

Roma women's  
mental health



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# Roma Project

Working to promote human rights of Roma in Ireland:

- Progression of Roma human rights through the development of evidence based policy and interventions.
- Increase Roma access to and engagement with health and other services.
- Emergence of strong Roma leaders, working from community development and human rights principles.







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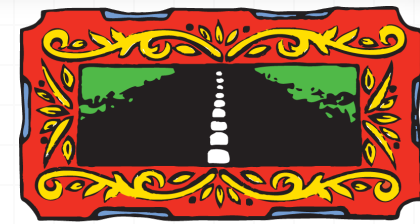
# Roma Project

## Our work includes:

- Policy development – policy submissions on Roma and migrant rights, engagement with human rights treaty bodies.
- Research – publications on Roma and education, maternal health and child protection; needs assessment – to promote evidence based service provision.
- Lobbying – elected representatives and decision-makers.
- Tallaght Roma GP service.
- Individual queries from Roma and service providers.
- Outreach with Roma in Dublin inner city.



# Needs Assessment



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- In two incidents in 2013 two Roma children were taken into state care on suspicion that they had been abducted. It was later discovered that the children were living with their biological families and the children were returned.
- The Inquiry (Logan Report) by the Ombudsman for Children confirmed that the events were influenced by unfounded and deeply prejudiced myths about Roma 'stealing children'. The inquiry found that one of the cases constituted ethnic profiling.
- The national Roma needs assessment was undertaken by Pavee Point in partnership with the Department of Justice and Equality. It was commissioned by the Department of Justice and Equality in line with recommendation 4.2.3 of the Logan Report.





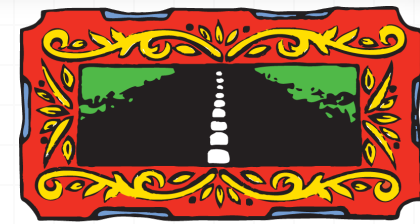
# Methodology

This is the first participatory research project of its kind with Roma in Ireland. The research was undertaken with 14 Roma peer researchers. The study adopts a mixed-methods approach including:

- Quantitative analysis in 108 Roma households; (information on 609 household members)
- Collection of qualitative data (30 interviews and 8 focus groups) with service providers and Roma;
- Consultations with other relevant 'experts' in the field.

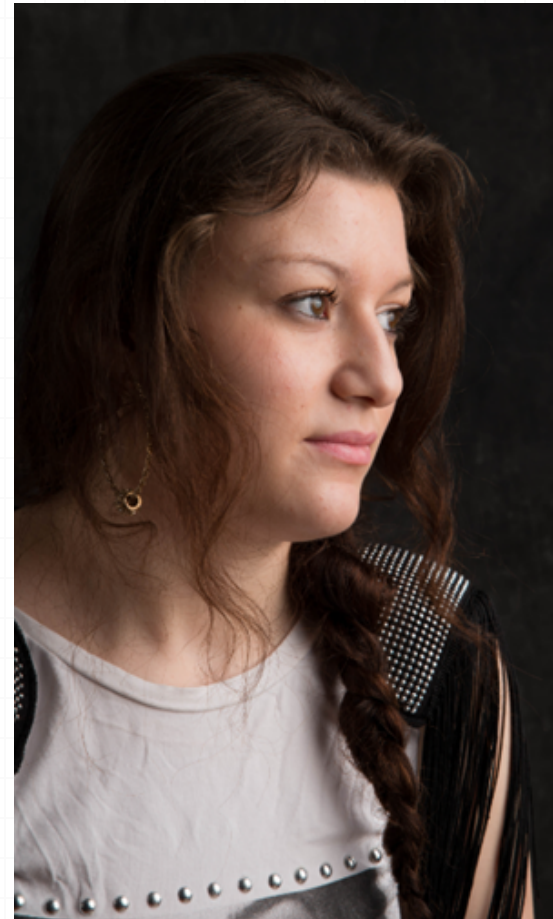


# Mental Health



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- 60% of female respondents in this study reported more than 14 days of the previous month when their mental health was not good (51.3% of all respondents reported the same).
- 34% of respondents reported having poor mental health all of the time (every day in the preceding month).
- 33.3% of respondents said that their daily activities had been interrupted by mental health difficulties in all of the preceding 30 days.
- Discrimination, unemployment and lack of social protection were identified as sources of stress.



# Poverty



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- No kitchen (12.4% of respondents)
- No cooker (9.6%)
- No fridge (13.5%)
- No PPS number – limited access to services (19.8%)
- Not always enough food (49.5%)
- Not always enough fuel (46.2%)
- Cannot keep the house warm all the time (66.3%)
- Household with 10+ people (7.3%)
- Overcrowded and poor quality accommodation
- Homelessness (6.6%)
- Reports of families living without gas, water and/or electricity.





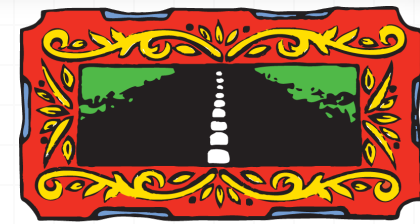
# Education and Employment



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- 41.1% of adult Roma women born outside Ireland have never been to school, in comparison to 22% of Roma men.
- 3.5% of Roma women have completed more than 12 years of education. (5%)
- Only 8.2% of Roma women are in employment in comparison to 20% of Roma men
- All Roma who report being engaged in self-employment are male

# Discrimination



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- 61.5 % of Roma women worry 'most of the time' about unfair treatment due to being Roma (55%)
- 93.8 % of Roma women feel discriminated against in accessing accommodation (93.3%)
- 85.1% of Roma women feel discriminated against in accessing social protection (84.3%)
- 75% of Roma women report being stopped by An Garda Síochána (police) for an identity document (77.5%)
- 86.3% of Roma women feel discriminated against on a street or public setting (81.1%)
- 78.3% of Roma women feel discriminated against in shops, restaurants, pubs, & other social venues (74%)

# Health services



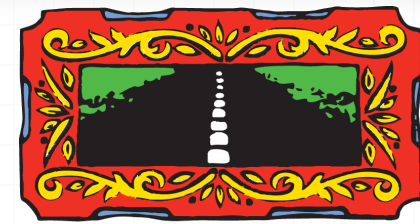
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- 31.5 of Roma women don't have a General Practitioner (GP) (38.9%)
- 44.6% of Roma women don't have a medical card (50%)
- 84% of Roma women have experienced discrimination in health services, versus 53% of Roma men.





# Case studies



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*"A 42 year old woman who has lived in Ireland for nineteen years described her situation in a household of ten people: "My husband and I live with my son, his wife and five kids and my youngest child in a two bed apartment. We have been living here for six years I sleep in the living room on the floor, in the same room is the kitchen, the dining room, sitting room and bedroom. It is very hard for me to get rent for myself." Reported by a Roma peer researcher.*

*"I interviewed a woman who has been in Ireland for about a year. She lives outdoors with her husband and teenage son. They sleep in a warehouse or outdoors every night. They are begging in the street but she said it's better here than in Romania. They were staying with her brother in a small flat, but they left as they were afraid when the landlord was asking questions and the brother was living in fear of eviction." Reported by a Roma peer researcher.*

# Recommendations

- Establish a Primary Healthcare for Roma Project in Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre – train up to 15 Roma workers nationally to become community health workers in their area.
- Identify Roma as a priority group for improving mental health.
- Review the legislative and policy restrictions to ensure accessibility of medical cards for Roma with no income. (A working group that includes representatives from the Health Services Executive (HSE) Social Inclusion Unit, Roma support groups, and the HSE Medical Card application processing unit needs to be established to develop a pathway for medical applications).

