



PRESS RELEASE

To: Editors

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National Campaign, 15 to 19 October, Celebrates Massive Growth In Mediation

12 years ago there were no community mediation services in Scotland. Today there are services in 31 of Scotland's 32 council areas. It marks a significant change in how communities deal with conflict and dispute.

Scottish Mediation Week, 15 to 19 October, celebrates this growth. The event is supported by Sacro, Scotland's leading community justice organisation, which provides 14 community mediation services across the country. The Edinburgh service alone dealt with 446 referrals over the past year.

Sacro also advises the Scottish Government on issues relating to mediation, conflict and dispute.

Christine Schoeck, of Edinburgh Community Mediation said,
"Essentially what mediation does is help people communicate in a non-aggressive and non-confrontational way to resolve a dispute. Often there are underlying problems in a relationship that need to be addressed before the particular dispute can be amicably resolved. We help address these problems and look for a positive way forward"

"People don't understand the potential of mediation, and many don't know that Sacro's services are free and confidential. Scottish Mediation Week will help us to promote our services to a wider audience that could benefit from our experience and support."

The dates of Scottish Mediation Week were chosen to co-inside with International Conflict Resolution Day on 18 October. The event is designed to raise awareness of mediation and clarify the public understanding of this approach and its uses.

Mediation seeks a way forward that satisfies everyone. This is often called the win/win approach. It treats everyone equally and all those involved must have a desire to resolve the problem at hand. It is non-judgemental and can be used in many areas of dispute including family, neighbour, commercial, in-court, workplace, community and in schools.

Sacro specialises in community mediation and mediation in a school setting. Edinburgh Community Mediation was set up in 1995, one of the first in the country.

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For further information please contact Edinburgh Community Mediation on 0131 557 2101