

BRITISH COUNCIL ACTIVE CITIZENS PROGRAMME

Are you:

- running a voluntary or community sector organisation, or a network working to promote active participation and social justice (such as tackling poverty and inequality) in your community?
- interested in sharing and learning from others worldwide?

If so, you may want to apply to be a UK local delivery partner on the British Council Active Citizens programme.

WHAT IS ACTIVE CITIZENS?

Active Citizens connects organisations and people involved in local initiatives that benefit their local communities, and gives them and their communities the opportunity to gain an international perspective on the valuable work they're already doing, contribute to social research on global themes, develop cross-cultural engagement skills and international professional networks.

The themes for the programme are:

- promoting peaceful co-existence within diverse communities
- participation in local politics and influencing decision making, particularly for under-represented groups
- meeting basic needs including education, shelter, food and social needs
- sustainable livelihoods and employment
- environmental protection and tackling climate change.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

This four-year programme offers a range of opportunities for individuals, organisations and communities that participate to:

- facilitate sharing of good practice and learning in community relations and community development, locally and internationally
- develop capacity to contribute towards positive social change, through enhancing professional skills, intercultural competences, confidence and networks

- build understanding and trust between people from diverse backgrounds
- create long-term international links that improve recognition of your community's achievements nationally and internationally, and enable your community to access international ideas and best practice
- strengthen local relationships between individuals, groups and organisations involved in community development and social action.

Through the programme, your community will have:

- access to a learning framework, training and other materials to support active citizenship and intercultural dialogue
- membership of a wide network of active community-based professionals across the world
- funding for international experience and professional development for community leaders, trainers and facilitators, and active participants in your community
- an opportunity to improve practice in your community by learning from others and through greater understanding of the link between local and global issues.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We are seeking UK community-based organisations and/or consortia who can ensure that the Active Citizens programme is relevant for your community, involves community participants and can enable link relationships and activity with overseas communities. We are looking for you to build on your current work and collaborate with the British Council and our partners worldwide. UK organisations can apply for a grant of up to £7,500 to contribute to the costs of co-ordinating and running the programme for your community.

For more information and to apply by Friday 9 July 2010 go to: www.britishcouncil.org/activecitizens

