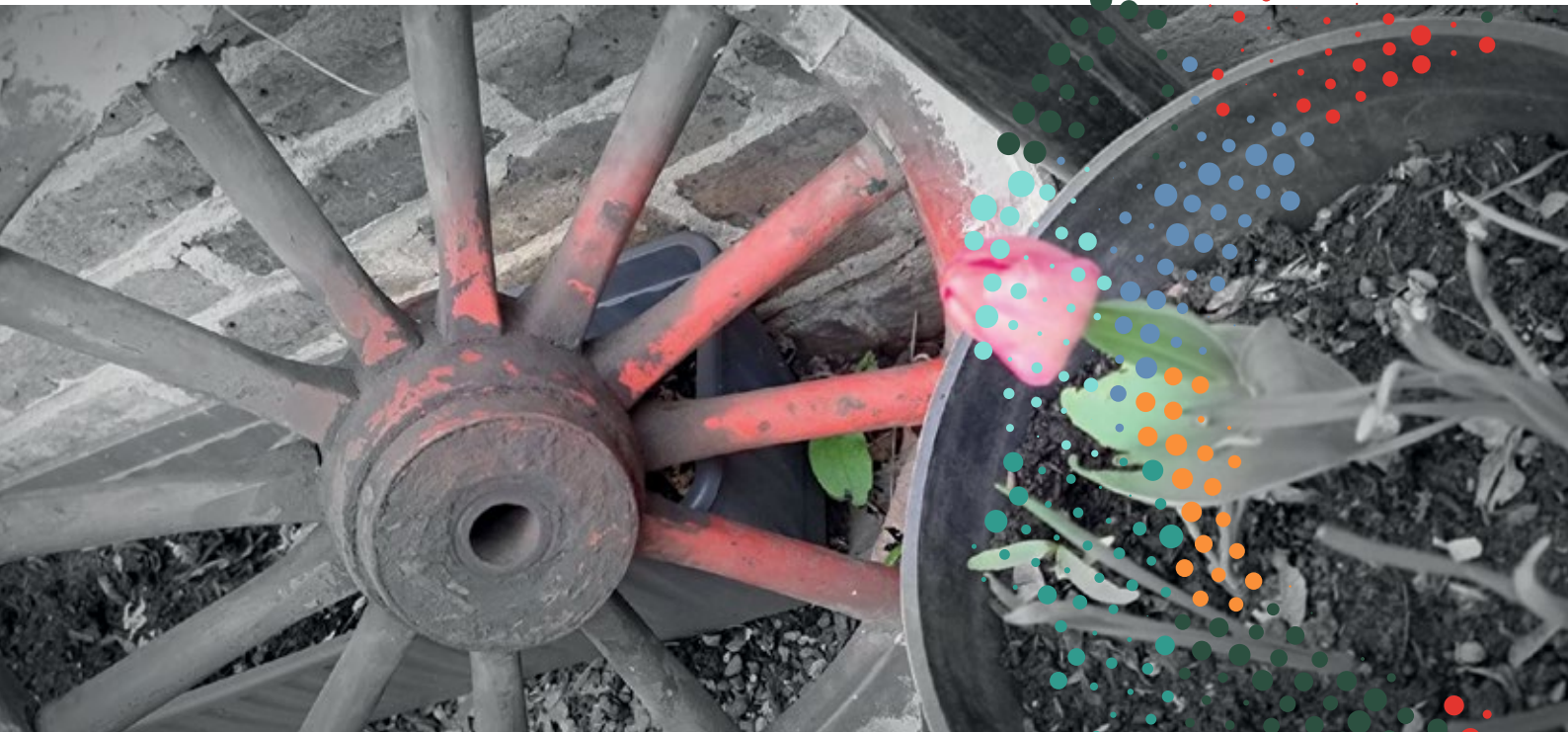




IMPACT REVIEW

2022/2023

Effective and Efficient use of
our resources and impact



October 2023

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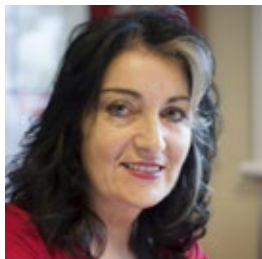
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CEO and Chair Report 2022-2023



Pauline Melvin OBE



Yvonne MacNamara

As we reflect on the past year, it's clear that we faced unique challenges throughout 2022 and 2023. The lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic presented new hurdles for both The Traveller Movement and the Gypsy Roma Traveller communities. Our organization underwent significant change as we navigated a world forever transformed by the far reaching impacts of the pandemic. Despite these challenges, we want to reassure you that our response has been determined and effective.

The world around us underwent a profound transformation as we adjusted to a post-pandemic reality. Adapting to this new environment meant re-evaluating our strategies, redefining our goals, and embracing innovative ways to fulfil our mission. This transition was not without its difficulties, requiring all of us to come together with adaptability and unwavering dedication.

One of the most noticeable shifts was how people engaged with our services. We observed a significant change in how our community interacted with us, prompting us to adapt our operations. This led us to invest in improved digital solutions to meet the growing demand for online services and meetings. We have also been diligently working on a fresh communications strategy set to launch next year.

During this period, we introduced new programs and welcomed new team members. Simultaneously, we bid farewell to some longstanding members of our team as they embarked on new endeavours'. Our commitment to informing and supporting national and local policies and practices remained steadfast. From criminal justice to education, youth and community initiatives, addressing violence against women, promoting mental well-being, and safeguarding cultural rights, our dedication to making a positive impact remained unwavering.

We devoted ourselves to producing a series of new reports that were initiated during the pandemic and have now reached completion. These efforts underscore the importance of addressing the social factors that influence inclusion and diversity, while also acknowledging the complex challenges and systemic biases that affect the daily lives of Gypsy Traveller and Roma people.

While significant progress was certainly achieved in 2022, much work remains to fully recognize and respect the diversity within Gypsy Roma and Travellers networks and collaborators. Our collaborations with other NGOs have been instrumental, and we express our gratitude for their partnership. We eagerly anticipate continuing these important relationships. We also acknowledge that addressing minority and other challenges necessitates collective effort, and we are committed to working alongside the civil society groups we engaged with in 2023 and beyond.

Our partnerships with funders have been pivotal in driving our progress. We extend our heartfelt thanks to these organizations for their ongoing support and understanding, which are crucial for achieving our goals.

As Chair of the Board of Trustees and CEO, we hold deep appreciation for the dedication of our Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, Youth Group, and our committed staff. We extend our sincere thanks to each and every one of them for their diverse and valuable contributions to the work outlined in this report and beyond.

With gratitude and determination

Pauline Melvin OBE
TM Chairperson

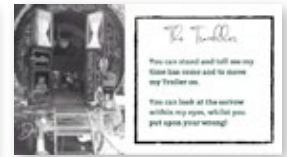
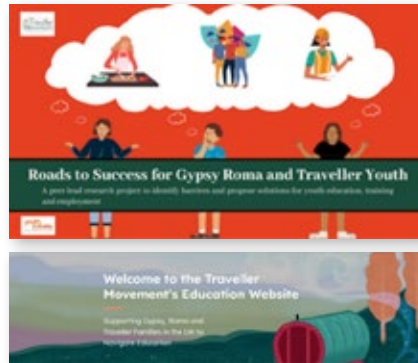
Yvonne MacNamara
TM CEO

Our journey through the year

2022-2023

April – June 2022

- Roads to Success for Gypsy Roma and Traveller Youth: A peer lead research project to identify barriers and propose solutions for youth education, training and employment
- Education microsite
- GRTHM social media



July – September 2022

- Disrupting the Schools to Prison Pipeline
- #StopShamingCampaign
- TM Open day and networking event



October – December 2022

- TM Annual Conference, the Intersection of Poverty, Inequality and Mental Health
- Christmas Card Winner, Santan, Aged 9



Tina McInerney, May Foy MP, Yvonne MacNamara, Greg Sproston and Martin Howe



Santana, aged 9

January – March 2023

- Conference Report 2022
- Domestic Abuse Good Practice Guide
- Safe Space for Women Microsite



Partnerships, Community Advocacy & Engagement

The central focus on developing, expanding, and strengthening our community collaborations and advocacy played a pivotal role in our accomplishments throughout the year. Our peer-led approach has not only generated tangible and enduring impacts for our team but has also extended its influence to broader partnerships.

The Roads to Success report combines peer-led semi-structured interviews with young GRT people with analysis of survey responses from 85 youth sector organisations across the UK to identify gaps in youth provision and barriers to employment, education, and training opportunities.

The research, funded by the Youth Futures Foundation, reveals the extent to which systemic racism in the classroom, the youth sector, and the workplace is significantly hindering economic inclusion for young GRT people.

The research report launch was held in the Houses of Parliament, hosted by the always supportive Cat Smith, MP. The attendees heard from our brilliant peer researchers Millie Cooper, Olivia Hammond and Samantha Donaldson about what the project meant for them and what they want to see happen next.



GRT Advice Workers' Forum

Identifying a real need for support across the sector our partnerships team approached colleagues from Irish in Britain about establishing an Advice Workers forum. They totally ran with this and together the Traveller Movement and colleagues from across the sector launched a GRT Advice Workers Forum in April 2022.

The forum provides excellent peer support, networking, training opportunities and shared good practice other Romani (Gypsy), Roma and Irish Traveller caseworkers across the charity sector to better improve knowledge and confidence in challenging poor on-the-ground decision making by local authorities in relation to education, domestic abuse and social welfare services.

The forum aims to support members to:

- access peer-support
- share best practice
- share advice tools including templates and learning materials, and case studies
- discuss current issues facing the community - for example, legislation, news items, legal precedents etc
- strengthen and encourage partnership and collaborative working
- access a safe and confidential space to voice concerns and views

This will be a member-led space, and your experiences and voice will shape our forums going forward.



Case study: The power of multi-agency collaboration

As Ellen has low literacy levels, she struggled to know where to go to for support. Ellen is an Irish Traveller mother of two who was terrified of Children's Services. With the help of a teacher at her children's school, Ellen reached out to the Traveller Movement. Ellen was informed by Children's Services that her daughter had been sexually abused by the father and she worried that her children would be removed from her care. The helpline worker explained the role of Children's Services and how they could work together to build a safe environment for the daughter.

Ellen disclosed that she had also experienced physical violence perpetrated by her husband and feared seeking medical attention in case Children's Services would view Ellen as a bad mother. After talking about her concerns, Ellen understood the principles and processes involved in child protection cases.

The helpline worker also explored Ellen's support needs and together they decided it would be useful to have a local advocate to support her around her literacy needs, as well as the solicitor Ellen had hired. The helpline worker referred the case to a charity in the city Ellen lives in and they met her face-to-face to draw up a support plan. Ellen now has support around the court case, target hardening, child arrangements, domestic abuse and literacy.

"An opportunity/platform for advice workers to share caseloads and good practice approaches."

Aoife Delaney,

Women's Development and Advocacy Support Officer,
The Traveller Movement

"A great way to network share experiences and empower each other."

Geraldine Lindsay,

Skills Development
Co-ordinator,
London Gypsies & Travellers

Nanna and the Recipe book

Volunteering can make a real difference to somebody's own life and the lives of those around them. Baie 'Nanna' Varey has taken on and nurtured the role of volunteering with the Traveller Movement and has been an asset to the organisation and to the community. Nanna has taken on the Traveller and Gypsy Recipe and Tips Facebook Page which has reached well over 100k members. The group, known as the 'nicest group on Facebook', has seen thousands of recipes shared, wonderful food ideas and beyond that, has been a huge support for the members when needed, whether it has been food related or not.

Alongside the page, Nanna has been working tirelessly at promoting the Gypsy and Traveller Recipe book which is in its successful 2nd year of sales.

"The people of this group are doing more than you know to help with young people's cooking skills and mental health"

Gypsy Recipe and Tips Facebook page quote



Women and Girls

Doubling its efforts, the TM Women and Girls team persistently responded to and engaged with communities and the sector, ensuring improved information support and advocacy through attentive listening.

Safe Space for Women Microsite

Based on themes and patterns identified through the direct advocacy that the Traveller Movement provides, the charity co-designed and developed a resource that is relevant and responsive to the needs and experiences of Romani, Roma and Traveller survivor. The 'Safe Space for Women' microsite, funded by MOPAC, is a safe space for Romani, Roma and Traveller women and a key resource for professionals in the women's sector. Complete with video resources and a text-to-speech function, this microsite offers accessible information about domestic abuse and safety options. The site was launched in March 2023 following a year of development and collaboration with Romani, Roma, and Traveller women across the UK.



#StopShaming Social Media Campaign

Following on from our report on shaming, 'Under the Magnifying Glass', we asked the community what needed to be done and the #StopShaming campaign was born. The #StopShaming was led by Irish Traveller and Romani activists who want to encourage their communities to build each other up rather than tear each other down. From sexual orientation and gender identity to accessing mental health support, education or applying for a divorce, you are no less of a Romani Gypsy or Traveller.



Case study: Suicide Prevention

Theresa rang the Traveller Movement domestic abuse helpline looking for housing support. Drawing on her specialist knowledge, our helpline worker had an exploratory conversation with the Theresa to delicately see whether domestic abuse may also be a part of her situation. Theresa broke down and disclosed the suicidal ideation she was experiencing as a result of the violence she suffered at the hands of her husband. Theresa was given an anonymous space to talk about her fears without judgement and, by the end of the call,

Theresa was willing to engage with mental health services for further support. Through the peer support of an Irish Traveller and survivor of domestic abuse, Theresa felt heard and understood in a way she had not experienced previously. Theresa regularly checks in with Traveller Movement to let us know how she is progressing and knows where she can go to for culturally competent support.

Feedback and Quotes

“I also wanted to say I felt that the Traveller Movement social Instagram page is really addressing a lot of important issues with the Irish Traveller community I’d like to say well done in having such an impactful platform. I had found it really helpful as a gay Irish Traveller individual.”

**Traveller Movement
Conference attendee**

“I attended the Traveller Movement training in March 2023. Thanks so much to all involved; it was excellent training. It was eye-opening and I learned so much. The film was so powerful; I can see how much effort has gone into the film and the training.”

**Domestic Abuse and Cancer
Project Coordinator**



Access to Justice

We significantly involved our youth group and key stakeholder networks, robustly amplifying the call for ACCESS TO JUSTICE. Collaborating closely with a diverse array of services, we unapologetically left a lasting impact.

In 2022, the Traveller Movement supported the law firm Howe & Co. in their successful claim against the Greene King pub chain for clients who experienced refusal of service purely on the basis of their ethnicity being Irish Traveller. Howe & Co also successfully negotiated a fully-funded training session with the executive board of Greene King which will be delivered in June 2023.

This marks an important shift in how expert legal support and the Traveller Movement engages with discrimination claims, by engaging with the defendant directly, to not just gain damages but also to form a programme aimed at prevention moving forward, protecting more community members from experiencing unlawful abuse.

<https://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/news/2022/11/irish-travellers-win-damages-after-being-barred-watching-tyson-fury-fight-pub>

Education

Case study: Education SEND/EHCP

A mother contacted the Traveller Movement about her 14-year-old son falling behind at school. The mother had highlighted concerns about her son's ability and challenges to the school on many occasions, but the school did not take her seriously. He also presented with wider social issues for which he had been bullied by other pupils.

To resolve the above issues the school placed the boy on a part-time timetable, where he finished before lunch. No extra help or lessons were provided to assist the boy in improving his education.

Upon approaching the school to consider an EHCP, they stated that it is too complicated and will not be provided. The school cited that the lack of progress was due the mother not assisting her 14-year-old son with homework, even though the mother is illiterate, with the school being aware.

Traveller Movement wrote to the school to highlight the issues and concerns of the parents and child. Our Education Officer then met virtually with the school. TM advised the school on acceptable practices for SEND assessment and EHCP provisions and made clear the problems of using part-time timetables in this case. The case was referred for assessment with an education solicitor to examine whether there were grounds for a claim or judicial review.

The outcome of this case was the child was placed back on a full-time timetable and given immediate one-to-one support in his core lessons at school. The child received her SEND assessment, and an EHCP request was referred to the local authority (council). The child was given catch-up lesson with the Traveller Movement. The school received support from us to help them understand how educational issues can impact GRT children differently.

Public Affairs

The Policy and Campaigning team strategically centred on a youth strategy, resulting in tangible and impactful outcomes. Our focus extended across critical areas such as economic inclusion, school exclusions, mental health and criminal justice. By prioritizing these key domains, we effectively addressed the multifaceted challenges faced by young people, leaving a meaningful imprint on policy and advocacy initiatives.

Youth affairs and economic inclusion

Traveller Movement launched our BESTIES Toolkit. This paper is a synthesis of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller inclusion in youth provision, education, and training. The foundation for this paper was our Roads to Success research.

The toolkit was launched at our Connected Communities' event in Salford. This event was the first in a series of 6 events that will take place from 2022 – 2024 in Salford, London, Kent, Essex and Liverpool.

Schools to Prison Pipeline

July saw the publication of Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline. This policy report explores Gypsy, Roma and Traveller experiences of school exclusions and their demonstrable impact on increasing contact with the criminal justice system. The parliamentary launch of the paper, hosted by Flo Eshalomi MP co-Chair of the APPG for Knife Crime and Child Criminal Exploitation, was attended by over 50 stakeholders in the education, criminal justice, local government and national political sectors. This work is now shaping our work with Mission 44 to tackle disproportionate exclusions of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people.

Criminal justice

Available not Accessible, a report into the extent to which purposeful activities are available and accessible to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in the Criminal justice system, was published in March 2023. Through our research we found that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people are engaging with 'purposeful activities', but these activities are rarely suited to their needs. As a result, these activities are not effective tools for rehabilitation not the improvement of mental wellbeing in prisons. This report was launched in parliament with Carolyn Harris MP, the Co-Chair of the APPG for penal affairs.

Traveller Movement Annual Conference

The Traveller Movement hosted our first in person annual conference since the COVID-19 pandemic and was an excellent and successful event. We were joined by 166 community members, policy makers, topic experts and stakeholders.

The event was once again hosted by our chair Pauline Anderson OBE, we hosted two panels of speakers to discuss: The first Ending the Stigma, exploring how the mental health and well being of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are affected by the inequalities they face and the second was on the Cost of living crisis, discussing the policy interventions and support needed for economic inclusion and social justice.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Mary Foy MP, Chair of of the APPG on Gypsies, Travellers and Roma. Mary opened the conference highlighting that the Chancellors budget being read out on the same day would likely make no commitments to that communities across the country needed. Mary told conference that both locally and nationally there had been a persistent failure to tackle these issues in a sustained way, and that politicians and policymakers needed to make longer, faster strides toward justice; noting that, in particular, the unwillingness of many public bodies to accurately record ethnicity data constituted an historic failure. Mary also made a commitment that the next Labour Government would match their legacy on racial justice with the introduction of a Race Equality Act to deliver prosperity, security, and respect for all.

Health

Across 2022/2023 The Traveller movement-built relationships with the Department for Health and Social Care and have been strongly advocating for a fully disaggregated 18+1 ethnic monitoring in the NHS Data dictionary. In an effort to address the health disparities faced by GRT communities, the Traveller Movement produced a revised briefing on inclusion in the NHS data dictionary. The briefing highlighted the duty under the Equality Act 2010 to promote equality of opportunity for all, however the lack of accurate data gathering makes this vital work near impossible. The briefing concluded by affirming that If the government are serious about their obligations the Equality Act 2010, the Health and Social Care Act 2012, and the NHS Constitution, then they must commit to amending the NHS data model and dictionary by the end of 2023.

Children's Social Care

In October 2022 TM published a scoping paper highlighting the severe disproportionalities experienced by Traveller children in children's social care using information made available by the Department for Education. The number of children in contact with children's social care relative to the overall population is higher for those from Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller backgrounds than any other ethnicity. This paper made the following recommendations:

1. The Government should convene a Cabinet sub-committee, led by the sub-committee should consult social work and race/ethnicity and faith organisations in the production of any such strategy
2. This implementation strategy should be published at the earliest opportunity, identifying which recommendations the Government plans to take forward, with timescales for each of the recommendations they are accepting
3. The Department for Education must renew its commitment to data transparency and make publicly available all ethnically disaggregated data it holds on children's social care outcomes
4. The Department for Education should implement the best practice demonstrated by the ONS for the 2021 census by disaggregating the Gypsy/Roma category into two distinct categories of Roma/Romani and Romany Gypsy in all of its datasets
5. The Commons Education Select Committee should build on its existing work in the area of social care, and open an inquiry to specifically investigate ethnic disproportionality in the care system

Cost of Living Crisis

The Traveller Movement coordinated with Friends, Families, and Travellers and the Gypsy, Traveller, Roma APPG in order to lobby the government to provide appropriate energy bills support to Traveller communities who were not able to access the flagship energy bills support scheme. The letter addresses the 'astronomically high energy costs' associated with living in mobile homes and caravans. According to a 2013 Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment in Leeds, people living on sites were found to be paying on average 42% more for energy.

Additionally, there are concerns that many Romany and Traveller families who do not have a direct relationship with energy suppliers (as is common on sites) could miss out on the Government's £400 grant, amongst other reasons.

This campaign was a success with the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy confirming that a scheme would be launched in January 2023 to ensure that those who were not eligible for the original scheme (i.e. nomadic Travellers, those resident on sites, those reliant on non-mains energy provision) would be able to apply online for the equivalent amount of energy bill relief payments.

Parliamentary Engagement

The Traveller Movement submitted two submissions to select committees:

Evaluating Innovation in Children's Social Care

We used this inquiry to raise awareness of the significant racial disproportionalities affecting young Travellers in the care system, and urged the Committee to adopt a social return on investment model when monitoring the impact of policy interventions in children's social care

Inquiry on Public Opinion and Understanding of Sentencing

In this inquiry we raised awareness of significant inequalities in the treatment of Travellers by magistrates and judges; particularly the lack of access to community sentencing and out of court disposals, and disproportionate use of remand.

We considerably increased our engagement with MPs by drafting bite-size email briefings for each session of Oral Questions in the Commons for the following Government departments: Women and Equalities; Education; Justice; Department for Work and Pensions; Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy; Health and Social Care; Home Office.

We have seen a marked increase in written questions tabled pertaining to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller issues as a result. In the second half of 2022 we saw 53 questions tabled.

As a result of the briefings and questions we have developed a relationship with the following Members of Parliament: Ian Byrne MP, Dan Carden MP, Jim Shannon MP, Dame Diana Johnson MP and Peter Gibson MP.

GLA Voter ID awareness

The programme was part of the GLA's wider impartial Voter ID public awareness campaign to encourage voter registrations and raise awareness in London of the need for photo ID to vote.

The focus of this programme is to inform under-registered and under-represented Londoners from communities least likely to have accepted photo ID, who already face structural barriers to civic and democratic participation.

<https://travellermovement.org.uk/operation-traveller-vote>



Education microsite

As an organisation who specialises in the human rights of GRT people the Traveller Movement are acutely aware of the significant gaps and issues around multiple policy areas including education. During the website's development, TM became aware of areas of significant crossover where effective advice or guidance couldn't be provided due to significant issues in government policy or administrative/financial breakdowns in the system.



Behind The Scenes Operations

The Operational have been kept bust behind the scenes with a variety of things happening in the organisation.

Supporting with the build of the 2 microsites, Education and Safe Space for Women, both sites now stand alone but each featuring on the Traveller Movement main website. The Education site supports Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families in the UK to navigate education, looking at starting school, attendance and exclusion. The Safe Space for Women site provides information and support for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller women with domestic abuse, legal options, social services and mental health.

Across both microsites and the main TM website, we have introduced a text for speech function. Providing this across our sites helps make our online content more accessible and usable to everyone. It improves the accessibility, readability and reach of our online content; protects our communications, content and reputation and empowers our whole team to communicate with confidence.



So far with this, we have seen:



40%

of our users accessing this function through desktops



58%

of our users accessing this through their mobiles.

Our beautiful and powerful film 'Never Going To Beat You' is finally out!

It is a film about domestic abuse, based on true stories and performed by Traveller women and men together with professional actors.

You can purchase the film [here](#) for £5. All funds go to supporting Traveller victim-survivors of domestic abuse.



Our Year In Numbers



34
Media Mentions



1,017
Overall participants



670
Tiktok followers



36
Parliamentary Questions



166
Overall attendees at the TM conference



750
Linked in followers



12
Blogs



21
Surveys



25,000+
Overall social media followers



3
Press Releases



705
Facebook new followers



1,524
Newsletter subscribers



15
Briefings



1,932
Twitter new followers



79,162
Website visitors



3
Submissions



240
Instagram new followers



954
Safe Space for Women microsite visitors



4
Resources and reports



379
Youtube subscribers



1,716
Education microsite visitors

“I wanted to say I felt that the Traveller Movement social Instagram page is really addressing a lot of important issues with the Irish Traveller community I'd like to say well done in having such an impactful platform. I had found it really helpful as a gay Irish Traveller individual.”

**The Traveller
Movement**



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

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