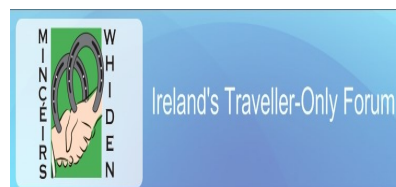
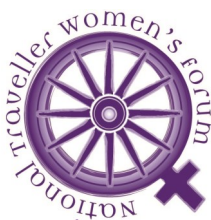


General Election 2016

MAKE TRAVELLER EQUALITY MATTER

- I** Implement an Anti-Racism Strategy
- N** Name the date for recognition of Traveller Ethnicity
- C** Confer a place for Travellers in Parliament
- L** Locate Traveller policy implementation in Government monitoring structures
- U** Uphold gender equality for Traveller women through policy and practice
- D** Develop a strong National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy
- E** Ease austerity to Traveller resources and reinstate investment for better future



7 PRIORITIES FOR TRAVELLERS

Implement an Anti-Racism Strategy.

Implement an Anti-Racism Strategy. In accordance with its positive duty that the Government create an Anti-Racism Strategy to include the establishment of an independent body with appropriate resources and powers to develop and implement a National Anti-Racism Action Plan.

Name the date for recognition of Traveller Ethnicity.

Travellers should be recognised and respected in Ireland as a minority ethnic group to help build a more cohesive and intercultural society. Sociologically, legally and nationally Travellers satisfy the criteria for recognition. Within the first year of the new Government, to make and name the date.

Confer a place for Travellers in Parliament.

The Traveller voice is silent in Irish Parliament and attainment of political representation challenged by unequal access to power, discrimination and racism. An allocation of a place for Travellers, in consultation with the community, through the Taoiseach's nominee system to the Seanad could serve to increase Traveller visibility within political structures, redress inequality, enhance community political mobilisation and support improved outcomes.

Locate Traveller policy implementation in Government monitoring structures and prioritise an independent monitoring mechanism with targeted alerts to support improvements in Traveller accommodation, education, health, employment and cultural recognition.

Slow implementation of Traveller policy and a lack of monitoring alerts has impacted on progress for Travellers in areas of accommodation, education, health and employment in particular. Traveller men live 15 years less and women 11.5 years less than their settled peers, suicide is 6 times the national average and infant mortality 3.6 times. 20% of Travellers are homeless and over 2000 are currently living in unauthorised sites or sharing facilities with other families. 84% of Travellers are unemployed, 17.7% have no formal education, compared to 1.4% nationally.

Uphold gender equality for Traveller women through policy and practice.

Strengthen State policy, legislation and practice to ensure progression of gender equality issues for Traveller Women and gender proofing of future strategies including the proposed National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy.

Develop a strong National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy.

We call for the development of a strong National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy with associated monitoring and evaluation frameworks, timelines and indicators and comprehensive consultation with Traveller / Roma organisations in its implementation and oversight.

Ease austerity to Traveller resources and reinstate investment for better future outcomes.

Ease austerity to Traveller resources and reinstate investment for better future outcomes. Under resourcing of human rights and equality strategies has undermined Ireland's capacity towards inclusion. Investment in Traveller equality measures in particular, should be a priority. Since 2008 the Traveller education budget has been cut by 86.6% and funding to Traveller Accommodation has been reduced by over 85%. As a priority in the next Government, we call for a reinstatement of adequate funding to elevate Traveller equality and seek a safeguard for the current fund supporting Traveller community development work and a restoring of resources to 2008 levels.