



the Traveller  
Movement

# The Traveller Movement Impact Review 2018-2019



## Chair and CEO message

The past year has been one of many changes and challenges for The Traveller Movement (TM) as some treasured and valued colleagues have left us, project life cycles came to an end, and some unplanned and extra work and duties landed on our already overlaid table. It's also been a year of great excitement and enthusiasm as new green shoots appeared, new funding streams opened up, new staff joined our small team, new Trustees filled big shoes, new contacts, networks and opportunities arrived at our door.

We remained stable in the face of a number funding streams and projects cycles coming to a natural end. This is always a scary time for small organisations like TM. However with a well-managed and executed fundraising strategy, foresight, having a good reserve policy and practice in place, we have weathered the storm without losing any posts or impact of our work. We are happy to share we are doing very well. We secured a further three years funding from Esmée Fairbairn to scale up our Education Advocacy project to a much more strategic Policy and Campaigning project from September 2019, and another three year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to further expand our social justice work from April 2019. We also secured a small grant from Awards for All to help us develop our women's drama project and secured fantastic in-kind support from the production company, Crispy Biscuits, to adapt the play into a film 'Never Going to Beat You (NGTBY). It should be completed by Spring 2020. We are so grateful to these funders for continuing to invest in the charity and allowing us to continue our vital work.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission have previously stated for a small organisation we punch well above our weight, and we have indeed continued to punch through a number of glass ceilings.

Finally, it would be remiss of us not to specifically mention Michael Ridge, a dear friend, colleague and long standing Trustee of the TM, who passed away in July 2018. Michael Ridge did some incredible work with the Traveller communities and is sorely and sadly missed by all.

Yvonne MacNamara (CEO) and Joe Browne (Chair Person)



**Yvonne MacNamara**  
CEO



**Joe Brown**  
Chair Person



# A journey through our year



April 2018  
**Social care  
video shoot**



May 2018  
**Youth Justice Summit**



June 2018  
**GRTHM GLA  
Steering Group**



July 2018  
**Bullying event**



August 2018  
**Travelling 2 Equality  
Morning tea**



September 2018  
**HMIC**



October 2018  
**Hate Crime  
workshop for kids**



November 2018  
**Annual Conference**



December 2018  
**NGTBY**



January 2019  
**Conference  
Report available**



February 2019  
**Education Roundtable**



March 2019  
**International Women's Day**

## Public Affairs

The Policy and Campaigning work of the TM went from strength to strength in 2018-2019. Through co-production, strategic advocacy and community engagement we increased our impact and included the voice of the community at every possible stage.

### Travelling 2 Equality Campaign:

Traveller women launched the Travelling2Equality campaign with a clear aim: to get better employment opportunities for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) women in the UK.

### Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month:

TM was delighted to take part in the Gypsy Roma Traveller History month (GRTHM) celebration in city hall. Not only did the community members speak at the event, the team also joined the steering group and had key input throughout the planning stages. This is an incredibly positive step forward for GRT social inclusion. The GLA are leading the way in inclusive policy, and TM hope the national government will follow suit in celebrating GRT history and culture across schools.

### Lammy Review Stakeholder Group:

TM was instrumental in lobbying MP David Lammy for the inclusion of GRT in his review of BME disproportionality in the criminal justice system. We are now delighted to confirm that a GRT sub group meets at the Ministry of Justice quarterly to move forward recommendations and implement the findings with a specific action plan developed with the group.



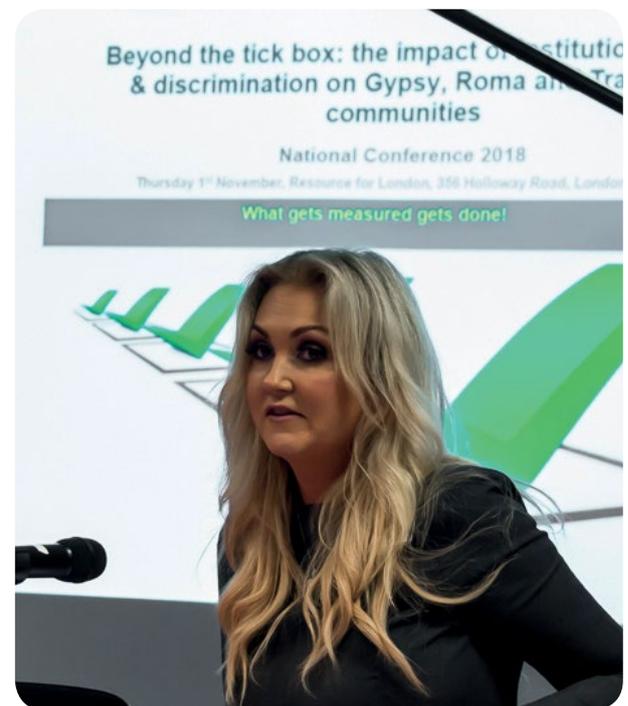
### Annual National Conference:

The TM held another successful Annual Conference.

The Conference, titled, 'Beyond the tick box' was attended by over 160 people. Lord Young of Norwood Green was the Keynote Speaker with panels made up of Bridget Quilligan (Manager of

Kerry Travellers Health and Community Development Project), Professor Colin Clark (Sociology and Social Policy at the University of the West of Scotland) and Derrick Campbell (Regional Director for the East Midlands Independent Office for Police Complaints) and others.

The Conference explored the impact of institutional bias and discrimination on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities and how to bring about systems change for GRT community members in the UK and moving simply beyond the tick box.



## Research and evidence gathering/consultation responses/oral evidence

### Timpson Review of Social Exclusion:

The TM provided written evidence to the Timpson review of school exclusions. TM also provided oral evidence to Edward Timpson with other BME groups on the disproportionate number of BME children overrepresented in the school exclusions statistics, with GRT pupils experiencing the highest levels of any group.

The Department for Education also received a consultation on Elective Home Education from the TM. As Traveller Movement research shows GRT children are overrepresented in home education statistics.

### Policing by Consent report launched in Houses of Parliament:

In September the TM launched the long awaited report Policing by Consent: understanding and improving relations between Gypsies, Roma, Irish Travellers and the police. The report analysed over 40 Freedom of Information requests sent to police forces around the UK in relation to the GRT police liaison officer role. The research showed that almost three quarters of police officers surveyed identified unconscious bias and/or racist behaviour towards Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT) within the police.

### Submissions to key human rights consultations:

The TM provided written and oral evidence to UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance.

TM also provided written evidence to UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

We responded to the APPG inquiry on hate crime and gave concrete examples of how hate crime is experienced in GRT communities. We also provided oral evidence to the Women and Equalities Committee inquiry into tackling inequalities in GRT communities.

Additionally, TM submitted to the Women and Equalities Committee inquiry into the mental health of men and boys, highlighting the need for increased access to culturally sensitive counselling services and more of a focus on suicide and self-harm.

## Community advocacy, partnerships and engagement

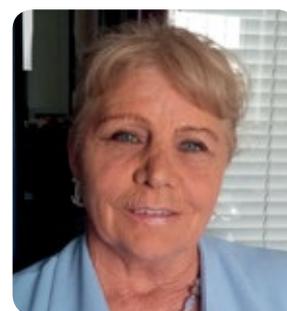
### Women's Empowerment Network

On the 8 of March 2019 TM celebrated International Women's Day with the Women's Empowerment Network. We heard from activists and campaigners working to advance GRT women's equality. We also saw the first clip from the recently filmed drama project, Never Going to beat You produced with the late, great Jennie Buckman from Giant's Theatre and Crispy Biscuit Films. We are delighted to announce that the film will be released in early spring 2020.



### Equality and Social Justice Unit (ESJU):

The most common case type referred to the unit, was refusal of service because of person's ethnic identity. Since we published our advice videos last year, more Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are aware of what to do when they are being discriminated against and more people are contacting the ESJU.



### Education and Advocacy Project:

The most common case type referred to the project, was Admissions when families were moving around and changing schools for a variety of reasons (e.g. bullying or family reasons). Experiences of digital exclusion and illiteracy made it impossible for some parents to secure a school place for their children. The below chart outlines figures from this year.

## Our year in numbers



Overall attendees at TM events – 897 attendees



Social media followers – 11,916



Membership – Overall 819 (136 growth this year)



Newsletter subscribers – 1,088



Mentions in the media – 21 recorded



Website visitors – 86k



Casework: Education – 125 cases. ESJU-74



Policy and parliamentary publications – 24

## Case studies



### James's story...

James's 12 year old son visited their local laundrette while James waited in the car. Staff member refused to serve the son, telling him that they don't serve Travellers. After hearing this, James decided to take the washing in himself and to film the interaction with the staff member.

On the video the staff member clearly refuses to serve him because he is a Traveller. They state that it is the company policy not to serve Travellers based on the amount of trouble they have caused in the past.

TM contacted several of our panel of pro bono solicitors and finally after few weeks found someone who was willing to take the case. James was eligible for legal aid which made it easier to find a solicitor. We got James' consent and transferred the video to the solicitor.

The case was settled and James got an apology and £1500 compensation. The law firm has also added a sentence of ESJU service to their media statement.



### Isabel's story...

Isabel has just moved and needs to get her two children into school. Isabel tells us the closest school to them has a reputation of being racist towards Travellers so does not want her children to go there. She sends the name of the preferred schools.

We start filling in the online in year admission applications as Isabel has limited literacy and doesn't own a computer where she could fill in and submit the forms. We ask Isabel to send a proof of address, but she doesn't have any. We advised her to go register with a GP and ask them for a letter.

The school Isabel wants for 1st option is 3.9 mile away and she cannot drive herself. She asked if she can get transport support. Neither of the children have SEN so are unlikely to get support.

For the application we needed the name of the previous school the children attended. Isabel gave the name and told us she never informed the old school she was taking the children out. We advised her to let the old school know so they don't get worried and inform the officials.

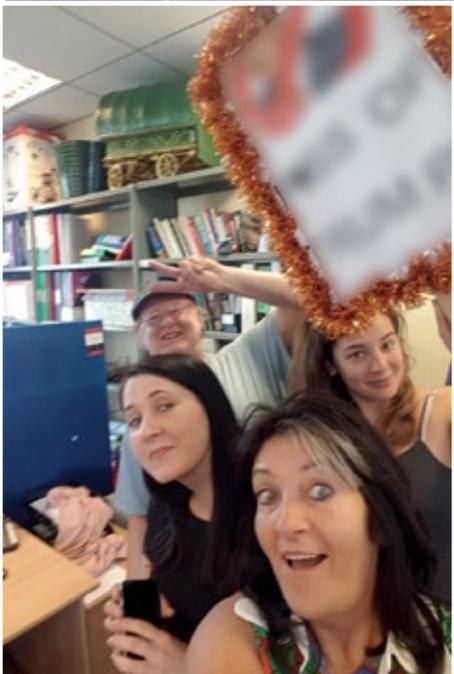
In order to finish the applications we needed a proof of address and tried to contact Isabel for weeks. Finally Isabel contacts us and tells us that a lot has been happening in her life and therefore she hadn't had the chance to get a letter from the GP. She also told us that she is moving again.

We decided she will get back to us after she has settled. Isabel gets in contact again after few months. The area she has moved in has a council Traveller service listed on their website so we try to refer Isabel there.

After few weeks of back and forth emails we discover that the person that is named as the Traveller liaison officer has not been in post for over a year. We are given another name and after a few emails find out that the council has a Traveller Unit that helps Travellers with education, health and accommodation issues. We give Isabel this unit's number.

Both children are now in school.







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

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