

2020 Annual
Conference on
Zoom: 12th
November
2020



the Traveller
Movement

Our Truth Our Voice

Keynote speaker:
Senator Eileen Flynn

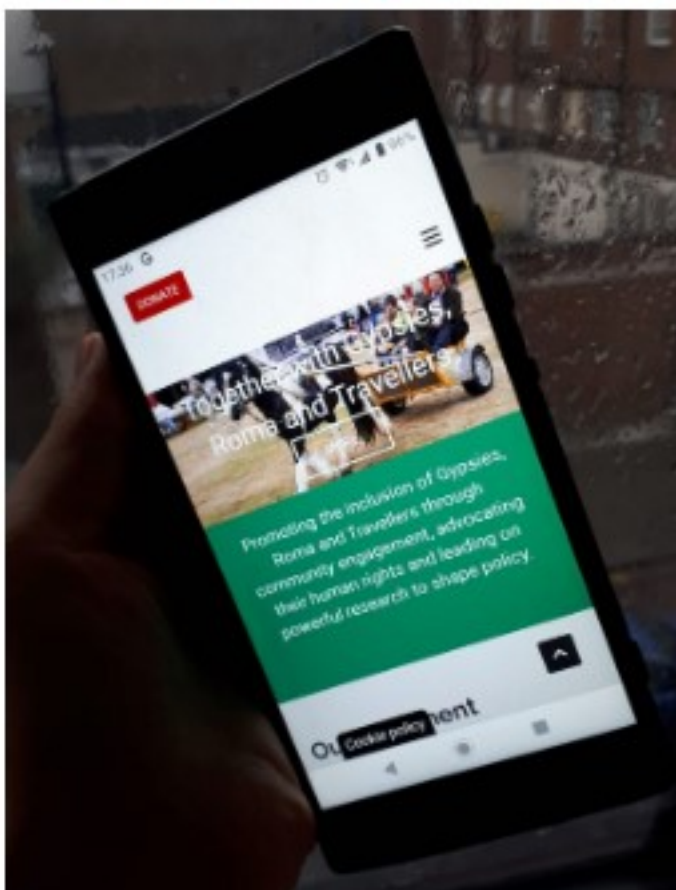
Speakers include:

Zarah Sultana MP, Chrissie Browne
Daniel Cooper, Luke Smith
David Donaldson, Keith Fraser

Workshops include:

1. Catch up and recovery planning for GRT pupils in Education
2. Changing the Media narrative
3. Political and Democratic participation
4. After the Lammy Review - outcomes for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

Please note: The keynote speakers and workshops are subject to change



Our Truth. Our Voice –

Reshaping the public narrative with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

In 2020 we have seen some immense changes to the way we live our lives. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've endured a crippling national lockdown guided by an ill-equipped and ill-prepared government. We've witnessed the print and broadcast media perpetuate toxic anti-Traveller narratives, and we've seen considerable political change as a result of the UK's exit from the European Union.

Additionally, 2020 has been a year of renewed social movements. With the death of George Floyd in the US, the Black Lives Matter movement has reignited the debate about police brutality, systemic racism and discrimination in public institutions. Following this, there's been an increase in political willingness to examine institutional racism, as well as a public surge in solidarity with marginalised and racialised people. Despite this sea change, the rhetoric used by some politicians and sections of the media against Gypsies, Roma and Travellers has never been worse. From the Home Office consultation to criminalise trespass, to the negative media towards Gypsies and Travellers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Channel 4 Dispatches programme depicting all Travellers as criminals, it's been a difficult year for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

To address this, the Traveller Movement's 2020 conference provides Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people with the opportunity to reclaim and reshape the toxic narrative that has permeated public discourse in the past twelve months. The conference will have a thematic focus on economic inclusion, but also political participation and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller advancement in politics. This year we are encouraging people to think about the importance of reclaiming public platforms, and reshaping the discourse: in the media, in politics and on television. This includes campaigning, registering to vote, political participation, outreach, advocacy, organisational and targeted media engagement. We must all work together to make this happen.

Now is the time to reshape the debate, with Gypsies, Roma and Travellers at the forefront of these discussions. It's time to speak truth to power and reclaim the narrative that dominates the media and political discourse. The conference brings together activists and changemakers who will discuss how this can be achieved. It's time to reshape the narrative, and discuss solutions for the advancement of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers across every area of life.

You won't want to miss it.

The conference will provide an ideal platform for information sharing, and a vital online space for discussion

- * Gypsy, Traveller, Roma community members
- * Local Authority employees, planners etc
- * Elected members
- * Community workers
- * Prisons and Probation staff
- * Police
- * Voluntary Sector Professionals
- * Funders
- * Health Workers
- * Teachers
- * Youth Workers
- * Civil Servants
- * Legal Professionals
- * Social Services

CONFERENCE THEME

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- * Statutory service providers
- * Media Professionals

When booking in for the conference, please choose your workshop choice, as you will be allocated to this room on the day

Workshop 1: Catch up and recovery planning for GRT pupils in Education

Speakers: Brian Foster (chair, TM trustee); Christine Brown (Tutors for GRT project, KCL RomBelong project)

WORKSHOPS

Education has been a long standing area of concern for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. We have seen year on year that low attainment, low progression and high rates of temporary and permanent exclusion has persisted with a backdrop of reduced support. The COVID-19 pandemic has no doubt worsened the inequalities experienced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils. A lack of targeted intervention from the Department for Education has meant that NGOs have had to step up to the plate to try and ensure that GRT pupils are receiving education during this time. This work shop will explore the educational fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and what needs to be urgently addressed in order to reduce the attainment and progression gap for these pupils.

Workshop 2: Changing the Media narrative

Speakers: Josie O'Driscoll (ReportRacismGRT); Nathan Sparkes (Hacked Off); Mike Doherty (Travellers' Times) Chair: Martin Howe (Howe & Co Solicitors, TM Trustee)

Both the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) and Ofcom have rules and regulations in place that prohibit hateful and discriminatory content to be printed or broadcasted. Yet we are still witnessing weekly negative reporting about Gypsies, Roma and Travellers that inevitably results in increased hatred against them. The most current examples of this are the unsympathetic reporting of Traveller funerals during COVID-19 pandemic and the infamous Channel 4 Dispatches programme 'The Truth about Traveller Crime'. This workshop will try to answer the question: What meaningful action can be taken to stop media negatively targeting Gypsies, Roma and Travellers?

Workshop 3 - Political and Democratic participation

Speakers: Hannah Swirsky (Centenary Action Group); The Monitoring Group; Luke Smith (activist); Chair: Lisa Smith (Travellers' Times)

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT) are frequently subject to electioneering by political parties and individual politicians in the competition for popular votes. This has been exacerbated by low political participation amongst, partly as a result of the long-held distrust by these communities of governing institutions. To address this the Traveller Movement established the *Operation Traveller Vote* campaign in 2015 to encourage them to register to vote and hold their politicians to account. In 2019, the Traveller Movement and Rene Cassin launched the *Cut It Out* campaign to address hate speech in politics. While these campaigns are important steps toward political accountability, more must be done from within the political sphere to tackle hate speech and anti-Traveller rhetoric. This includes discussions by elected officials at a local level but also at the heart of British politics from within Westminster where, more often than not, parliamentarians go unchallenged. This workshop will discuss the above and how to take forward actions that lead to meaningful change.

Workshop 4 - After the Lammy Review - outcomes for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

Speakers: Chair: George Barrow (Ministry of Justice); other speakers to be confirmed; (Joe Browne, TM Trustee); Khatuna Tsintsadze (Zahid Mubarek Trust).

Our Criminal Justice workshop will provide the opportunity to explore some of the issues faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in the criminal justice system (CJS). We will look at what the data tells us and how much progress has been made, since the Lammy Review was published in 2017. We will share some insights from our campaign, a Record of Our Own, which looked at the impact of COVID-19 on GRT people in prison and those who left prison after 23 March 2020 and, we will update you on our ongoing CJS workstream and our developing partnerships, in this area.

Please note that times, Keynote Speakers and Workshops are subject to change



09.30 - 10.00: Online waiting room

10.00 - 10.05: Welcome from the Chairperson
(**Pauline Anderson OBE**,
TM Trustee and Director of
Learning Skills for Derby City
Council)

10.05 - 10.20: Keynote Address
Senator Eileen Flynn

10.20 - 11.30: Panel 1: Political representation and accountability including Q &A
Daniel Cooper - Imran Khan & Partners
Luke Smith - Activist and campaigner
Zarah Sultana MP - Labour MP for Coventry South
David Donaldson - Scottish Traveller advocate

11.30 - 11.50: Short Break

11.50 - 13.00: Panel 2: Education & economic inclusion including Q & A
Keith Fraser - Youth Justice Board
Christine Brown - Tutors for GRT project, KCL RomBelong project
Jennifer Moses - NASUWT Teachers' Union
Dr Omar Khan - Centre for Transforming Access and Student Outcomes in Higher Education (TASO)

13.00 - 13.30: Lunch and refreshment break

13.30 - 13.40: Room allocation for workshops (This will be based on your workshop choices which are pre selected at time of booking)

13.45 - 15.15: Workshops:
Workshop 1: Catch-up and recovery planning for GRT pupils in Education
Workshop 2: Changing the media narrative
Workshop 3: Political and Democratic participation
Workshop 4: After the Lammy Review: outcomes for GRT

15.15 - 15.45: Plenary session

This year's conference will be held online on Zoom. To book in for this year's conference, please visit;

<http://travellermovement.datawareonline.co.uk/Event-Registration/EventId/57>

Once payment has been received, access details for the conference will be sent out just before the 12th November.

Please remember to check your Spam inbox for emails.

Places for this year's conference will only be confirmed once full payment has been received.

BAND A: Statutory/Commercial organisations and Voluntary/Community/Charitable organisations with a turnover of over £500,000

PRICE £89.00

BAND B: Voluntary/Community/Charitable organisations with a turnover up to £500,000 including Traveller Education Services

PRICE £59.00

BAND C: Voluntary/Community/Charitable organisations with a turnover up to £300,000

PRICE £45.00

STUDENT: PRICE £28.00

THERE IS A LIMITED NUMBER OF FREE SPACES FOR TRAVELLERS (TM MEMBERS). PLEASE EMAIL OFFICEADMIN@TRAVELLERMovement.ORG.UK OR CALL 020 7607 2002

DATA PROTECTION

TM will use the information you provide on your booking form, and additional information you may provide in the future, for administering our conference. We will not disclose this information to any other person or organisation, except in connection with the above purpose.

TM may send you invitations to future events and information on our work. Should you not wish to receive such communications, please tick here ☐

BOOKING CONDITIONS SUBSTITUTIONS AND CANCELLATIONS:

All cancellations must be in writing. Cancellations made more than 2 weeks before the event will receive a full refund minus a charge of 10% per ticket price per delegate. If cancellations are made after this time payment must be made in full. Substitutions can be made at any time without charge.

CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME:

TM reserves the right to alter the programme, venue and the timing of the sessions without notice due to unforeseen circumstances.

