

Mixing the Colours: Women speaking about sectarianism

Writing and film resources for use in working with women's groups



This is a list of accessible resources which have sectarianism as a theme and women as main protagonists. They are intended to be used with women's groups as a tool for facilitating discussion on sectarianism and how intra-Christian sectarianism affects women in Scottish communities. The list has examples of sectarianism both in Scotland and across the world.

Most resources are easily available for purchase online, but multiple copies are available for borrowing from Glasgow Women's Library. For more information please contact info@womenslibrary.org.uk or telephone 0141 248 9969

Books: Fiction

The Twelfth Day of July by Joan Lingard (aimed at young adults, but suitable for some readers)

The first of the Kevin and Sadie quintet set in Belfast during the time of the Troubles. Sadie is Protestant, Kevin is Catholic - and on the tense streets of Belfast their lives collide. It starts with a dare - kids fooling around - but soon becomes something dangerous, Getting to know Sadie Jackson will change Kevin's life forever. But will the world around them change too? And how will their families react?

Also by Joan Lingard and following the continuing story of Kevin and Sadie:

Across the Barricades

Kevin and Sadie: The story continues

Dark Shadows / A Proper Place

Love my Enemy by Kate MacLachlan

A story of friendship/love between teenagers in Northern Ireland.

Divided City by Theresa Breslin

This novel, aimed at teenagers but also suitable for adults, tackles religious and social bigotry in present-day Glasgow. Which football team you support, where you live, your name – everything defines Graham and Joe, two boys from different backgrounds who would be friends. They have to contend with old rivalries and must also deal with present-day society's attitude to asylum seekers.

Pack Men by Allan Bissett

Novel from the Scottish writer about a group travelling to a Rangers game in Manchester. One of the group is a woman and there is one scene where she has a "rant" on the bus about football/tribal loyalties.

This Road is Red by Alison Irvine

Novel which consists of a series of interlinked stories and fictional anecdotes about people who lived in the Red Road flats, from when they were built to the present day. One of the stories follows the romance between a young protestant man, Ricki, and Julie, a Catholic girl.

Books: Non-fiction

Only the rivers run free: Northern Ireland, the women's war by Eileen Fairweather (1984)
Non-fiction about women's lives in Ireland during the troubles.

This was not our war: Bosnian women reclaiming the peace by Swanee Hunt
Shares amazing first-person accounts of twenty-six Bosnian women who are reconstructing their society following years of devastating warfare

Booklets

A Fine Line

Booklet from GOMA project which focused on buildings and public spaces linked with religious and/or political turmoil. Comments and research from community group members involved in the project.

Histrionics

Booklet from the artist Roddy Buchanan produced as part of a project at GOMA on sectarianism.

Short Stories

'Escape Routes' by Lucy Caldwell

Set in Belfast in the 1990s, 'Escape Routes' is told from the point of view of a child, whose friend and baby sitter mysteriously goes missing. Delivered with the touching innocence of a child oblivious but not unaffected by the ideological and political strife plaguing Northern Ireland in the 1990s, the story is an oblique examination of a besieged Belfast.

'A Matter of Religion' by Violet McGuire (from *Working days: An Anthology*, Clydebank Life Story Group)

Short true story from local Clydebank woman about her experiences in a mixed religion marriage and trying to find work as a newly widowed mother with a "catholic" surname.

'The Beautiful Game' by Emma Mooney

Short story from point of view of a young boy, about his father and mother, sectarianism, football and domestic violence.

'Glasgow's no different' by Liz Lochhead (from *Bagpipe Muzak*)

Short piece about Glasgow during the City of Culture, which takes a humorous swipe at the city's sectarianism.

'A Protestant Girlhood' by Liz Lochhead (from *Jock Tamson's Bairns*)

Autobiographical piece by Liz Lochhead detailing her own upbringing in a Scottish protestant working class family. The story touches on sectarian attitudes, segregated schooling, etc.

Films

Hotel Rwanda, directed by Terry George

True-life story of Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager who housed over a thousand Tutsi refugees during their struggle against the Hutu militia in Rwanda.

Earth, directed by Deepa Mehta (Hindi with English subtitles)

Set against the back ground of the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan, this film shows the growing political and religious unrest which tore apart the lives of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. Events are seen through the eyes of Lenny, an eight-year-old Parsee girl growing up in Lahore.

Ae Fond Kiss, directed by Ken Loach

This film tells the story of a romance between Casim, a second generation Scottish Pakistani man who works as a DJ, and Roisin, a Catholic woman who is a teacher at his younger sister's school. The story focuses on how their families and communities react to their relationship. (NB: this film has a 15 certificate but does contain sex scenes which may be offensive to some)

Just Another Saturday (BBC Play for Today series, 1975)

Set on the day of the Glasgow Orange Walk, this feature film length play tells the story of a young man who is the baton twirling parade leader, who in the course of the film gradually comes to terms with the unpleasant and violent truth behind the marching and symbolic pageantry.

Some Mother's Son, directed by Terry George

Story of Bobby Sands and the hunger strikers at the Maze Prison, told from the perspectives of the mothers

Where Do We Go Now?, directed by Nadine Labaki (Arabic with English subtitles)

This is a musical, a romance and also tackles war and sectarianism from a female perspective. Set against backdrop of Lebanese civil war.

A Class Divided

Documentary about a teacher who does an experiment with her class telling them that blue eyed children are better than brown eyed ones. (YouTube link below)

Jungle Fever, directed by Spike Lee

This 1991 film directed by Spike Lee, which explores interracial relationships against the urban backdrop of the streets of 90's New York City.

In the land of blood and honey, directed by Angelina Jolie

Set against the backdrop of the Bosnian War that tore the Balkan region apart in the 1990s, this film tells the story of Danijel and Ajla, two people from different sides of a brutal ethnic conflict. Danijel, a soldier fighting for the Serbs, and Ajla, a Bosnian held captive in the camp he oversees, knew each other before the war, and could have found love with each other.

West Side Story, directed by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins

A classic American musical, inspired by Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. It tells the story of two youngsters from rival New York gangs who fall in love.

L'Arche Du Desert, directed by Mohamed Chouikh (French with English subtitles)

An innocent love affair between a man and a woman from two different ethnic groups disrupts the order of the oasis and has disastrous consequences. This film tells the human story of culturally and ethnically diverse people letting their differences overshadow their similarities.

Hacked Off

DVD with 4 x short films or audio recordings from 4 artists who worked with the Glasgow community on theme of sectarianism as part of a GOMA project. Most pieces feature exclusively men and are written by men. However 'Mardi Gras' by Gerry Loose has a Glasgow woman talking about sectarianism in pubs in Glasgow.

Sectarian Stories (DVD available by kind permission of Nil by Mouth. Not available for public showing - for small group use only. Also available directly from Nil by Mouth)

A range of people talking about their experience of sectarianism in Scotland, including 3 women: Mandy, a casualty nurse talks about post-match experiences but also about sectarian attitudes from a priest which are non-football related; Sandra, a Scottish woman talks about her experience of leaving the Orange Lodge and of working on a church project which brought Protestants and Catholics together; Lauren, a young Scottish woman talks about her experiences of sectarianism at school.

Video clips on YouTube

A Class Divided (see above): The full film is up on Youtube but this ten minute clip is particularly powerful – a sociologist at the start and end talks about it and in the middle there's a section with the children and what happens.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hqp6GnYqljQ>

Hotel Rwanda – official trailer

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dd8rX5Dy_Q

Where Do We Go Now – official trailer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Te9c2jReOg>

Ae Fond Kiss – official trailer. The trailer includes a great scene with a young girl standing up in her school class and saying that she is Scottish, from Pakistan, a Muslim and a Rangers supporter who goes to a Catholic school.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRPNUuGQEM>

West Side Story – official trailer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tK9tARX83Y>

Just Another Saturday – the full film is available on YouTube broken down into sections. The link is to part 1.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aiBSZ-zUeU>

Poetry

Edwin Morgan: King Billy

Khalil Gibran: The Prophet, Children

Minnoor Srinivasan: Sect and Insect

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