

Annual Review 2017-18

Effective and Efficient use of our resources and impact









CEO and Chairman

Looking back over the year we are very proud of our many achievements and continuous commitment to supporting and working with the Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities.

Following a snap general election, we have seen an increase in further austerity measures as frontline advocacy agencies experience drastic funding cuts and find themselves unable to provide vital support advice and advocacy. Our advocacy and case work has trebled in the past12 months. Operationally, we had a number of challenges with funding streams coming to the end of life and key staffing changes, along with some disappointing and unhelpful policy implications for Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities in their fight for equality and justice.

However, we consolidated our resources and built strong partnerships where possible to deliver a wide range of outcomes. We are happy to report and share some of these successes and opportunities achieved during the year using a combination of policy, research, law and human rights based approaches, underpinned by a proactive community advocacy strategy.

Increasing both our strategic engagement with key stakeholders and communities, we delivered numerous advice & information workshops, produced a raft of policy briefings and research reports, took on a wonderful community intern, hosted a number of parliamentary events and held a successful, national, annual conference. A key driver for our work this year was to ensure that engagement was meaningful, effective and targeted, rather than box-ticking for statutory services, policy makers and commissioners. We followed up all engagement to impact assess and monitor what change, if any, services were implementing. This paid off in some instances but also reinforced our concerns that public sector equality duties are not being considered for GRT communities across a range of services, and that these services are not being held accountable.

We are proud of all our achievements during the year, but we are particularly pleased that we were able to create some key multimedia resources on a wide range of issues to assist self-advocacy, knowledge and skill, supporting community members to better access justice, their rights and entitlements. We are also very proud of opening up some traditionally sensitive conversations and creating community-led resources for the LGBTQI GRT community. We are extremely thankful to all who contributed to the development of our access to justice resources.

Our work has had a significant impact, empowering and strengthening the voice of community campaigners, challenging and changing policies and practice of statutory bodies and policy makers and promoting wider public awareness and empathy. We have empowered and strengthened the voice of the Traveller community and sector both locally and nationally.

All of this work would not have been possible without the dedication and support received from community members from and in particular the advisory group members, who spearheaded many of our actives and projects.

Finally we need to say a massive thank you to all our funders, supporters, partner agencies, pro-bono panel members, stakeholder groups, Trustees, Patron, Traveller Advisory Group, staff and volunteers for all their support and hard work throughout the year. 2018-2019 is shaping up to be an exciting year and we look forward to working with the communities and the wider sector in delivering more positive change.



Yvonne MacNamara, Chief Executive



Joe Brown, Chairman

Public Affairs

The policy and campaigning work of the Traveller Movement went from strength to strength in 2017-2018. Effective and impactful engagement was our continuous mantra as we streamlined our work areas and achieved effective impact.

Influence in Parliament

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

Inequalities faced by GRT communities across the Criminal Justice System have been a key focus for our work during the year. We submitted evidence to the Lammy review and were invited to share the speaker's platform at the pre-launch event on issues of disproportionality for GRT

in prison. We continue to work closely with the Ministry of Justice and Her Majesties Prison Service on advancing equality for GRT people in this policy area and established an advisory group with key partner's agencies and some ex-offenders.

In February 2018, our Patron Baroness Brinton hosted an event in parliament where TM launched a new, comprehensive education campaign strategy with the aim of raising attainment and outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children nationally. A wide range of stakeholders were present at the launch of the campaign, including Traveller Education Support workers, a number of MPs and peers, fellow GRT activists and community members.

For International Women's Day 2018, we celebrated the lives of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller women by holding an event in parliament and bringing together a number of inspirational GRT women together with our Women's Empowerment Network. We also celebrated the WEN's first birthday launched a new campaign #Travelling2Equality, which is calling for better employment opportunities for GRT. We also released the WEN's first annual review. The event was kindly hosted by Baroness Young of Hornsey.

The event was also well attended by MPs and Lords, including Maria Miller MP (chair of the Women and Equalities Committee), Kate Green (chair of the GRT APPG) and a number of peers.



Women and Equalities Committee, Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities



The esteemed Women and Equalities committee opened an inquiry in to 'Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities'. The Traveller Movement completed an extensive response to their call for written evidence and also opened the first oral evidence session, outlining key issues that affect GRT communities and practical recommendations for the future.



Domestic violence and abuse bill

Building on our direct experience from our women's project and partnership project with Solace Women's Aid, we submitted to a Ministry of Justice consultation on the bill in order to detail the real life stories of domestic abuse survivors and key stakeholders who work with GRT people during these difficult times. We also submitted specific recommendations for the commissioner's role to the Domestic Violence APPG.

Annual national conference

The Traveller Movement's annual conference continued its trend of growing year on year, with lots of community members and stakeholders in attendance at its 2017 conference. It was great to see more than half attending were from GRT communities and living up to the mantra "nothing about us without us" The conference focused on community engagement, social care and criminal justice. The keynote speaker was David Lammy MP.



"Great for stimulating new ideas, networking and connecting to issues on a wider level" (conference delegate)

Research and evidence gathering

Elective Home Education

Through our education casework we noted some local authorities were promoting the option of home education to GRT parents, in a way they did not seem to be doing with families of other ethnicities. We undertook a 6-month research project and found evidence to confirm this. Furthermore, we found EHE being offered to families with low literacy levels with no support or resources offered. We took this evidence to the EHRC who sought a legal opinion on the viability of taking a case. The opinion was favourable. This is ongoing work.

The care system and Gypsies, Roma and Travellers: an investigation

In November 2017, we released a report in response to the concerns about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children being 'deliberately targeted' by social services and 'forcibly adopted'. We analysed the 'Looked After Children' data from the Department of Education and submitted further Freedom of Information requests to receive the full data relating to Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. Our research found that there is no evidence of coordinated and deliberate targeting of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children at the national level. Whilst every case where a child has to be adopted away from their family is a tragedy for those involved, and there is a clear need for additional foster parents from GRT communities, there is no evidence to suggest sustained patterns of deliberate or disproportionate use of the care system to target GRT children and families.

The rights of Irish citizen's post-Brexit

In December 2017, we released a report on what the rights of Irish citizens would be like in the UK after Brexit.

The report found that the only way to fully secure the rights of Irish citizens post-Brexit is to introduce primary legislation to this effect. We met with the Minister for the Department for Exiting the EU (DExEU), Lord Callanan, and a number of civil servants from DExEU and the home office. As of yet, no primary legislation has been introduced, but the Traveller Movement received assurances from Lord Callanan that he supports the status quo for the rights of Irish citizens going forward.

Brexit report:



Reached 693 people on Facebook



Presented to the Irish Embassy and Minister for Department for Exiting the EU



The last acceptable form of racism Report & Yougov Poll

We published research into the pervasive discrimination experienced by GRT communities. The last acceptable form of racism?' which is the most extensive of its kind and sheds new light into GRT people's experience of prejudice and discrimination. It also reveals the full extent to which hate crime impacts on community members everyday lives, the coping mechanisms they use, and how likely they are to seek help. The report found that 91% of Gypsy and Traveller had experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity. Many of the respondents to the research provided examples of social exclusion, and specifically mentioned bullying in schools. A respondent explained that they "couldn't sleep over at my friend's house because her mother said Gypsy children would steal".

To add further weight to our research, we commissioned a nationally representative YouGov poll which found shocking level of prejudice still facing Gypsy and Traveller people in Great Britain.

Key findings

Only around a third (34%) of GB adults

consider Gypsy/Traveller to be an ethnic group.



One in four (42%) of GB adults said they would be unhappy

with a close relative having a long-term relationship or marriage with a Gypsy/Traveller. This compares with 28%, 10% and 3% of GB adults would be unhappy with a close relative having a long-term relationship or marriage with a person who is a refugee/asylum seeker, Black Caribbean or White British respectively.

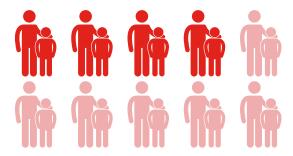












Only four in ten (41%) GB parents would be

happy for their child having a "playdate" at the home of a child who is a Gypsy/ Traveller.



Over one in ten (13%) GB adults think

that pubs and restaurants in the UK should refuse Gypsies/ Travellers because they are a Gypsy/Traveller.

Improving relations between Gypsy Roma Travellers and the Police

Following a number of complaints by TM to the (then named) Independent Police Complaints Committee, and requests for advice on policing matters directed into our ESJU project, we decided to undertake some research to explore the relationship between the police and GRT communities. The research is still ongoing but expected to be completed by June 2018.

"This is a subject I would not have heard of being discussed 25 years ago" (Facebook post)
Traveller Liaison Officer

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 continued to build and develop key relationships within the sector to improve and strengthen self-advocacy when challenging unfairness and discrimination faced by Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

Our 'access to justice' programmes

The Equality and Social Justice Unit (ESJU) has been extremely busy, as more people hear about it and contact us for help and support, doubling our casework and inquiries on this project alone.

Skilling up both community members and service providers is a key outcome of our access to justice work. We created numerous online resources informed by our casework and inquiries, with excellent support from our expert advisory group and pro bono panel of legal professionals. We also delivered some targeted training on the importance of public sector equality duties to both community groups and service providers. We have totally surpassed the project targets in terms of reach.

Resources created include:

"Have you been affected by hate crime?" and 'Your rights and entitlements when pulled over by the police"



Have you been affected by hate crime had over 10k views on facebook and 115 views on youtube



#DontTeachHate video had over 20.5k views on facebook and 231 views on youtube



Stopped by police video 2.8k views



Refused service 3k views

We highlighted issues in our resources that are disproportionally experienced by Gypsies and Travellers. We highlighted the options people have in various difficult circumstances and what authorities should be doing to help.

Working on breaking down the institutional barriers that make life difficult for Gypsies and Travellers, ESJU has opened up channels of communication with a number of key providers.

"Very informative"

TM Facebook follower

'On the road to being you' campaign

This LGBT initiative was the first of its kind in the UK and aimed to challenge homophobic attitudes towards Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people, as well as to provide valuable resources and support for LGBT Gypsies and Travellers who often feel they have "nowhere to turn".

LGBT issues remain a taboo subject within Gypsy and Traveller communities, which leads to LGBT Gypsies and Travellers often feeling isolated and at a loss. In an effort to address this reality we produced – in cooperation with LGBT GRT people - two short films to show LGBT Gypsies and Travellers that they are not alone and there is support out there. We also sought to make partnerships with colleagues in various LGBT charities.



Case study

Mary contacted the ESJU because she had been experiencing ongoing harassment from her neighbour, which had been escalating over the recent months. Mary believed her neighbour was harassing her on the basis that she was a Romani Gypsy. She called the police who refused to accept that it was a hate crime, even though they had themselves witnessed the neighbour being racially abusive to Mary. TM submitted a complaint to the Independent Office of Police Complaints (IOPC) who upheld the complaint against the police force in question. TM also took advice from one of our pro-bono panel solicitors who accepted the case and worked with Mary to seek justice. The police force are currently being investigated by the IOPC.



Education and advocacy

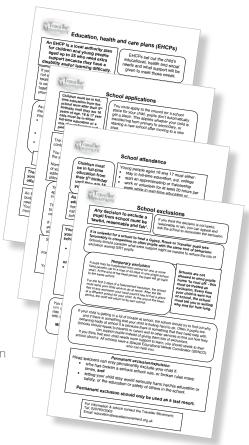
It was another busy year for our education project with the number of calls to the helpline increasing, as word of our service spread among Gypsy and Traveller community members. The education and advocacy team provided advice and information on everything from school admissions, school transfers, bullying, special educational needs, elective home education, attendance, and school exclusions. While more complex cases related to school exclusions, home education or special educational needs, we saw an increase in the number of families requesting financial assistance for school uniforms, equipment, or school kits. We made applications to trusts and charitable groups on their behalf, with several successful applications.

We also noticed an increase in a worrying practice called 'off-rolling', where schools encourage or force parents to take their children (who may be unlikely to achieve good grades in their GCSEs) off the school roll, to either attend a different school or to be educated at home.

We advised many parents on their legal rights which helped them to make more informed decisions regarding their children's education. In partnership with our pro-bono panel, the team developed helpful resources for parents to help them better understand the rights and entitlements.

In cases where legal help was required, especially in relation to SEN and school exclusions, we sought the help of specialist educational advisors. This resulted in several unlawful exclusions being overturned and children reinstated in school.

Our school fact sheets are free to download from our website.





We delivered training in schools and at teachers' conferences, built links and networks with teachers unions and joined non-academic stakeholder groups, such as the Anti-Bullying Alliance. Given the number of bullying incidents we respond to in our case work, it's important that we continue to build national alliances to ensure GRT kids are treated no differently than any other group.

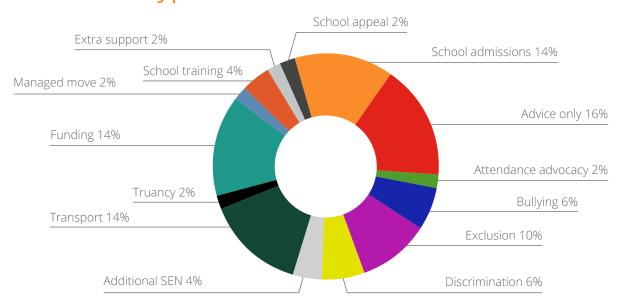
"I'm not allowed to play with you anymore"

TM community interns and workers wrote and launched a new children's book for children, accompanied by a lesson plan for teachers, to highlight bullying in schools and to call for the inclusion of GRT history month on the national curriculum. The book was based on the experiences of our community engagement worker Cassie-Marie McDonagh, who is an Irish Traveller.

We will continue to lobby for the celebration of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history month in all schools.



Education: Types of cases



Education case study

11 year old son Tommy got a fixed-term exclusion from his primary school without a specific explanation. After some digging by the TM team, it turned out that Tommy had special educational needs and he was in the final stages of receiving an Education Health and Care Plan. Tommy was also due to sit his school exams (SATs) the same week as his exclusion. Following the temporary exclusion, his mum, Alice, was told by the school that if she didn't remove her child from roll and transfer him to a special educational facility (off-rolling him from his mainstream school) he would be permanently excluded. When Alice refused to off roll Tommy he was permanently excluded. The Traveller Movement sought legal assistance from a solicitor to challenge the permanent exclusion. which was immediately rescinded. The education team supported Alice and Tommy throughout the process, offering essential guidance and support through this stressful time. Tommy was reinstated at school the following week and proper provision was put in place to meet his educational needs.

Women's Empowerment network

The GRT Women's Empowerment Network (WEN) was launched in March 2016 to create a platform for GRT women to harness their skills and facilitate opportunities to have their voices and stories heard. The WEN also has a role in supporting other GRT women and girls to build their skills and confidence, develop collective strategies to challenge discrimination and inequality, and fulfil their potential as leaders and activists working for the rights of GRT communities. During the year, we had lots of very interesting opportunities for WEN members to utilise the skills and training they received. Some members spoke at our conference, some did media Interviews and others participated in consultations and gave evidence to the woman and equalities select committee.

Building on this, TM and the WEN are looking to build on this growth by campaigning on wider women's issues and recruiting even more GRT women from all over the UK to join up.

GRT on facebook:



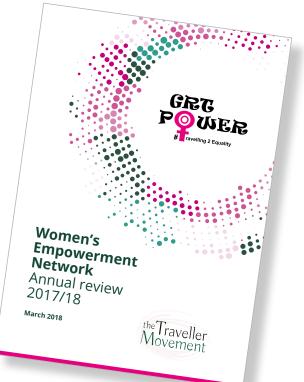
- Reached 6.1k
- · 243 post engagements
- Reached 68.9% women and 31.1% men

Domestic abuse and advocacy work

We renewed, developed and strengthened our existing partnership with Solace Women's Aid, a charity and refuge specialising in domestic and sexual abuse. Our community-based Traveller 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 personal stories were powerful and the women were excellent (and brave) to speak out"

Senior Lecturer attending a training event



Events held throughout the year



Some of the events held throughout the year included:

- Cultural competency training
- TM Annual Conference 2017
- Don't Teach Hate campaign
- Domestic violence advocacy training
- Women's Empowerment Network celebrate International Women's Day
- Policy roundtable events
- Information and on-line resources LGBT events



36 events throughout the year with 450 attendees





91 new TM members



1,970 new Facebook followers



141 new Linked-In connections



49 new Youtube subscribers



3,520 new Twitter followers



The Traveller Movement, Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA

Tel 020 7607 2002 | Fax 020 7607 2005 www.travellermovement.org.uk



info@travellermovement.org.uk



@GypsyTravellerM



The Traveller Movement



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