

Evidence of discrimination and its impact on Travellers and Roma

Ethnic Data: A Tool to Combat Discrimination



PAVEE POINT
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE



AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY



NUI MAYNOOTH

Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES
ROINN AN STADÉIR SHÓISIALTA FHEIDHMIGH

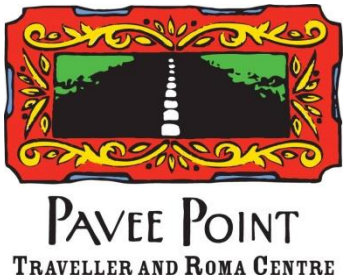


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“In many European countries the Roma population is still denied basic human rights and made victims of flagrant racism. The Roma remain far behind others in society in terms of educational attainment, employment, housing and health standards, and they have virtually no political representation”

Former CoE Commissioner on Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg 2012



Racism & Discrimination

- Individual or Institutional
- Intentional or Unintentional
- Direct or Indirect
- Spectrum of Violence based on ethnicity
 - Harassment
 - Hate speech
 - Assaults & Death

Institutional racism

- Processes that consciously or unconsciously result in the systematic exclusion of minority ethnic groups. It is most visible in the inequitable outcomes for minority ethnic groups from the policies and practices of organisations and institutions throughout society.

Evidence of link between discrimination and health

Experience of racist verbal abuse or physical violence is related to a greater risk of premature death; high blood pressure; respiratory illness; lower self-esteem and life satisfaction; psychological distress, depression and anxiety; suicidal tendencies; stress and anger; psychosis; and more work-limiting long-term illness and disability.

(Krieger, 2000; Karlsen and Nazroo, 2002; Williams et al., 2003)

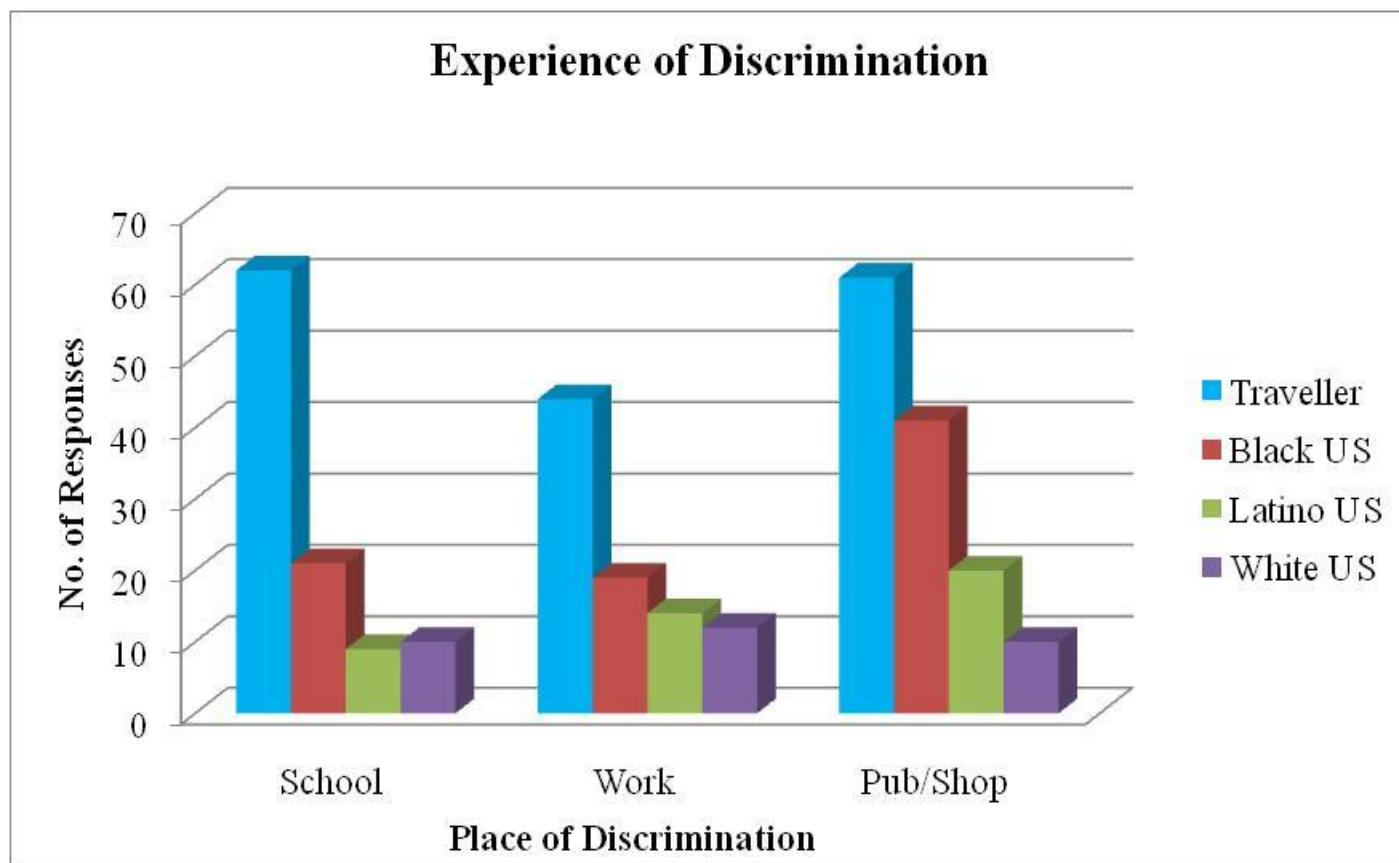
Our Geels: All Ireland Traveller Health Study

Experience of Discrimination (assessed in the Study using a comparative question from the US, (Krieger et. At.2005))

Once or more than once	Traveller ROI	Black US	Latino US	White US
At School	62%	21%	9%	10%
Getting Work	55%	28%	20%	14%
In shop/pub/restaurant	61%	41%	20%	10%
In public settings	50%	38%	24%	15%
With guards/courts	52%	22%	18%	6%

Experience of discrimination

AITHS using a comparative question from the
US, (Krieger et. At.2005)



Causes of Death

- Leading Causes of Deaths among Travellers similar to General Population:
 - CVD
 - Cancer
 - Respiratory Disease

Suicide is 6 times the rate of general population and accounts for approx. 11% of all Traveller deaths

- Travellers dying in greater numbers & at younger age- **Why?**

AITHS Traveller Deaths 2008



54 expected deaths

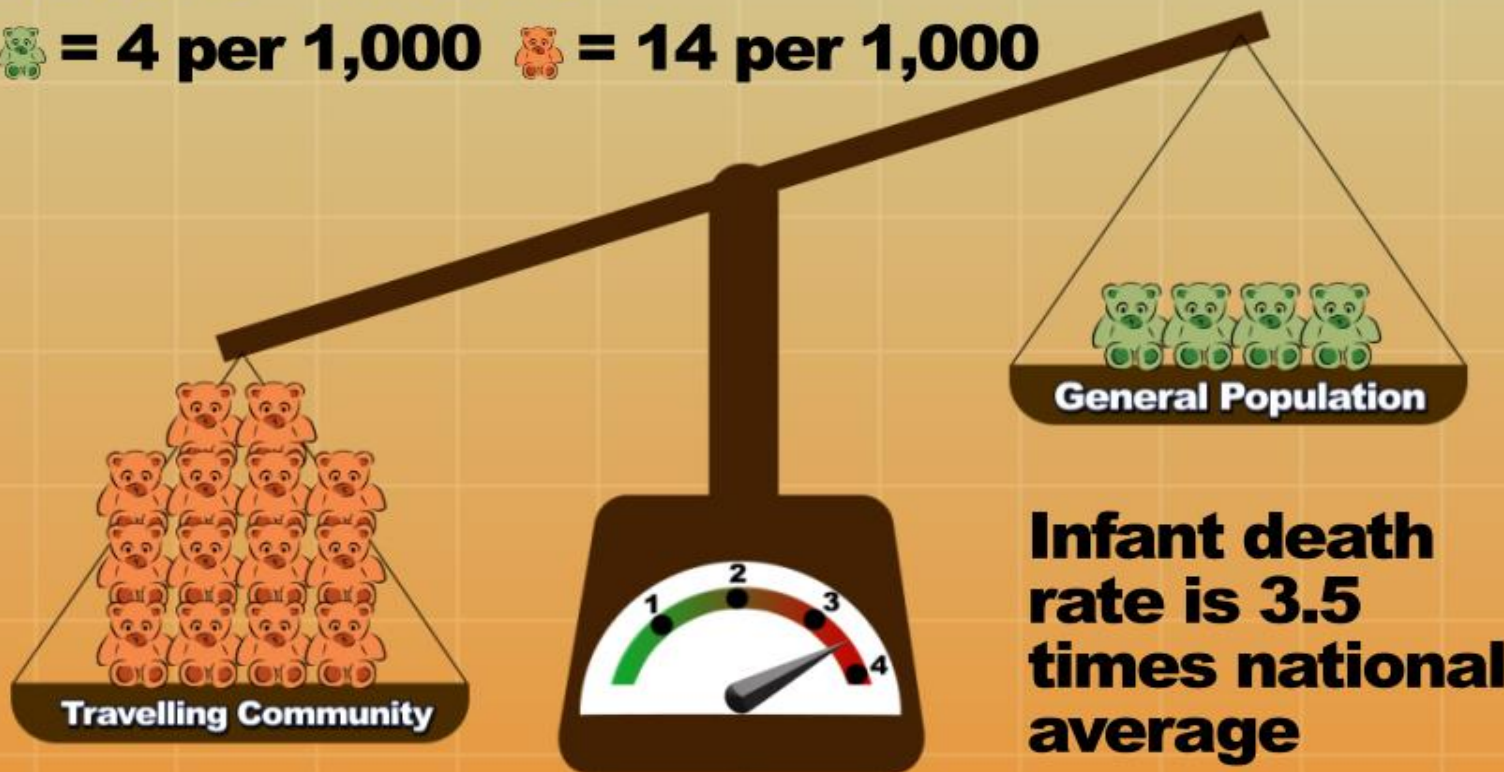
134 excess deaths

188 observed deaths

Traveller Infant Mortality rate

Deaths - Infants

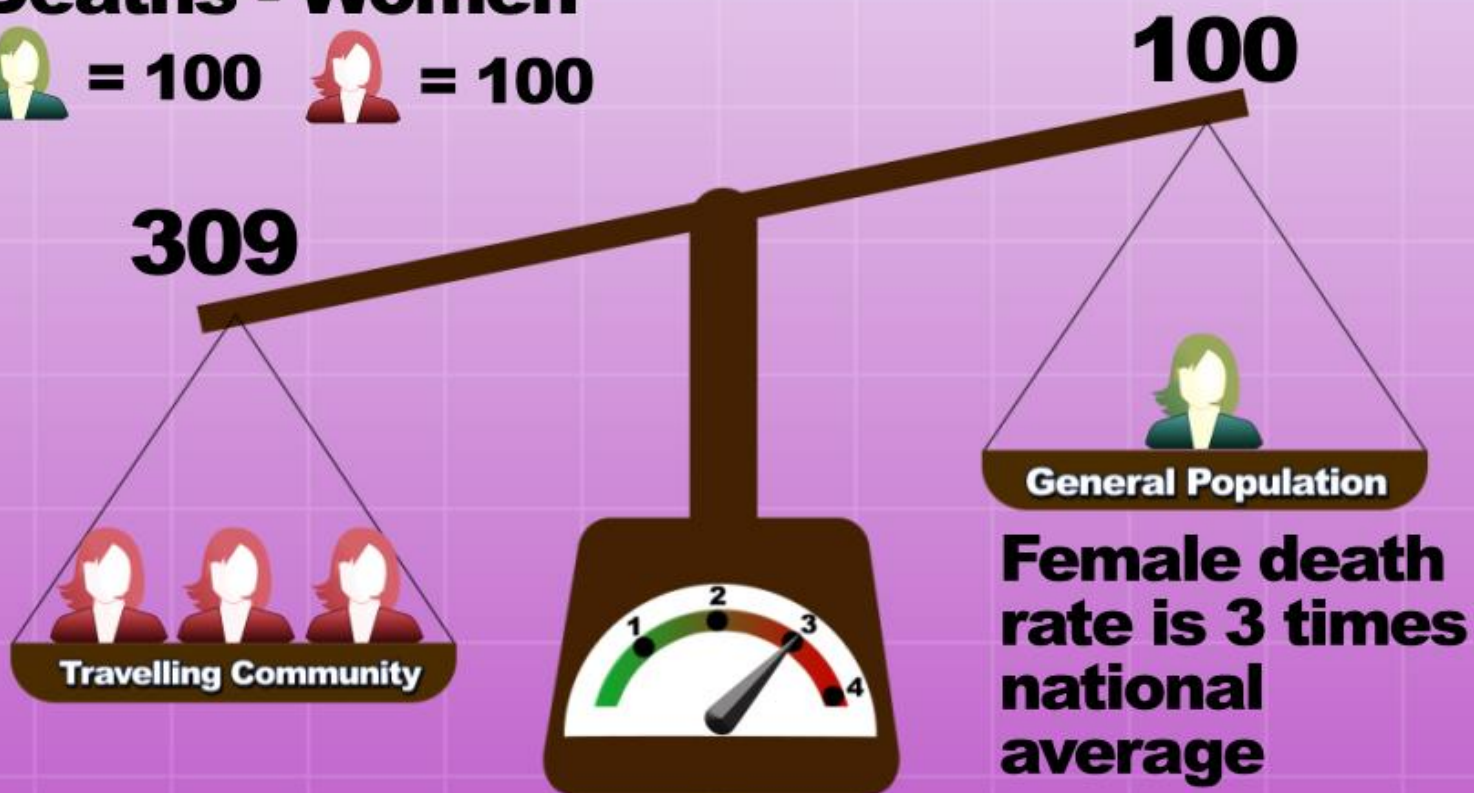
 = 4 per 1,000  = 14 per 1,000



Mortality rate of Traveller women

Deaths - Women

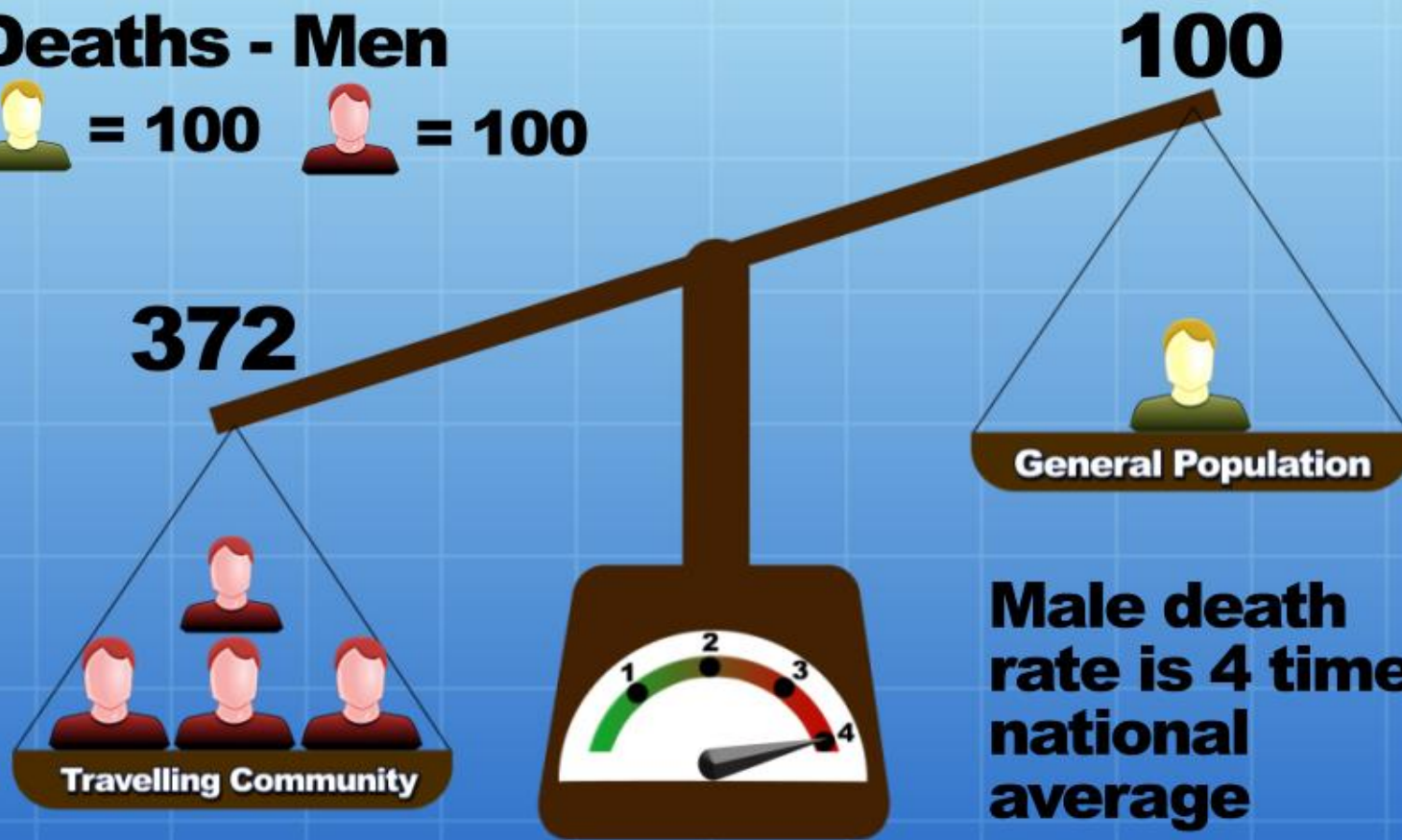
 = 100  = 100



Mortality Rate of Traveller Men

Deaths - Men

 = 100  = 100



**Male death
rate is 4 times
national
average**

Accommodation

- Between 2006 and 2011, the percentage of Irish Traveller households residing in caravans or mobile/temporary structures halved from 24.7% to 12.23%
- Almost 1 in 3 Traveller households in temporary accommodation had no sewerage in 2011, affecting 886 people
- 1 in 5 of those households had no piped water source, impacting 556 people

Accommodation

- Traveller Culture Not Provided For
- Few Transient Sites Built
- Traveller Specific Accommodation Stopped
- Forced into Standard Housing
- Private Rented Accommodation
- Landlords & Insecurity of Tenure
- Inadequate & Overcrowded

Education



- 55% of Travellers had completed their education by the age of 15
- In Ireland, 90% of students complete second level education
- In budget 2011, 86.6% of Traveller specific education supports were cut

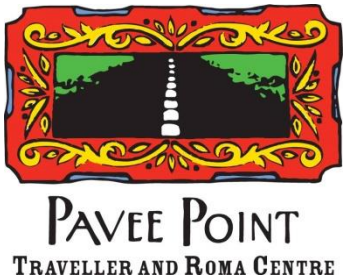


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- 2012 *State of the Nation's Children* report found that Traveller children, immigrant children and children with a disability are more likely to report being bullied at school
- The 'past –pupil' criteria in enrolment policies presents a clear example of institutional discrimination
- Illustrated in the case of *Stokes v CBS High School Clonmel*





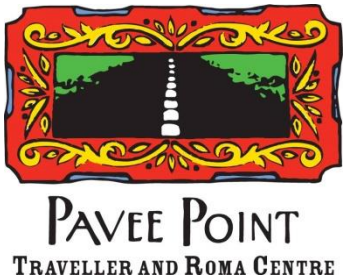
Travellers in Third Level Education

Less than 1% of Travellers go on to third level education

- 2009/2010 - 29 Travellers
- 2010/2011 – 31 Travellers
- 2011/2012 – 29 Travellers

Higher Education Key facts and Figures 2011/2012

62 % of Travellers felt that they were discriminated against in school (AITHS)



Economic Development

- Unemployment rate of 84%
- Traveller Economy not Supported
- Traveller Public Service Internship Programme

Attitudes of Settled People to Travellers

- 60.1% would not welcome a Traveller as a member of the family
- 72.3% support Travellers 'to live their own way of life decently' – down 20.7% since 1989
- 63.7% reject Travellers on the basis of their 'way of life'
- 18.2% would deny Irish Citizenship to Travellers

Source: 'Emancipation of the Travelling People' 2010 Micheál Mac Gréil, S.J., NUI Maynooth

Racism against Travellers

Arson Attack on House Allocated to Traveller Family

Ballyshannon, Donegal February 2013:

“The situation is Niall; I think there should be an isolated community of them some place. Give them houses and keep them all together.”

“The amount of support coming out of mass yesterday morning was absolutely unbelievable. They were chasing all over me to shake my hand...I wish to God there was an election tomorrow morning.”

Sean McEniff – Fianna Fáil Councillor, Donegal.

"they can be sent to Spike Island for all I care".

Eugene Dolan – Fine Gael Councillor, Donegal.



P
TRAV



Josepha Madigan

**Fine Gael Candidate
Local Election Stillorgan Ward
23rd May 2014**

FINE GAEL
Vote No.1



A waste of valuable resources

**Proposed Traveller accommodation
at Mount Anville Depot, Bird Avenue,
Stillorgan Grove and UCD.**

At the County Council meeting held on January 13, a proposal to build Traveller accommodation on sites on Mount Anville Road, Stillorgan Grove, Bird Avenue and UCD was passed by a majority of sitting councillors by 16 votes to 10.

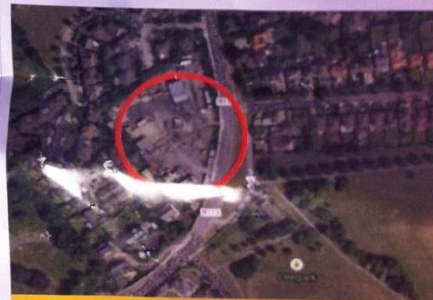
This is very concerning for the residents living in the surrounding areas, but it is not yet set in stone that these sites will be used this way. There will be opportunities for a newly-elected council chamber to reverse the decision.

I am calling on sitting councillors to pass a motion stipulating that no action is taken on the proposed sites until a full cost-benefit analysis is undertaken. I will, if elected, seek cross-party support for such a measure if the current council fails to do so.

If this is not done then the county manager could be in a position to implement this draft plan without any further votes in the council chamber.

The use of a site such as the one at Mount Anville – which has an estimated value of between €2m and €5m – is a dreadful waste of taxpayers' money, especially when there is so much accommodation potentially available in the constituency currently held within NAMA's vaults.

I was surprised to see one sitting Labour councillor quoted in the media as saying "not everything is about the money". In an age budgetary cuts and severe pressure on services,



The proposed site on Mount Anville Road

I feel such comments are reflective of an attitude best consigned to the past. It is time the council and its members realise that it is your money they are spending, and they must be held accountable.

I intend to find out the value of all the proposed Traveller accommodation sites in the ward and, if elected, will work to ensure the council properly explores all options available. That would include the commercial sale of the Mount Anville depot and other sites, with a view to using the funds in the best way to benefit every resident in our constituency, regardless of social status.

I believe all our residents need to be accommodated, but not at an inflated cost to you.

MY OPINION: I object to the proposed Traveller accommodation
at the sites proposed as it is a misuse of taxpayers' resources.

Roma Discrimination in Europe

- Roma and the Holocaust
- Coercive Sterilisations
- Violence against Roma
- Anti-Roma speeches
- Segregated Education



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A boy reacts as he stands next riot policemen while an excavator demolishes a relative's shack in the shanty town settlement of "El Gallinero", in the outskirts of Madrid June 18, 2013. (REUTERS/Susana Vera)

Roma Discrimination in Ireland



Copyright James Fraher



- Access to social protection
- Access to health
- Accommodation



Maria: a Roma family in Dublin have also had a blonde haired, blue eyed child taken from them into care of HSE

A blonde haired blue-eyed seven year-old girl has been taken from a Roma family in Dublin and into care by the HSE in a case remarkably similar to the Greek stolen child scandal.

The Sunday World can exclusively reveal that the child, who is living with a Roma gypsy family in Tallaght in south Dublin, was taken away by gardai following a major investigation on Monday afternoon.

Gardai received a tip-off from a member of the public that a six or seven year-old girl was living with a large Roma family but looked nothing like any of her supposed siblings.

'Blond angel' in Roma child-trafficking case may be 6

Greek authorities say no breakthrough yet in identifying blond, blue-eyed girl found in Roma camp



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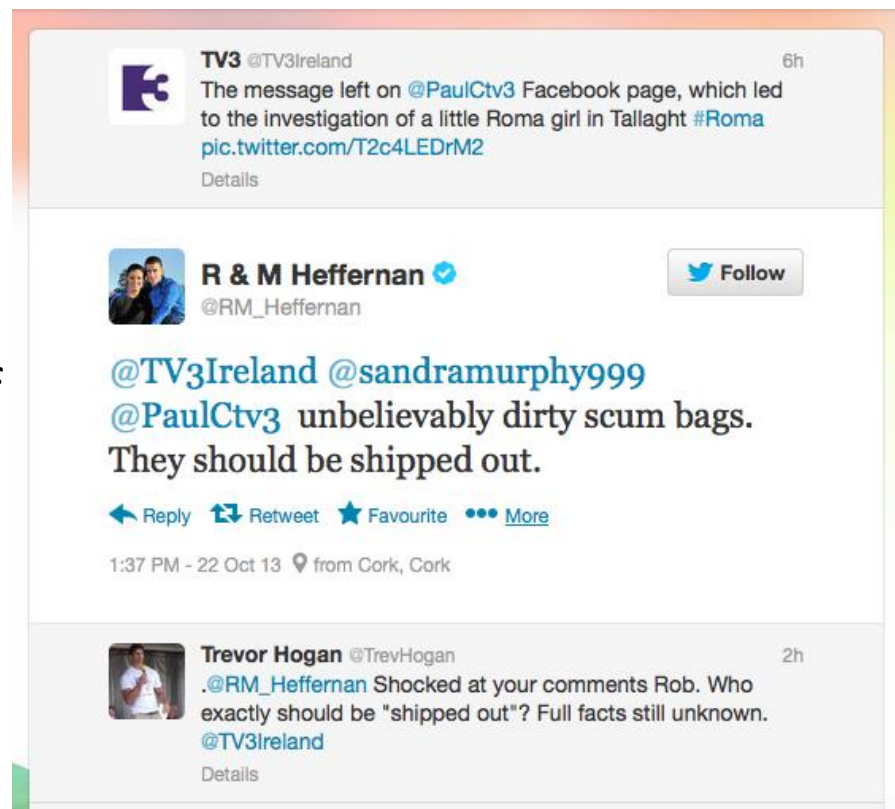
iReport

Racism:
see it
send it
end it.

WWW. iREPORT .ie



- iReport is a fully confidential and independent, civil society based Racist Incident Report system
- 2nd Quarterly Report details 18 incidents against Travellers and Roma in Ireland- almost 20% of all incidents reported
- Almost a quarter of complaints (23%) featured social media or internet abuse, as did unfair treatment in public or seeking services (Heffernan, David O Laoighre)





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- Pulse: Racial Profiling
- Details of Traveller Children being Recorded
- Comments by Judges, Politicians & Media

“Nobody has indicated it to me, but I suspect he comes from a certain ethnic background that would give him even more form given the type of behaviour in which some of them engage. ...As I’ve described it before, they are like Neanderthal men living in the long grass, abiding by the laws of the jungle.”

***Judge Seamus Hughes in
Athlone District Court
Sept. 5th 2012***



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At a sitting of Tuam District Court, Judge Geoffrey Browne is reported describing burglars as 'Knackers' and encouraging homeowners to use maximum force against them.

January 2013



"I assume from his appearance that he's from the Roma community who came here to do what all of them tend to do, to use the streets to beg,"

Justice Patrick McCartan, March 2013
(Dublin Circuit Criminal Court)

Quote from Irish Times Article

“For us to try to change that culture here would be like trying to change people in Dublin from drinking Guinness; it’s their culture and they do not see anything wrong with it.”

**Insp Patrick McMenamin of Pearse Street
Garda station**

919901

BIGGER. FATTER. GYPSIER.



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primesight



Traveller 'culture' that spells premature death

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Icing on cake for Frances



'Give us a bigger house!'

'MADDIE' FOUND IN IRELAND

Shock as blue-eyed girl discovered with second Roma family

EXCLUSIVE



Comments on RTÉ show were offensive to Travellers

ALISON HEALY

A COMPLAINT about a broadcast which referred to Travellers as "tinkers" and "knick knacks" was upheld by the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (BCC).

The *Once a Week Show* on RTE2 is presented by Dustin the Turkey and Sinéad Ní Churnáin. On the show, comedian Patrick Kielty said most of the passengers on the ferry from Holyhead seemed to be "lorry drivers and tinkers".

When Ní Churnáin asked "What are tinkers?" Kielty pointed to her hoop earrings, saying "come here missus, come here" in a stereotypical Traveller accent.

Dustin the Turkey asked him to leave Sinéad "Ward" out of this and Ní Churnáin said "I'm only a part-time knick knack now".

Pavee Point Travellers' Centre said the exchange was "seriously offensive". It said the incident had "caused extreme anger, upset and confusion among young Travellers who might reasonably expect a Saturday morning children's entertainment slot to be relatively free



Dustin the Turkey: got involved in chat about Travellers on programme for teenagers

from casual or targeted racism". RTE said it was a humorous, irreverent show and Kielty's comments were made in a "gentle and non-threatening way". The BCC said the terms used were known to be offensive to Travellers.

The BCC considered 33 complaints last month and rejected 18. A complaint that RTE broadcaster Pat Kenny had abused his position in thanking people for their support during his recent court case was not upheld.

The BCC found that Kenny was being courteous and explaining his absence from work.

Three complaints about criticism of former taoiseach Bertie Ahern were rejected. They included a complaint about TV3's Mark Cagney who described Mr Ahern as "the rat in the anorak".

Ahern fair game, but not Travellers according to BCC

Journalists on fine line between fair and offensive

Sixteen-day-old children being put on Garda Pulse system 'because they are members of travelling community'

Travelling with Austerity

Report highlighted devastating and disproportionate impact of funding cuts on Travellers

• Interagency activities	-100%
Traveller education	-86.6%
Traveller accommodation	-85%
Equality	-76.3%
National Traveller Orgs	-63.3%
FAS Special Initiative for Travellers	-50%
National Traveller Partnership	-32.1%
Traveller SPY youth projects	-29.8%
Health	-5.4%

Government spending in total is down 4.3% for this period

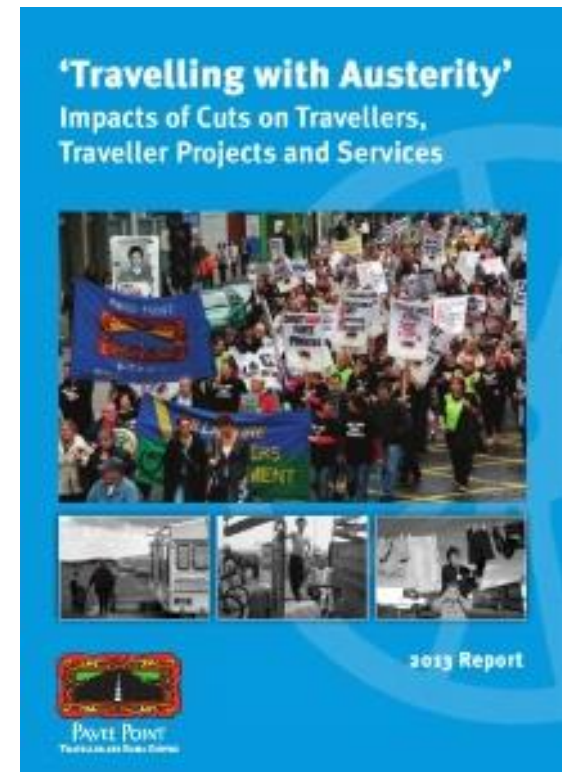


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- “This is a striking picture. One can think of no other section of the community which has suffered such a high level of disinvestment, compounded by the failure of the state to spend even the limited resources that are available.”

Brian Harvey: Travelling with Austerity





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Thank You!



‘Well what kind of jobs are they good at?
....I suppose they’re good with their hands aren’t
they?’

Career Guidance Teacher 2013

In the classroom they were filling in a questionnaire about what children would like to be when they grew up. The children were aged between 4 -6. When it came to the little Traveller girl the teacher said ‘sure you are going to get married and have a family when you grow up..’



"To ensure a fair selection, you all get the same test. You must all climb that tree."