

PAVEE POINT



Anniversary Conference

20 Years On the Road, Still Moving Forward

Friday 9th December 2005, Clontarf Castle, Dublin 3

Traveller Focus Week 2005: Recognition



**IRELAND EMBRACING
CULTURAL DIVERSITY**
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AGAINST BIAS



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Traveller Focus Week 2005: Recognition

Photos: Derek Speirs, Design: Pat Pidgeon

20 Years Promoting Travellers Human Rights



PAVEE POINT ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Friday 9th December 2005

Venue: Clontarf Castle, Castle Avenue, Dublin 3

Cost: €40 statutory organisations €20 ngos

BACKGROUND:

In 2005 Pavee Point celebrates 20 years of work with Travellers. We commenced in 1983 when a group of concerned individuals came together to analyse the position of Travellers in Irish society and to identify new collective approaches to the work.

From our inception Pavee Point, or Dublin Travellers Education and Development as we were then known, recognised Travellers as a minority ethnic group and racism as the root cause of many of the problems Travellers were facing in Irish society. We also identified and used community work methods toward direct empowerment and participation of Travellers rather than focusing only on the problems of individuals.

In 1985 the Dublin Travellers Education and Development Group commenced direct work with Travellers. In 1995 we changed our name to Pavee Point Travellers Centre reflecting more our national role and the remit of the work we were undertaking.

RATIONALE:

Travellers are widely recognised as one of the most discriminated groups in Irish society and the European Union. However while the levels and impact of discrimination, e.g. on Travellers' health

status, are recognised the causal factors are contested. Frequently Travellers are blamed for their ill health or for living without adequate facilities. Recognition of Travellers' ethnicity is sometimes still contested by government authorities including in documents such as the Irish Government's 2003 Report under the International Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Irish government for the first time explicitly refuted Travellers status as a minority ethnic group.

CONFERENCE AIMS:

- ◆ To further the analysis and understanding of Travellers as a minority ethnic group within Ireland
- ◆ To provide an opportunity to explore the issues for Travellers and Roma within Ireland and Europe.
- ◆ To share information on international developments in relation to national minorities
- ◆ To celebrate Pavee Point's work in promoting Travellers human rights over 20 years

PROGRAMME:

10.30	Registration, Tea/Coffee
11.00	Welcome and Introduction: Ms. Ronnie Fay, Director Pavee Point
11.10	International Context: Ms. Anastasia Crickley, Chairperson Pavee Point and European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia and Special Representative of the OSCE 20 years of Pavee Point, Mr. Martin Collins, Assistant Director Pavee Point
11.20	Official Opening: President Mary McAleese
11.30	Mr. Mikko Puumalainen, First Ombudsman for Minorities in Finland: "Protecting Minorities and Respecting Ethnicity"
12.00	Mr. Nicolae Gheorghe, Director for Contact Point for Roma and Sinti, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE): "Travellers, Roma, Sinti: Common Issues, Common Struggle"
12.40	Ms. Francois Kempfe, Secretariat, Framework Convention for National Minorities, Council of Europe "Promoting Travellers Rights through the FCPNM"
1.00	Open Forum
1.30	Lunch
2.30	Round Table Discussion Groups
4.00	Open Forum & Plenary
4.30	Close

On this special occasion we remember our founders, particularly John O'Connell, whose vision shaped our work and all the Travellers and settled people, now departed, who journeyed with us through the past two decades, may they rest in peace.

BOOKING FORM:

Name:

Organisation:

Address:

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Tel/Fax:

email:

NGOs €20 Statutory €40

Number of persons attending the conference

Special needs (dietary or other)

Payment enclosed Cheque

Places are strictly limited

Closing date 28 November 2005

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CONFERENCE
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TRAVELLERS CENTRE
46 NORTH GREAT CHARLES STREET
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IRELAND

