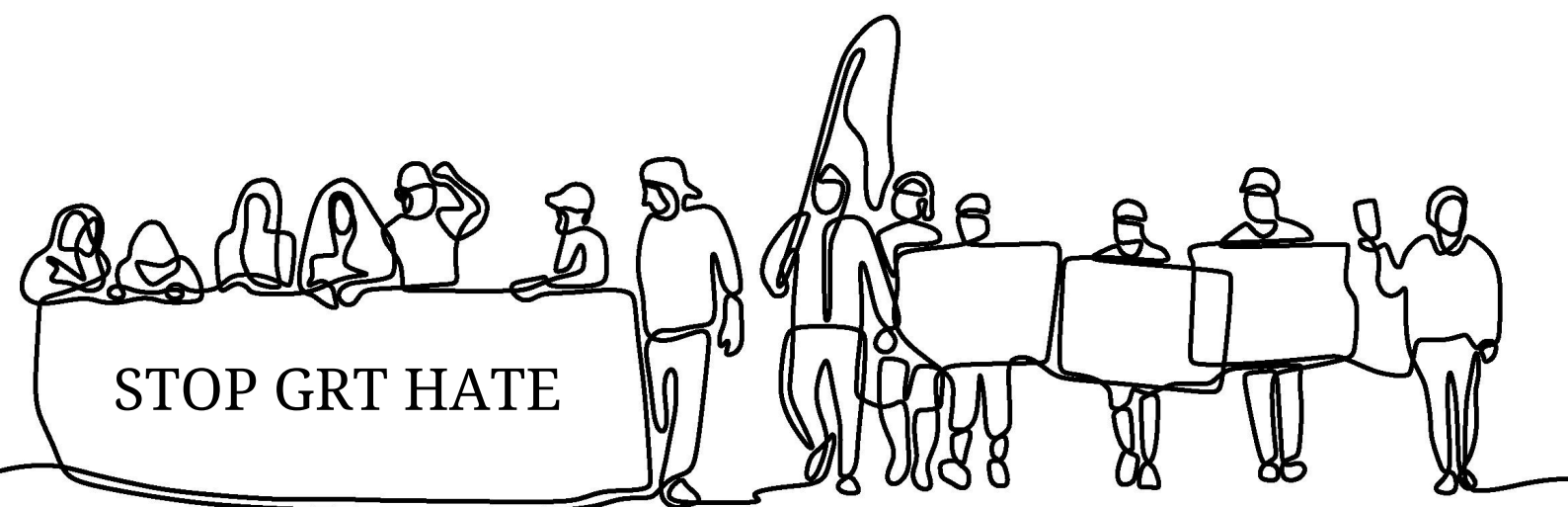


THE TRAVELLER MOVEMENT

IMPACT REVIEW

2020/2021



Welcome from the Chairperson and the CEO



2020 - 2021 was certainly a roller-coaster and challenging year for us within The Traveller Movement. Indeed, it was probably our toughest year in so many ways since we were established. While we started the new financial year off like most of our colleagues across the globe, with wide-eyes and with a lot of trepidation, challenges and uncertainty, we definitely ended a lot stronger and wiser and more focused charity.



The Coronavirus pandemic hit home in the end of March 2020 and the beginning of our new financial year. Complying with national guidance and the safety of our staff we moved the entire team to remote working. We got up to speed relatively quickly having had the foresight or luck to move to Microsoft office 365 the previous year. From the get go, we were concerned about our service users and created a designated Covid-19 information web page filled with guidance sheets and information for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers people.

We decided quickly we needed to respond with new deliverables and projects to meet the new and emerging

demands of our users which were created and compounded by the new virus ridden environment we all found ourselves live in. We urgently needed new funds, new partners and collaborators. We were also mindful our strategic plan was out of date and a new one was urgently needed.

We are really delighted to share we rose to these challenges, securing funding for every project, developed a new five year strategic plan, created a raft of new projects and work programmes, recruited new staff and developed a new sister community interest company to help us deliver, called Open Doors Education and Training (ODEAT). We are now double the size we were last year and delivering a raft of new projects. Alongside these successes we were also able to meet one of our longstanding core ambitions - to recruit more ethnic Gypsy Roma Traveller staff. We are really proud to share we achieved this.

Our staff team new and old have been truly amazing over the year. They have been dynamic, inspirational and creative, diligent, flexible and adaptable. They have risen to the challenges one after another and achieved some wonderful outcomes too numerous to mention here. However there are one or two new areas that we will specifically highlight.

It was clear from the onset that GRT children and young people were going to be severely impacted and further excluded from education. To fill the gap in education provision, we immediately set up a tutoring project ([Tutors for GRT](#)) in partnership with Kings College University. Alongside this programme of work we established a 2nd online programme to support young people, Not IN Education Training or Employment (NEET). These projects have gone from strength to strength and has served over 140 children and young people. We have now handed this work over to our new sister agency Open Doors Education and Training Community Interest Company.

Moving forward we will continue to work closely with ODEAT as education training and employment and economic inclusion, specifically for ethnic GRT youth, remains one of our top priorities.

Our criminal justice work has really expanded, securing further funding from HMPPS to undertake research on the needs of prisoners. A key project was our collaboration with the amazing The Zahid Mubarek Trust (ZMT) and Partners of Prisoners (POPS) to ensure the voices and experiences of GRT and other ethnic minority prisoners were heard in relation to Covid 19. We also strengthened our work with women and girls and expect to really expand this work over the coming months.

Defying the odds we managed to hold our flagship annual conference 'Our Truth. Our Voice', albeit online via Zoom. This was not without its challenges and really put us through the wringer. That said we had over 120 people in attendance and the key note address was delivered by the first Irish Traveller appointed to the Irish Seanad (senate) Eileen Flynn.

Overall it has indeed been a hard year but we survived and have come out stronger. This is thanks to our amazing funders who have believed in our vision and abilities, our amazing staff team new and old, our partners and collaborators, the steady hand of our amazing Advisory Group and Board of Trustees, who have been unwavering in their dedication and support over this time. Finally the ongoing support, input, friendship and helping hands of our service users the Gypsy Roma Traveller people.

We are humbled and extremely grateful to have survived the year and look forward to delivering our renewed energies and vision in 2021-2022.

Signed

Pauline Anderson OBE

Yvonne MacNamara

A Journey Through Our Year

This year was unlike any other. At the end of March, the **Covid-19 pandemic** sent us into lockdown and closed our offices. We worked around the clock to set up a suitable working from home arrangement for the team. As we began to navigate our new 'normal', we responded to the new and emerging need for advice and information for our service users. This manifested into a dedicated Covid-19 webpage with national guidance and resources for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. View our webpage [here](#).



April brought with it a new challenge, the release of Channel 4's Dispatches: **'The Truth about Traveller Crime'**. This show exhibited racist stereotypes of Travellers at every turn, depicting them as violent criminals. It has led to a soar in online hate speech against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. Read our initial response to the programme [here](#). We are still waiting for Ofcom to respond to our complaint.



On a more positive note, we achieved one of our most successful accomplishments to date, our **Tutors for GRT** programme that aims to support young Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils with their education during lockdown. The programme went from strength to strength and we continue to offer catch up tuition to 100 pupils. Read a case study about the project [here](#).



This year, our annual conference was held online for the very first time. We were delighted to welcome delegates from around the UK to our conference **Our Truth. Our Voice**. We were also thrilled that our keynote address was delivered by the inspirational Senator Eileen Flynn, the first Irish Traveller elected to the Irish Seanad (senate). Read the conference report [here](#).

Our Partnerships

The Covid-19 pandemic did not hinder the progress we have made this year. In fact, in 2020/21 we have collaborated with multiple organisations on projects and publications that aim to address the inequalities brought to light by the pandemic. We worked with partners across civil society, as well as in government to ensure GRT voices were not left behind. Firstly, Our **political and media literacy training** programme was co-delivered with our friends at Hacked Off, Travellers' Times, Shout Out UK, Cat Smith MP and the Parliament Outreach Team. Watch some of the training sessions on our [Facebook page](#).



the Traveller Movement

Political and Media Literacy Training

Making your voice heard

This UK Parliament workshop will let you know how to make your voice heard in parliament and will answer the following questions: How can you take action? What tools help influence debates, decisions, and legislation? How can you build relationships with MPs and Lords?

Friday 5th March 10:30-12:00 online
Sign up at www.travellermovement.org.uk/events



A Record of Our Own

Lockdown Experiences of Ethnic Minority Prisoners

POPS
Providing Support to Families of Offenders

We continued to build relationships with fellow Race Equality organisations that helped us highlight the discrimination and inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. We co-wrote and signed joint submissions with the Runnymede Trust, Race on the Agenda and Voice 4 Change via our membership of CORE alliance, the Coalition of Race Equality organisations. We were very proud of our work with partner organisations, Zahid Mubarek Trust and Partners of Prisoners on the [Record of our Own](#) campaign, which documented the experiences of Minority Ethnic prisoners, prison leavers and their families during the Covid-19 pandemic. Read the final project report [here](#).

Political Engagement

We have continued to address the hostile media and political climate against Gypsies and Travellers this year. Following Home Secretary Priti Patel's derogatory comments against GRT in September, we wrote an [open letter](#) asking that she apologise. Read media coverage of our open letter [here](#).

At the beginning of the year, we launched our **Political and Media Literacy** training to provide Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people with the skills and capacity to be democratically engaged.

In February, we launched our census campaign **Stand up and Be Counted** to encourage Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people to tick their ethnicity box in the 2021 census. Watch our campaign videos [here](#). We also received media coverage about the campaign and Roma inclusion in the March 2021 census [here](#).

The following month, we provided evidence to the APPG on Race and Community on the negative impacts that the imposed Voter ID legislation will have on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. Subsequent to this, we were invited to speak at an event by this APPG to discuss the impact of voter ID on BAME and GRT people. We also conducted meetings with Cat Smith MP on the negative implications of this bill for GRT people. This led to several tabled parliamentary questions by Cat Smith to seek clarification and guidance on the bill.

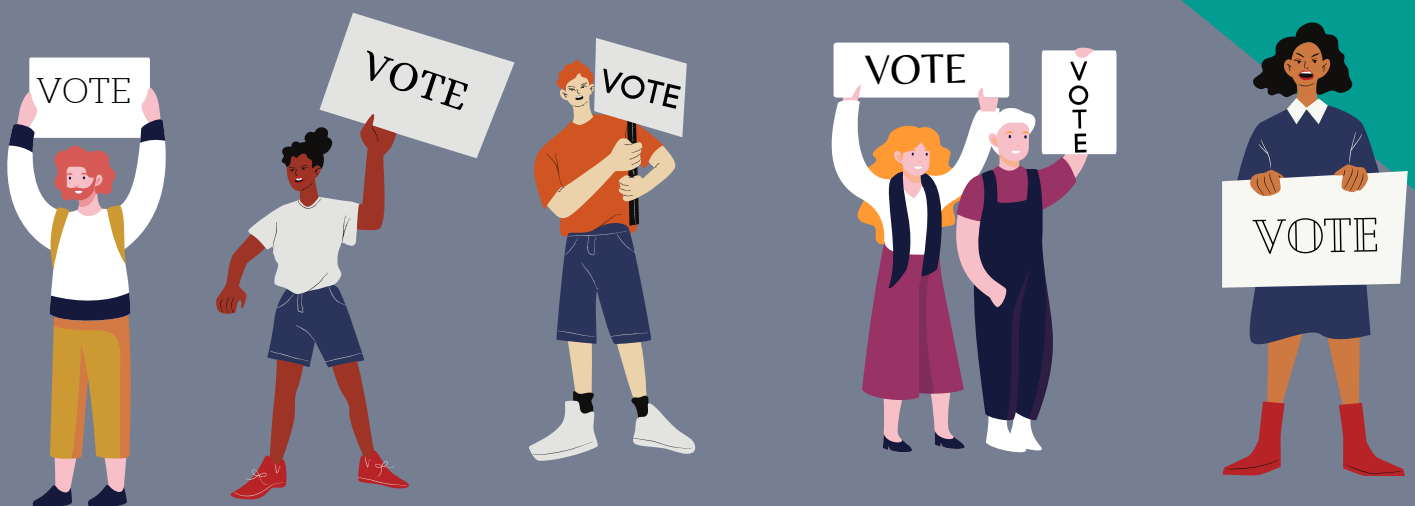
You can read news coverage on our presentation to the APPG [here](#)

You can see the tabled parliamentary questions [here](#)

You can read a blog written by Cat Smith MP on elections and registering to vote [here](#)

The Traveller Movement will publish research on the proposed Voter ID legislation in 2021

We relaunched our **Operation Traveller Vote** campaign in April in time for the local and mayoral elections in May. Working with our steering group, we have been able to produce videos and materials on registering to vote, the importance of voting and how to navigate polling stations, which can be found on our YouTube channel [here](#).



Equality and Human Rights

In response to perhaps one of the most racially charged and stereotypical programmes in recent years, we launched a survey in April 2020 to document the experiences of Gypsies and Travellers when reporting crime. You can read the full report [here](#).

Secondly, we submitted two complaints to Ofcom, the broadcast regulator. The first was on behalf of the Traveller Movement and the second was on behalf of our chair, Pauline Anderson OBE, who had been recruited under misleading circumstances to speak on the programme.

Following from Ofcom's delayed investigation into Channel 4's programme, we launched **#WheresOFCOM**, a social media campaign in conjunction with Stop Funding Hate to draw attention to Ofcom's inaction in this area.

#StopTravellerHate Crowdfunder

We have since worked with Stop Funding Hate on a crowdfunder aimed at raising funds to support GRT activists to produce counter narratives to toxic media representations that are at the forefront of mainstream broadcast and print media. We also managed to target the programme's advertisers which has resulted in many removing their adverts from the online edition of the programme.



**#WHERE'S
OFCOM?**



Submissions

We submitted evidence to several Covid inquiries between April and September 2020. Read our first submission to the Women and Equalities Committee on *the Unequal Impact of Covid on People with Protected Characteristics* [here](#)

In September we provided oral evidence to the House of Lords Covid-19 committee inquiry, *Life Beyond Covid*. Read our submission to the Committee [here](#)

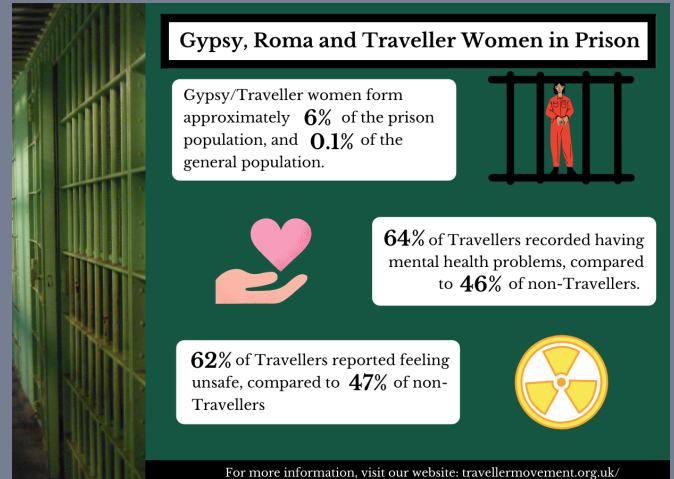
In October we submitted evidence with colleagues at Friends, Families and Travellers to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Read our joint submission [here](#)

In November we submitted evidence to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities in the UK. Read it [here](#)

Criminal Justice

This was a landmark year for our criminal justice policy and research. In March 2021, we launched research on the experiences of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Women in prison. Read the report [here](#). As very little is known about the experiences of GRT women in prison, the report was very well received. Read media coverage [here](#).

We secured funding from Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) to conduct research on alternatives to custody for young Gypsy, Roma and Travellers in the youth justice estate. This research will be completed in 2022.



The Lammy Review

We have continued to work with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to ensure that the findings of the Lammy Review are implemented in the MoJ and other statutory agencies. So far, this has led to six thematic meetings with stakeholders from across HMPPS, civil society and the Ministry of Justice.

We have held sessions with the MOJ on youth disproportionality, the courts system, and the impact of Covid-19 on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

We have delivered briefing papers, wrote toolkits and continue to advise government guidance to ensure it is culturally appropriate. We have designed a pre-sentencing report toolkit which will now be used in a pilot project.

We published an article in the Independent Monitor (a journal for for prison inspectors) to raise awareness on the disproportionality of GRT people in the criminal justice system.

Submissions

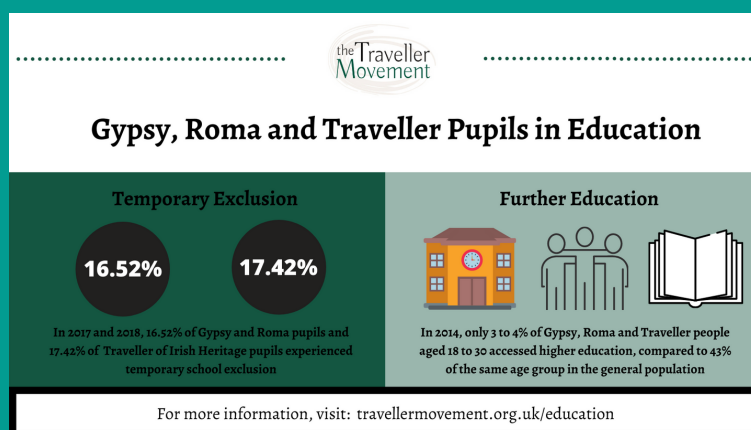
In January we submitted evidence to the Commons Education Committee Inquiry, *Are Prisoners Being Left Behind?* Read our submission [here](#). We also provided oral evidence to the Committee in March 2021.

Education

This year, educational attainment for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils was one of our most utmost concerns. As the growing Covid-19 pandemic led to school closures, we were left unsure of how the needs of GRT pupils were being addressed.

We wrote several letters to the Secretary of State for Education Gavin Williamson MP to raise awareness of the educational needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils, including access to digital devices. Read an open letter [here](#).

The Traveller Movement continues to be a leading charity on improving the educational outcomes for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, working with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). In February 2021 we launched two new pieces of education research, the first on the experiences of Gypsy, Roma and Travellers in Secondary Education. Read it [here](#). The second was on the GRT access to Further and Higher Education. Read it [here](#).



Department of Education

We have attended the Department of Education stakeholder forum and hold key parliamentary events to raise awareness of the drivers of low educational outcomes and high rates of exclusion for GRT. We continue to write high quality submissions to key consultations, and government submissions.

We wrote multiple letters to DfE, to the Education Select Committee.

Open Doors Education and Training

In response to the uncertainty surrounding education for GRT pupils during the pandemic, we established the 'Tutors for GRT' project. As many families turned to home school education, we knew from many years of education casework with GRT families that this would be difficult for many GRT parents because of digital exclusion and low literacy levels. We recruited DBS checked volunteer tutors and put a call out for families in need of online tutoring. By end of March 2021 we had successfully fundraised for the project to continue, and over 100 children were getting professional online tutoring using tablets donated by the project. We had moved using a professional platform and all the tutors were getting paid. The results were (and are) incredible and prove that every child can do well in education if they are given the support they deserve. This was a partnership project with Kings College London's Widening Participation Department.

Case Study

SM, 12 years old, English Gypsy

When we first spoke to SM's dad, she was temporarily out of school **due to bullying** because she lived on a site. Her dad felt the teachers were not taking it seriously and was thinking about taking her out of school permanently as she had 'learned the basics'.

SM started having weekly tutoring sessions in September. She has only missed one lesson in the 17 weeks of teaching, making her **attendance 99.5%**. Academically, when she started she was working slightly behind the expected level of her key stage, however this has steadily increased to now exceeding that of expectation. SM is still enrolled in school (a different one to where the bullying issues were) and is in the top set for Maths and English now.

SM has reported an **increase in confidence** while learning, this view is shared by her tutor who has now been working with her for 6 months. She is eager to learn more complex processes – including using technology such as using excel and formatting documents. She is making friends in her new school, something she struggled to do previously, and the tutor and her parent's remark on how her confidence in learning and herself has made the process a lot smoother.

Case Study

LC, 7 years old, Polish Roma

LC joined the tutoring programme in November, his cousin has been on the programme since October and recommended it to his parents who were looking for extra learning support after school. LC has always been engaged as a learner, and has progressed at the expected level for his key stage. LC has dealt with changes to tutors as well as having some connection and technology problems during the last 4 months, however this has not stopped him engaging.

Monthly progress reports show that academically he has been progressing at the expected level of his key stage, but his effort and commitment to learning have increased from the level of 'good' to 'outstanding'. This is reflected in his attendance record of 100%, even when there are technology issues he engages with the tutor over a phone call and still completes the lesson and homework set. LC has grown in confidence in the sessions and recently started vocalising that he enjoys science, especially animals and their environments.

Functional Skills for NEET

In late 2020, we established our NEET project, which was born out of 'Tutors for GRT'. We realised that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people aged 16-25, classified as NEET, had also been left behind by the pandemic and gaps in the education system. The young people will get a level 2 maths and English qualification after finishing the program. By April 2021 the project was engaged with 11 young GRT people. This project, as well as 'Tutors for GRT', is on-going and now run by our sister organisation Open Doors Education and Training (ODET).

Women and Girls

Our work on domestic abuse and violence has been at the heart of what we do for over a decade. This is why we are proud to say that we successfully managed the transfer of our domestic abuse awareness training for service providers and professionals online.

The training has received incredible feedback across the women's service sector and from different public authorities. The training includes the viewing of our film 'Never Going To Beat You' and a Zoom webinar delivered by Traveller survivors. More details about the training [here](#).

“

The film, screen shots and chat after was very informative the personal reflection really important, please continue with your amazing work

”

“

The training was brilliant, T has been a great model that I can think of when I deal with cases, The Traveller movement will be on my mind with cases also. I cannot thank you enough

”

“

It worked really well. The training was delivered in an excellent manner with a survivor of domestic abuse. It was touching to see somebody share their personal experience in a confident manner

”

Domestic Abuse Helpline

Domestic abuse nationwide increased during the lockdown when people were stuck with their abusers behind closed doors. Partly due to this, we decided to launch a new national domestic abuse helpline for GRT women, managed by our Women's Worker who herself is a Traveller survivor and trained domestic abuse advocate. We are able to listen to the women and signpost and refer them to 'Traveller friendly' services across the country, which we mapped before launching the helpline.

“The help line gets at least three calls a week from Traveller women asking me how I got my divorce. Usually, they just want to talk to someone who understands. I hope talking to me and hearing how it is possible to leave and still have a life will change something for them.”

- TM Womens Worker

Gypsy Roma and Traveller Culture

Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month (GRTHM) is celebrated in the month of June every year. We strive to celebrate GRT history and culture through a variety of events. This year, we held the London City Hall GRTHM celebration online. Together with the London City Hall and the London GRT sector we pulled out a successful event full of music, history and laughter. The event was watched by hundreds on Zoom and on Facebook live.



Christmas Card Competition

It has become our tradition to organise a Christmas card drawing competition for GRT children, and this year was no different. We got numerous beautiful cards sent in and asked our followers on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to vote for their favourite. 2020 winner was Bobby with his brilliant drawing that then became the TM official 2020 Christmas card!

‘Traveller and Gypsy recipes and tips’

Our Facebook group really took off during the first lockdown in April and has become an important safe space for tens of thousands of GRT and non-GRT people. It has been labelled as the ‘nicest group’ on Facebook where people share their traditional and new recipes and tips without any judgement or nastiness. We regularly received testimonies how the group has helped the members through bereavement, anxiety and loneliness.

Our Year in Numbers



Overall attendees at TM conference: **133**



Social media followers: **28,649**



Newsletter subscribers: **1569**



Mentions in the media: **103**



Website visitors: **92145**



Events held: **36**



Overall participants: **1185**



Casework:
Education - **30**
ESJU – **139**

Case Study 1: TOLATA

P came to the ESJU as she had left her partner of 15 years who she had children with and co-owned a plot of land with. She rang us to find out what her rights would be if she were to end the relationship completely so that she could properly weigh up her options.

After consulting with a number of members of the pro bono panel we were able to identify it as a TOLATA case and we were referred to a solicitor at Garden Court chambers by one of his colleagues who works with us on the panel, for advice. The barrister was able to advise on long term and short-term options including what these processes would entail in court.



EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE UNIT

Free advice for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

-  Discrimination in private services (pubs, restaurants, shops, etc)
-  Discrimination in public services (councils, NHS, police, etc.)
-  Complaints about the police
-  Hate crime (racist abuse)

Call/Whatsapp our caseworkers at 0792 3239 696

Email: esjlu@travellermovement.org.uk

You can also contact us via Facebook, Instagram or Twitter

Case Study 1 continued: TOLATA

This information was provided to P who felt better knowing what her options were and knowing that she could return to us for further advocacy if she decided to go forward with any of the options. P was pleased to be given information around the type of case it was so that she could also do some research herself. P decided that once we emailed her a general estimate of costs for these sorts of proceedings, she was happy to close the case.

Case Study 2: Domestic Abuse

J contacted our domestic abuse line as she wanted a divorce from her abusive husband, who now been tagged by the police. We were able to refer her to a legal aid solicitor to sort this.



Help for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller women

If you need help in leaving a violent relationship, please call/WhatsApp us.

0754 1637 795



No one deserves to be beaten up. No one.