a logical and organised system for volunteers.

This should result in one centralised booking system by which educational organisations can contact volunteers and arrange a visit from a trained, well-supported Jewish volunteer, who has an accreditation for their work, has high quality resources to support the sessions they run and access to a pool of ideas, session plans and advice and support.

Zoe Jacobs, June 2015