

Annual Review

2016-17



- Campaigning against discrimination 
- Promoting inclusion 
- Participation and community engagement 

Chair and CEO's report

The past 12 months has been an exciting and transformative year for the Traveller Movement. The year started off with a new set of challenges as we adjusted to some key staffing changes compounded by unplanned leave due to ill health.

Despite the rocky start we appointed a new team, started new projects, continued to build our partnership work, extend our reach and networks while strengthening and developing our community advocacy and engagement strategy.

After several years of planning and preparation the Equality and Social Justice Unit was launched. As expected, the Unit really hit the ground running and in just a few short months strengthened our sector in ensuring public services and institutions are being effectively held to account.

We are proud of the progress the Unit has made in strengthening other organisations in the sector, with capacity building training across the country as well as the support it has given in providing high-quality advice and expertise. All of which has been enriched by the unrivalled Pro Bono Panel of solicitors, barristers and QCs who provide integral support to the Unit on strategic cases across the board; we would like to personally thank each and every member of the panel for their time and expertise.

Our Education and Advocacy work has also gone from strength to strength this year, with an ever increasing caseload. Our service is providing much needed advocacy and support for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils and parents, who all too often feel isolated and at a loss in navigating the complex procedures and barriers they continue to face.

Our public affairs, policy and campaigning work has made significant strides forward ensuring GRT communities are included and heard. We celebrated success in February 2017 when the Government finally agreed to implement ethnic monitoring of Gypsy and Traveller children in youth custody. This change will have a transformative effect for many Gypsy and Irish Traveller children, ensuring they can get the support they need but also in helping to hold institutions to account should they continue to fail them.

We launched our Operation Report Hate campaign and secured wide support from the community and GRT organisations and received a welcome boost by securing much needed funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government to further develop this work throughout 2017.

We continued to ensure good community advocacy and support by championing GRT communities in parliament. We organised numerous events and meetings with Peers and MP on a wide range of policy areas ensuring GRT participation in every event.

All of this would not have been possible without the dedication and support received from community members, and in particular the Advisory Group, who spearheaded many of these campaigns and activities. This was best epitomised during the launch of the Women's Empowerment Network in the House of Lords on International Women's Day, when Gypsy Roma and Traveller women shared powerful and at times heart-breaking stories that showed how much they have fought to improve the situation for their communities.

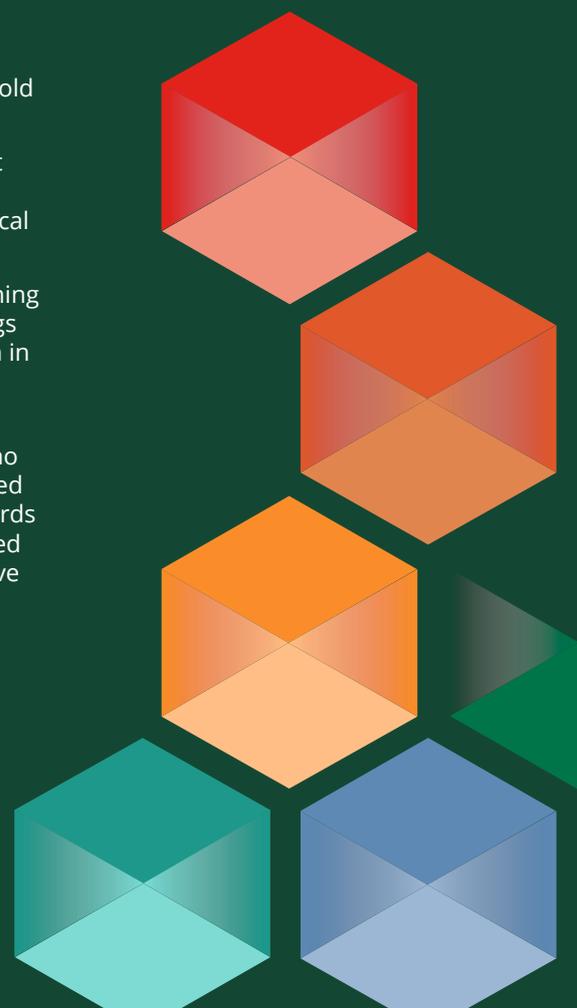
Finally, we would also like to thank our funders, partner agencies, Pro Bono Panel, staff team and Trustees for their dedication and support. 2017-18 is shaping up to be an exciting year and we look forward to working with the community and the wider sector in delivering more positive change for their communities.



Yvonne MacNamara,
Chief Executive



Joe Brown,
Chair



Public Affairs

The policy and campaigning work of the Traveller Movement went from strength to strength in 2016-17. At the forefront of all our strategic engagement was inclusion and recognition of the Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities. Building upon some solid foundations and evidence gathering, forward-thinking and strategic planning we were able to make major achievements.

Improving the youth justice system for Gypsies and Travellers

Together with colleagues from the Irish Chaplaincy, the Traveller Movement celebrated success when the Government u-turned, and finally agreed, to introduce ethnic monitoring in the youth criminal justice system to help Gypsy and Traveller children in youth custody. This inclusion will have a transformative effect on the experiences of Gypsy and Traveller children in custody and ensure we can hold institutions to account should they continue to fail them.

The Youth Justice Board agree to mandate that the future collection of ethnicity data will be based on the 18+1 ethnicity categories used in 2011 Census (which includes 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' as a separate category) and to address discrimination.



Operation Report Hate

The Traveller Movement partnered with leading charities and stakeholders to raise awareness of hate crimes against Gypsies, Roma and Travellers in the run-up to, and during, National Hate Crime Awareness Week, ensuring Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities were included for the first time ever in the National Hate Crime Awareness Week (NHCAW). The campaign, #OperationReportHate, encouraged community members, politicians, police officers and organisations to share photos of themselves holding #OperationReportHate posters.



True Vision



Working alongside the Gypsy Roma Traveller Police Association (GRTPA), Ministry of Justice and community groups we successfully secured a specific reporting page on the national Hate Crime reporting portal True Vision.

Ethnic monitoring and inclusion across British police forces

Building on our previous engagement and research, we continued to lobby and campaign on this issue. Following a detailed application process, which was evidenced by TM research 'Inclusion of Gypsies and Travellers in ethnic monitoring systems of Police forces in the UK'. The Police data requirement group approved a data change, followed by ministerial approval, in February 2017. This is a real step forward and will have major implications for many GRT communities, ensuring they can get the support they need but also in helping to hold the police to account should any injustices take place.

Consultation responses and evidence gathering

The TM team continued to respond to numerous parliamentary inquiries, consultations, Bills and calls for evidence.

Universal Periodic Review

Most notably, we submitted case evidence to the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of the UK's human rights record; the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into hate crime and its violent consequences and the Women and Equalities inquiry into Gypsy, Roma and Travellers and the discrimination they face.

Roundtable with the Children's Commissioner

Concerned at the continuous lack of inclusion of Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month in the national curriculum and the increasing school exclusion levels, we co-hosted a roundtable event with the Children's Commissioner. The event also gave us the opportunity to publish our research into the exclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils from schools in England. The report, 'Never Giving Up On Them', looked at exclusion statistics, collected by the Department for Education between 2009 and 2014, showed huge disproportionality for GRT pupils. We were also able to identify areas with high populations of GRT pupils and low rates of exclusions. One of the aims of our Education Project is to use these areas as examples of good practice.

Annual National Conference: Young people steal the show

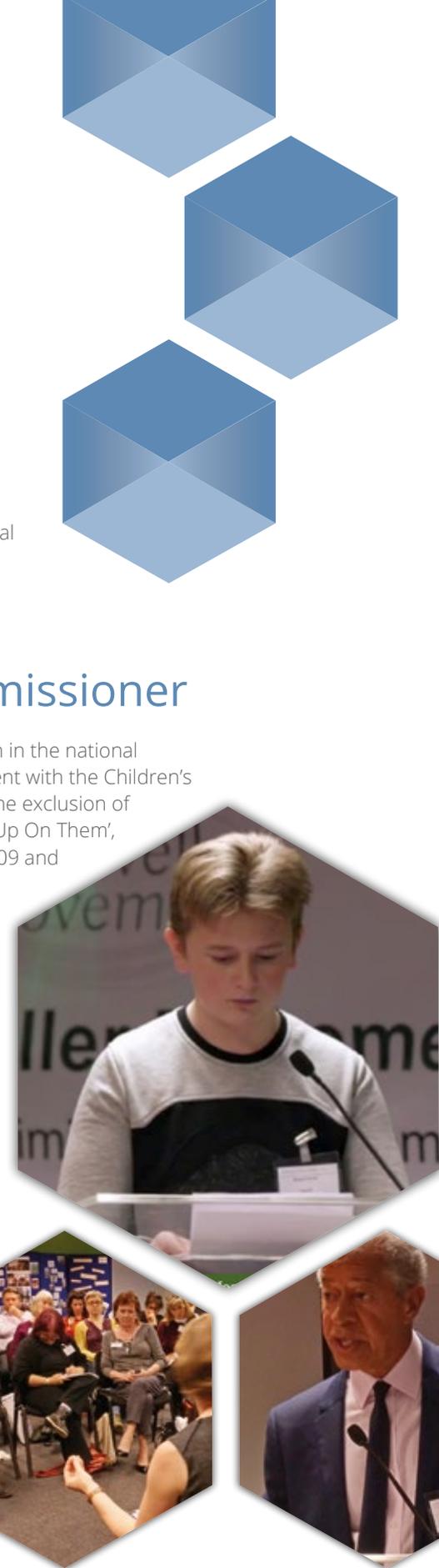
The TM's Conference 2016 was one of the biggest we've had and brought together Gypsies, Roma, Travellers, politicians, members of Government, leading academics, Lord Ouseley and service providers. We have seen year on year increase in the number of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller attendees and participants as well as a widening range of stakeholder groups and policy makers.

One of the main topics discussed at this year's event was about education, exploring how we can create a more inclusive education system for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children. Another topic which attracted many participants was 'Hate Crime and the effect on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community'.

The keynote speakers included a number of young people. The rising young star community activist and campaigner Ben Bennett, who was being followed by a film crew for the forthcoming channel five Gypsy Kids series and Ruby and Ethan from Ash Manor school in Surrey, who are currently going through the education system. Other speakers included politicians, police officers and experts from various backgrounds.

"The inclusion of the young people was inspiring said SO much in so few words. Well done to all."

A Delegate at the conference



Community Advocacy, Partnerships and Engagement



Developing and expanding our community advocacy, new partnerships and engagement was central to our achievements during the year. Throughout the year, we built and developed lasting relationships within the sector to improve and strengthen the capacity of self-advocacy when challenging unfairness and discrimination faced by Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

Access to Justice

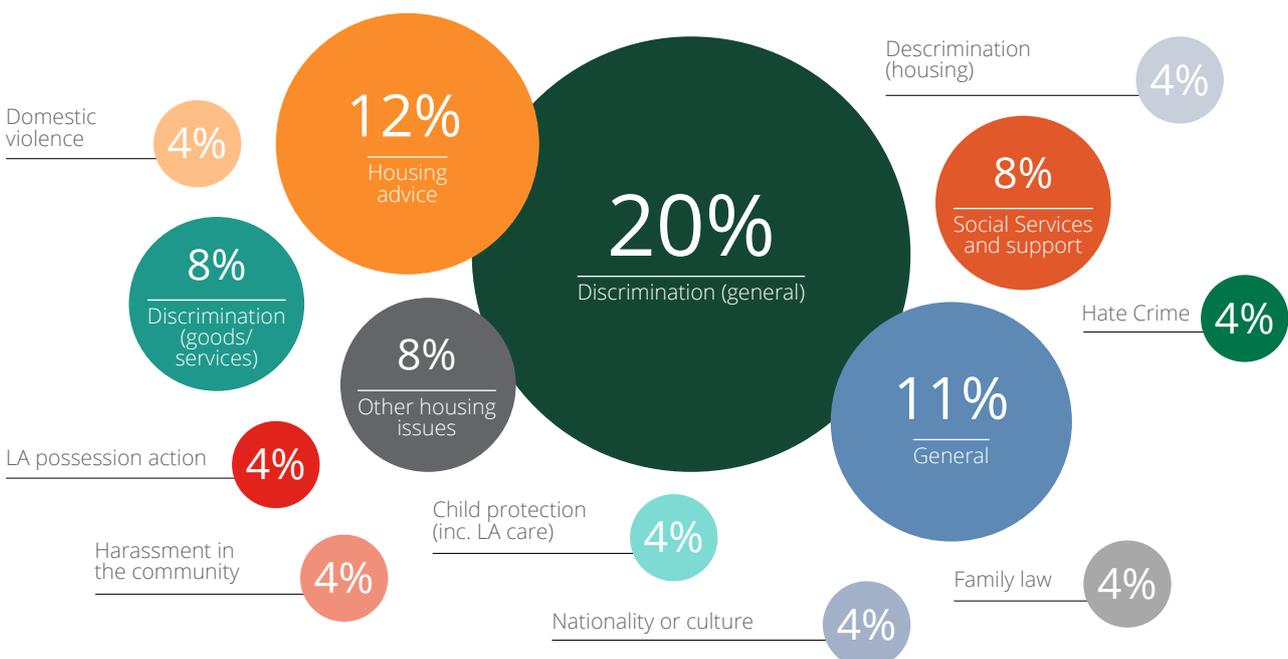
We were delighted to launch our new Equality and Social Justice Unit (ESJU), in the House of Commons, in June 2016. The aim of the ESJU is to improve Gypsy, Roma and Traveller access to justice and to support individuals and communities to challenge unlawful discrimination and human rights abuses.

The ESJU started taking referrals in September 2016 and has been inundated with a variety of cases. A key emerging theme is unequal treatment that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller individuals can experience from the police. Through our casework we are identifying many incidents where the police have fallen short in their duty to protect the public and not discriminate. Examples include a failure to properly investigate hate crime / hate speech against GRT people; supporting a landlord who was trying to remove some Travellers from a pub, solely because of their ethnicity; and a whitewash of an investigation over the 'I've Met the Met' Facebook page.

The ESJU is supported by a Pro Bono Panel of lawyers who give their time and expertise to help individuals who would not otherwise have access to legal advice. The ESJU has been working with panel members on issues ranging from potential claims under the Equality Act 2010, to securing legal aid for a Judicial Review on a decision not to validate a planning application.

In order to support the GRT community, the ESJU has successfully delivered training and provided legal expertise and support for several GRT organisations and will continue to do so in 2017-18.

ESJU enquiries and cases



Education and advocacy

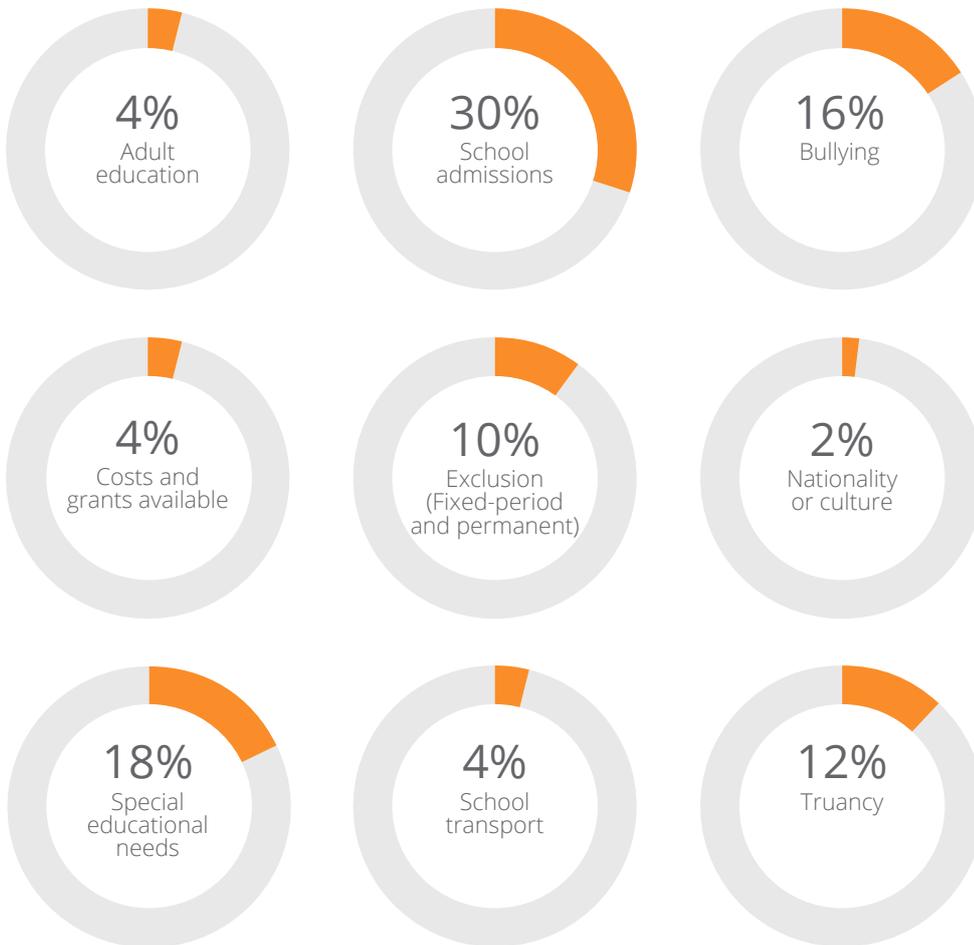
Our education and advocacy work provided support to an increasing number of families during the year, with issues ranging from school admissions, help accessing support with fees to buy school uniforms and kit, to bullying. Although the original focus of the project was to directly appeal school exclusions, families have contacted us for many other reasons and a large amount of the support we have provided has been preventative; advocating for families before the situation escalates to an exclusion.

We have found the support of our newly established ESJU invaluable. Making good use of the ESJU Pro Bono Panel for legal advice and guidance, we referred a number of education-related cases onto the panel for legal advice and casework. One example of this was a successful appeal to a child's Education Health and Care Plan, resulting in the local authority changing the education provision for a child with a disability.

Alongside the casework, the education project has also begun to develop resources, writing a regular advice and information column for the popular magazine *The Travellers' Times* and delivered training to parents, young people, and practitioners to help them better understand their rights and entitlements within the education system.



Education: Types of cases



Case Studies

Alice's family approached TM Education and Advocacy project to ask for support in allowing their child to access an exciting learning opportunity. One of their children, Alice, was reaching the end of primary school and had shown academic excellence, resulting in the offer of a scholarship at a prestigious local independent school. The scholarship covered all fees and would provide an opportunity for the child to learn in a specialised academic environment. However, the family were concerned that they would have to turn down the scholarship due to other costs not covered.

The family were receiving income support due to parental ill health and the household income did not allow for additional costs. The school did not subscribe to the national free schools meals system, therefore, despite being eligible for free meals, the family would need to pay approximately £500, over the school year, for school lunches. The costs of buying the full school uniform were also very high.

On behalf of the family, TM applied to a small grants giving foundation to cover the cost of school uniform, lunches as well as a small pot of money to go towards school trips, ensuring that Alice would be able to participate in extra-curricular activities with her peers. This grant was successful and the family contacted TM, to provide an update that their daughter Alice had settled in, was making friends and achieving.

Doing it for ourselves – nothing about us without us

At the Traveller Movement, we are very proud of our community self-advocacy strategy which underpins all the work of the organisation, our development and training programmes. We are equally proud of the giant strides the community members, who have taken part, have made. In particular, we are very proud of the women who have participated in our domestic violence awareness programmes. The courage of these women has been nothing short of extraordinary and we know they all have bright futures ahead of them and, most importantly will be invaluable assets to their community.

Gypsy Roma Traveller Women's Empowerment Network (WEN)

In March 2017, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller women joined forces on International Women's Day to launch a national GRT Women's Empowerment Network (WEN) in the Houses of Parliament.

The event was a powerful example of the bravery and tenacity of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller women and all the work they have done to improve the situation for their communities.

The aim of WEN is to create a peer support group, a platform for voices to be heard, to harness our existing skills and give us all a stronger collective voice. WEN will also be supporting other, less fortunate, GRT women from the communities, to build their confidence.

Challenging domestic abuse and empowering women through self-advocacy

We further developed and strengthened our existing partnership with Solace Women's Aid, a charity and refuge specialising in domestic and sexual abuse. Our community based GRT women's team delivered some raw and powerful training on engagement and cultural competency to social workers, housing officers, safeguarding and child protection teams, legal services and health and social care teams.

The project also developed and started the first stage of an advocacy skills diploma course for GRT women. The course will run until the end of 2017. Once completed the women will have an in-depth understanding of the principles of community advocacy, safeguarding and accessing welfare and support services for victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

Last summer saw the culmination of our drama project 'Never Going to Beat You' in the Blue Elephant Theatre, in Camberwell, London performed to a full house. The project saw Giants Theatre Company and the Traveller Movement, supported by Solace Women's Aid, work with Gypsy and Traveller women, to write and perform a play to increase awareness and understanding of domestic violence within both communities and among service.

"Amazing, powerful and touching. The personal feel added to the reality of the topic."

Teacher, secondary school in Greenwich



Operation Traveller Vote: Referendum and local elections

We continued to encourage all Gypsies, Roma and Travellers to use their right to vote. Last year we concentrated on the London Mayoral and Assembly Elections, as well as the EU referendum, by providing easy to follow information sheet and updates on how to register and how and where to vote.

Dosta! Grinta! Enough!

It was truly fantastic to see so many Gypsy Roma and Traveller people coming together and participating in 'Dosta! Grinta! Enough!' They came in force with wagons, horses and placards to exercise their right to protest. This was a demonstration against new planning laws. Gypsies, Roma, Travellers and support organisations from across the country, gathered in Parliament Square to have their voices heard and protest against the Government's new planning laws redefining 'gypsy status' and to hand in a 6,000 strong petition to the Prime Minister at Downing Street. An excellent collaboration by so many.



Supporting future community leaders: community Internship programme

Our Internship Programme, established in 2010, is still going strong. Numerous community members both young and not so young, male and female have been through the programme. The Internship Programme is now in its sixth year and has seen over twenty two Gypsies, Roma and Travellers participate. Some of its former participants are now well on their progressive career paths. The project supported three community interns over the year.

"It was a really good experience, it helped me to develop my confidence and I also learnt a lot from working with non-Travellers. It gave me direction and self-belief."

Former Community Intern

"I would not be in my current employment without TM"

Former Community Intern



Case study

TM Intern talks politics in Strasbourg.

In December, the TM's Legal Development Intern Sabrina Stewart went to Strasbourg to take part in a three day workshop on political participation, organised by the Forum of European Roma Young People.

Delegates from across Europe took part in discussions and activities that aimed to prepare them for involvement in political life back in their home countries – for example, through fundraising and campaigning, involvement with political parties, and participating in decision making.

Sabrina came away full of ideas for future projects around campaigning and advocacy and hopes to pass on the skills she has gained to other Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in the UK.



"I think that this is a model of working with the community (and other communities, too) that bears repeating."

Lisa from Mind Yourself

Overall enquiries and cases received



53%

Education



1%

Action against police



10%

Discrimination by individuals



5%

Discrimination by suppliers/service providers



15%

Hate crime



3%

Family



7%

General enquiries



5%

Housing

Finance report 2017

Income

Voluntary Income.....	13,306
Income from Charitable Activities	
Community advocacy and campaigning	156,894
Policy, research and public affairs	103,088
Investment Income	259
Total Income	273,547

Expenditure

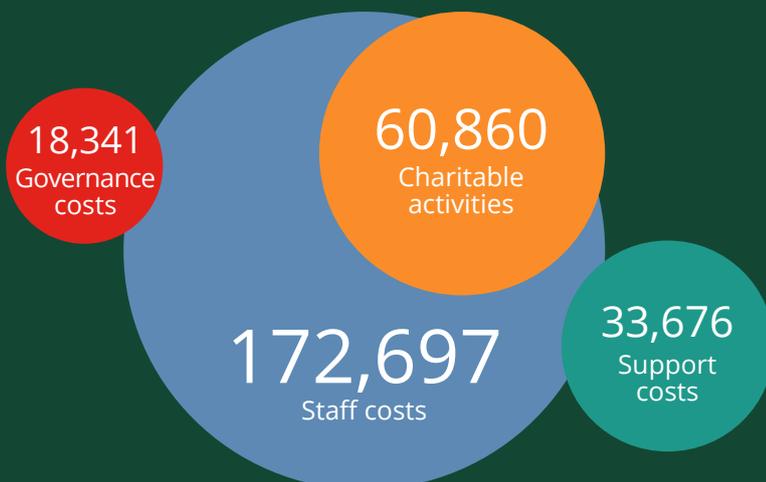
Staff Costs	172,697
Charitable Activities	
Community advocacy and campaigning	114,730
Policy, research and public affairs	118,827
Support Costs	33,676
Governance Costs	18,341
Total Expenditure	285,574

Net income **-12,027**

Tangible Assets.....	8,436
Debtors	33,607
Cash at bank and in hand	243,601
Creditors	76,867
Funds	208,778

The summary financial information has been extracted from the full audited financial statements for the financial year ending 31 March 2017, which can be obtained from the office, Charity Commission or Companies House.

Analysis of resources expended



The Traveller Movement would like to say THANK YOU to our funders for their support.



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The Traveller Movement



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Traveller Movement



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