



## Introduction

The Fair Justice System for Scotland Group (FJSS Group) is a grassroots-led legal charity based in West Calder, West Lothian. The organisation has established itself as one of the leading voices for justice sector reforms necessary to create greater equality, diversity and representative employment and appointments in the Scottish justice system. The FJSS Group advocates for a justice system reflective of the diversity of modern-day Scottish society and our work is geared to influence justice delivery policy in Scotland through informing the processes of policy formulation and development by engaging with the key policy and decision-makers in the Scottish Government and key agencies.

## Our Key areas of work are:

- Policy development
- Legal Services
- Projects
- Strategic partnerships
- Community engagement
- Creating opportunities

## Legal Services

The FJSS Group is the leading voice in justice sector reforms in Scotland and offers impartial legal advice, assistance, and representation for BAME community. There are passionate legal professionals who volunteer and supervise the work we do especially for the BAME community.



## Projects

We successfully launched our much-awaited history book project titled The West Lothian Connection. The book explored the historical links that The West Lothian local Authority had with the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade placing historical injustices into context. Over 1000 copies have been distributed. We also have ongoing engagements with the Scottish Association with mental health in promoting the mental health well-being within the BAME community and offer multicultural counselling 10+ service users through various referrals. Various ongoing collaborations allow us to work with various organisations on projects and events that help us achieve our key goals as an organisation.

## Strategic partnerships

We work closely with key stakeholders in the justice system including the Scottish Government, the Judicial Institute for Scotland, the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service, Police Scotland, the Scottish Parliament, the Law Society of Scotland, HM Inspectorates across all the disciplines (Prison Service Scotland, Constabulary and Crown Prosecution), Scottish Police Authority and Public Appointments. This connects our work with the key policies and process that shape the Scottish justice system and the Scottish Government's wider community and social justice outcomes.



## Community engagement

The BAME community has been disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our organisation has been providing food parcels to BAME families within the community. We work in collaboration with the West Lothian FoodNetwork and Cyrenians in Edinburgh which allows us to cover families in West Lothian and some Lothian areas. At times we also receive food donations from independent African food outlets who support our work. The FJSS Group has distributed more than 1000 parcels since the service was started at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Covid-19

Lockdown measures have made it difficult for our offices to remain open so that people can freely collect food parcels like they could before the lockdown. This has left our organisation largely dependent on our dedicated team. Without our dedicated team of volunteers our organisation would struggle to meet the ever-increasing demand for food support.

## Creating opportunities

At FJSS we believe in the creation of opportunity for all. Using our extended networks and professional methods, we are able to recruit a wider pool of staff associates than we currently have. Using our communications power, we act on and amplify the voice of those who are often silenced. We are raising awareness of equality, diversity and inclusion through communication, online meetings and support groups as well as podcasts.

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