

Advocacy Service



a project of The Intercom Trust


**WORKING
TOGETHER**
For a safer Dorset

**DORSET RACE
EQUALITY COUNCIL**





About the Service

- One year pilot project from all the local Councils to provide two Advocates to cover Dorset (including Bournemouth & Poole) providing help and support to anyone who has been discriminated against or received a sub-standard service due to their Race, Religion, Faith, Belief and/or Sexual Orientation.
 - One Advocacy worker for Race, Religion, Faith & Belief – under supervision of Dorset Race Equality Council
 - One Advocacy worker for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans individuals – under supervision of Intercom Trust
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Who are We?

**DORSET RACE
EQUALITY COUNCIL**



Dorset Race Equality Council is a community based organisation that has been at the forefront of race equality work in Dorset since 1994. We aim to eliminate racial discrimination and promote shared values of peace, responsibility and harmony.

Our work involves supporting victims of racism by advising, supporting and representing victims of harassment, violence and discrimination. Dorset Race Equality Council is unique in that it is the sole body in Dorset providing race specific casework. We actively campaign to influence public opinion, legislation and procedures in favour of community cohesion and racial equality.

Who are we? cont



- As far as we have the capacity, Intercom provides services across the South West rural peninsula (our charitable "area of benefit"): Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly; Devon, Plymouth and Torbay; Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole; and Somerset, North Somerset and Bath & North-East Somerset.
- Originally Intercom was an LGB organisation: none of the Founders was transgendered, and we knew that sexual orientation and gender identity were two very different things. We did not want to trespass on territory that we felt we had no right to. However, we quickly found that many Trans people were asking us for help over crime and discrimination issues, and we discovered that though sexual orientation and gender identity are so different in themselves, the issues of prejudice are very similar indeed. In 2001, at the request of our Trans supporters, friends and service-users, Intercom was proud to become a fully-inclusive LGBT organisation, where LGB and Trans people work together to address those issues we have in common while raising public awareness of the key differences.




Who we help?

- We are here to help anyone who feels that they have received a poor service or treated differently because of their Race, Ethnicity, Faith or Belief. We also help those who have been victims of racist abuse, harassment or violence.
- The Community Advocate will help to guide and support you as we work in partnership to resolve these issues. We will always discuss a course of action with each client and act in the best interests for that client at all times. It is **UP TO YOU** on how far we go with the case.
- We are independent from all local statutory bodies but have strong links and partnerships with them to resolve any issues. We can liaise with public institutions, employers, schools and housing providers to help solve any issues which you are having trouble resolving yourself.




Types Of Cases

- Discrimination in Employment
 - Bullying from colleagues/managers
 - Being treated differently from other staff
- Racist Neighbours
- Homophobic Bullying in Schools
- Hate Crimes
- Complaints against a service or service provider
- Signposting



Case Example – Intercom Trust

- Trans-lesbian couple.
- Have had a long history of experiencing Hate Crime; including sexual assault, criminal damage, break in.
- Have come to Dorset Advocacy project as they would like to move into the area and want help to do this as quickly as possible.



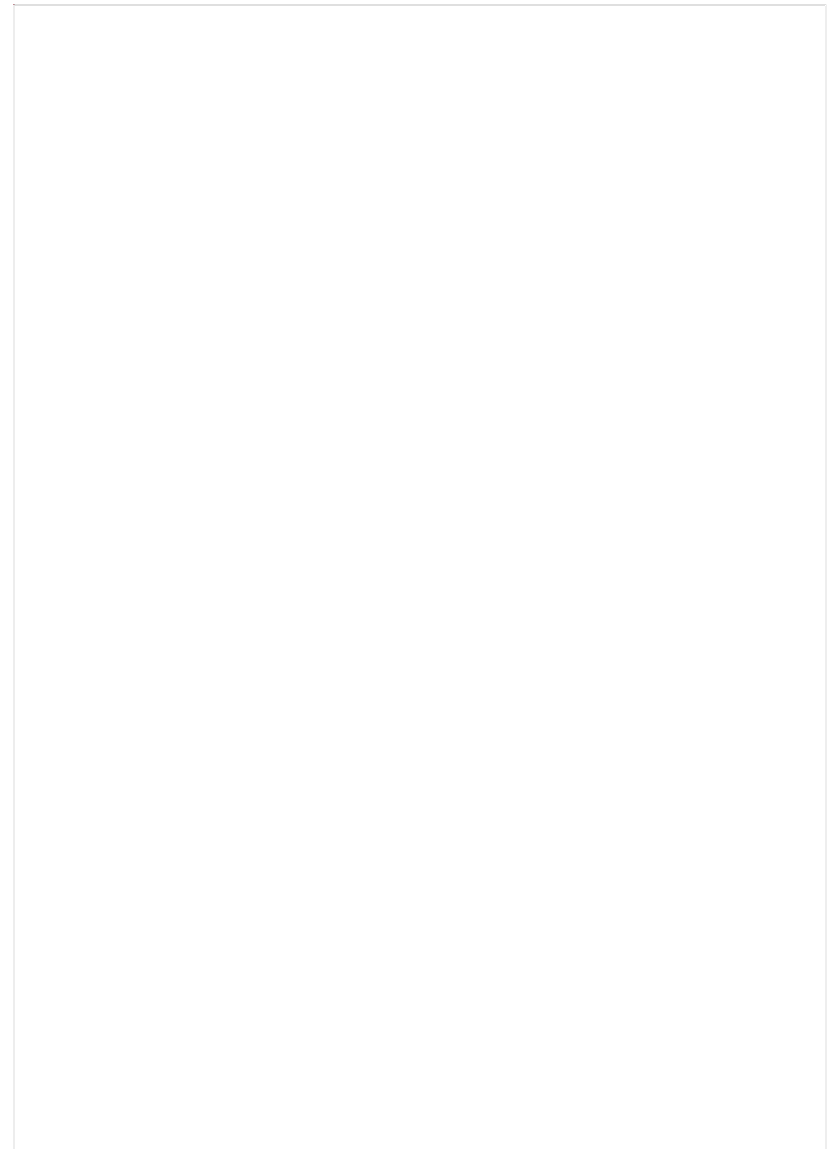
Case Example – Dorset REC

- Lady worked for a successful hotel chain in East Dorset.
- Was dismissed from her employment in the probationary period as she was ‘not from Europe’. Hotel did not investigate her immigration documents.
- Lady came to the service and asked for our advice but did not cause a fuss.
- We worked with the client and finally managed to get her reinstated.



Hate Crime

- Another crucial role of the Advocacy service is to help encourage the reporting of hate crime to the police and public authorities.
- Advocates are playing a pivotal role in the new drive to encourage individuals to report hate Crime working in close partnership with public sector partners.
- Dorset REC's old rural advice surgeries are going to be revived and it is hoped that this will enables individuals to be able to report Hate Crimes wherever they live.



For Further Information

■ Race, Religion, Faith & Belief

By phone

- Dorchester 01305 266633 Bournemouth 01202 553003

By Email

- enquiries@dorsetrec.org.uk

Online

- www.dorsetrec.org.uk



■ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans

By phone

- 01305 266633

By Email

- Susan@intercomtrust.org.uk

Online

- www.intercomtrust.org.uk





Any Questions?