

# Annual Review 2014/15

## Campaigning against discrimination

### Promoting inclusion



## From our Patron Lord Avebury



**Lord Eric Avebury**  
Patron

It has been an honour to be Patron of the Traveller Movement (TM) over what has been a very eventful and challenging year. The organisation has continued to take a leading role shaping the policy agenda and supporting community members challenging inequality and discrimination.

TM makes an impact through its tireless grassroots, policy and campaigning work. As patron over the last year I am proud to have supported the

organisation in its ongoing challenge against discrimination in service provision and in the media, scrutinising Government policy on Traveller sites and advocating for practical policy solutions to the issues affecting these groups.

I was particularly impressed by TM's patience, steadfastness and professionalism in its long running discrimination case against Wetherpoons pub chain, which was finally heard in court in November. I also thoroughly enjoyed TM's national conference which provides community members, policy makers and grass roots organisations with the opportunity to intelligently and passionately discuss the issues and challenges facing these communities.

I hope that this year's upcoming conference and TM's future work are as effective and productive as they were in 2014-2015.

## Advisory Group Report

2014-2015 was a busy and exciting year for the TM Advisory Group. AG members were centrally involved in steering key policy decisions for the organisation and in a number of community empowerment initiatives.



Members provided the key steer for TM's seminal report on ethnicity, culture and planning for Traveller sites. A detailed consultation with the group enabled the policy team to bring forward progressive proposals for how Gypsies and Travellers are defined for the purposes of planning. Members played a key role responding to and defeating Government plans to re-define Travellers.

The AG also played a prominent role in TM's groundbreaking Operation Traveller Vote campaign. Members were involved in delivering political inclusion workshops across the country, meeting senior politicians from across the political divide and taking a tour of the Houses of Parliament. AG members also played key roles at our national conference and policy seminars, including chairing the conference, being keynote speakers and co-facilitating the workshops.

These are to name but a few of the groups' contributions.

The TM would like to thank all Advisory Group members for their invaluable time, energy and commitment over the past year.

# From the Chair & CEO



**Joseph Brown**  
Chair of Board of  
Trustees

The Traveller Movement has continued to grow and expand its work over the past 12 months, extending its support and reach twofold.

Despite the current economic climate, TM took on some big and scary challenges across the organisation. Both, our Partnerships & Capacity Building and Policy & Campaigning, teams displayed real passion and innovation by developing new projects areas. They took on a much stronger community, advocacy and campaigning lead, engaged in strategic litigation, policy and media work with some big successes.

We are very proud of these achievements and our continuing commitment to serving the Traveller, Gypsy and Roma communities of Britain. All these areas will remain our primary focus for 2016.



**Yvonne MacNamara**  
CEO

Despite our successes the current economic climate and public sector funding cuts have been extremely testing for our work, staff and fundraising efforts. We have fought to maintain a high profile and have continued to speak out for the communities we work with through our advocacy, media work and reinvigorated campaigning activity.

We successfully renewed the PQASSO Quality Standard Award at Level 2 ensuring all our services is to a high standard.

Finally we need to say a massive thank you to all our funders, supporters, stakeholder groups, Trustees, Traveller Advisory Group, staff and volunteers for all their support and hard work throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Brown'.

Joseph Brown  
Chair of Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne MacNamara'.

Yvonne MacNamara  
CEO

# Policy and Campaigning



## **A Big Fat Parliamentary debate on Gypsies, Travellers and Roma in the media**

Gypsies, Travellers and Roma from across the UK and Ireland came together in the Houses of Parliament in May for a topical evening seminar on how the media portrays them. The heated debate organised by TM, included representation from Channel 4, Press Complaints Commission, NUJ, Advertising Standards Authority and others.

## **Press regulator to publish “guidance” on accurate reporting of Gypsies and Travellers**

The Independent Press Standards Organisation has agreed to publish guidance for accurate reporting of Romany Gypsies and Travellers following a meeting between the TM and IPSO's Chair, Sir Alan Moses.

## **Challenging the use of ‘p\*key’ by the BBC and Spectator Magazine**

TM continues to challenge the use of racist terminology in the mainstream media, resulting in significant national media coverage on this issue and increased public awareness. We have appealed a BBC Trust decision endorsing the use of ‘p\*key’ to Ofcom and have organised a hugely successful petition and protest against the Spectator resulting in increased awareness and a right of reply.

## **Gypsy, Traveller and Roma politicians address TM national conference**

The 2014 TM National Conference saw GRT politicians from across Europe gather in a united call to the communities to vote and get politically engaged. The conference was very well received with 80 per cent of participants rating it as excellent.

## **Challenging TV regulator in High Court over Channel 4 Big Fat Gypsy Wedding complaints**

In November TM took a pioneering judicial review case against Ofcom over its complaints handling procedures. Although the challenge was unsuccessful, the case highlighted the damage and offence caused to Gypsies and Travellers by Channel 4's series and made a strong statement that future productions could potentially be challenged.



### **Lord Avebury chairs seminar on Traveller sites**

In February TM patron Lord Avebury chaired a full to capacity seminar in Parliament on Traveller sites outlining Gypsies' and Travellers' deep concerns about provision of appropriate accommodation in England. The cross-party event was attended by MPs, Peers, civil servants and third sector organisations and heard about models of good practice on policy for site provision and dealing with unauthorised sites in Wales and Leeds.

### **Launch of the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Police Association (GRTPA)**

The Traveller Movement is proud to have organised the Parliamentary launch of the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Police Association in July. The event was attended by the ACPO lead on GRT, EHRC CEO and over a hundred people, including senior Police officers from forces across the country.

### **Seminal report on ethnicity, culture and planning for Traveller sites**

In October TM published an important new report on Gypsies and Travellers, ethnicity, culture and planning. The report challenges 'gypsy status', the technical planning definition that is currently used in Government planning guidance to define who can and cannot live on a Gypsy and Traveller site and proposed a new and more inclusive definition to be used in future policy work.

### **Government plans to re-define Travellers scrapped after pressure from national campaign**

TM, in partnership with organisations and individuals working with the communities, won an unexpected victory over the Government and stopped hugely regressive changes to planning guidance for Traveller sites by Secretary of State Eric Pickles.

### **Gypsies and Travellers to be recorded as ethnic group in the NHS**

After years of research, policy work and campaigning by TM, NHS England stated their intention to include Gypsies and Travellers in national ethnic monitoring systems in the NHS.

### **TM 2015 Election Manifesto**

We sent our manifesto to nearly 4,000 candidates running in the 2015 Election, with two hundred responses from candidates and 148 pledging their support for our manifesto.



# Empowering Communities



## Operation Traveller Vote Campaign

From Wales to the East of England and from London to the North West the Operation Traveller Vote (OTV) campaign reached an estimated 2,000 community members, talking to them about political participation and what it means to vote. OTV conducted outreach to over thirty locations across the UK helping people register to vote, increasing political awareness and empowering local communities.

The project engaged both the young and old and used social media to spread the word. On Twitter our #TravellerVote campaign saw wide circulation of pictures of Gypsies, Travellers, Roma and their supporters standing proud in support of increased political engagement.



As part of OTV, we produced an online resource and poster showcasing the key roles Gypsies, Travellers and Roma play in local communities and society. We wanted to ensure that politicians understand, listen to and respect the communities in the run up to the May 2015 General Election and beyond.

We also targeted marginal and prominent Parliamentary seats, including Brecon in Wales and Prime Minister David Cameron's home constituency of Witney in Oxfordshire in the knowledge that the Traveller vote could be critical in winning seats and should be recognised by candidates.



## The Polly Anna Venture

The Polly Anna Venture, a capacity building and awareness raising project, in partnership with Solace Women's Aid, gained a lot of traction and interest from service providers and professionals who are developing their services to Travellers or who are already working with the Travelling community within the field of domestic and sexual abuse.

Training was delivered to over a hundred professionals from a wide range of backgrounds. The audience included: general practitioners, nurses, social workers, housing officers, youth workers, police detectives, health visitors, advocacy workers, A&E staff and workers from various voluntary and community groups.

*"Very helpful and interesting;  
to eliminate stereotypical  
images of Travellers"*  
(Police Officer)

*"The course opened me to different pressures the  
Travelling community may be under."*  
(Social Worker)

*"Very insightful and a tremendous help to me in developing our  
service. I now have some great ideas about how to make our  
service more Travellers accessible and friendly."*  
(Domestic Abuse Service Manager)

## Supporting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils and families in school

Between November 2014 and April 2015, The Traveller Movement ran a pilot education project in partnership with specialist education support charity Communities Empowerment Network (CEN) and Community Barnet. The project aimed to address the disproportionate amount of school exclusions given to Gypsy, Traveller and Roma young people and support families with educational issues, through advocacy for individual families and by providing training.

As part of the project families received free support, advice and representation in line with CEN's model of education advocacy. Free training around education law was also provided to Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities in London as well as for practitioners working within the sector. In partnership with Community Barnet, we also hosted education drop-in advice sessions.

The Traveller Movement has committed itself to developing capacity over the next year to better address the issues that have arisen in the pilot project. We believe firmly that if Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and families can better engage a more inclusive education system then this will dramatically improve their life chances.

# Finances

## Income

Income from Charitable Activities	187,806
Investment Income	410
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>188,216</b>

## Expenditure

Staff Costs	136,297
Other Charitable Activities	88,430
Governance Costs	3,944
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>228,671</b>

Tangible Assets	2,858
Debtors	20,679
Cash at bank and in hand	238,907
Creditors	37,489
<b>Funds</b>	<b>224,955</b>

## Income



- Income from Charitable Activities
- Investment Income

## Expenditure



- Staff Costs
- Other Charitable Activities
- Governance Costs

The summary financial information above has been extracted from the full audited financial statements which can be obtained from the charity office.

*The Traveller Movement would like to say "thank you" to our funders for their financial support during 2014/15*

## The Traveller Movement

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