

PAVEE POINT

Pavee Point is a voluntary non-governmental organisation which is committed to the attainment of human rights for Irish Travellers. The group is a partnership of Travellers and the majority population working together to address the racism and exclusion Travellers experience in society. It has been involved in direct work with Travellers since 1985.



CONTACT DETAILS

Pavee Point
46 North Great Charles Street
Dublin 1
Tel: 01 878 0255
Fax: 01 874 2626
E-mail: pavee@iol.ie
Website: www.paveepoint.ie

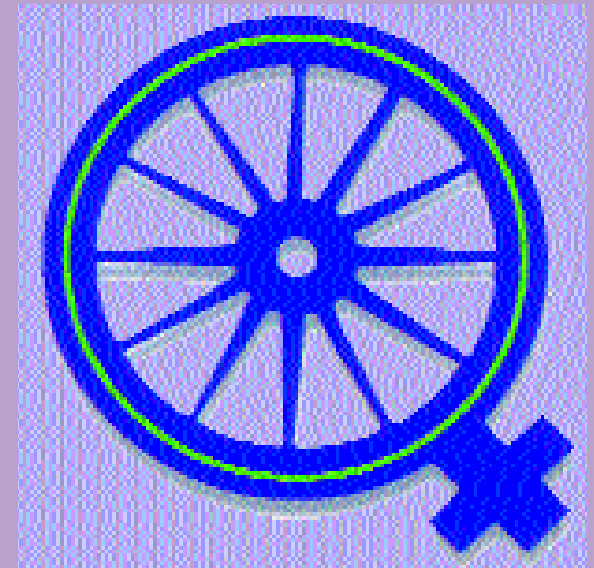
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- Violence against women is about power and control
- Violence against Women is not culturally located.

Therefore, challenging myths that violence against Traveller women is a cultural norm is an ongoing part of addressing VAW in the Traveller community.

- Racism and sexism directly impacts on Traveller women's lives.



PAVEE BEOIRS
BREAKING THE
SILENCE

***VIOLENCE AGAINST
TRAVELLER WOMEN***

POLICY CONTEXT

The Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community, 1995, states

"The inequalities experienced by women generally are also experienced by Traveller women. In addition, Traveller women suffer from discrimination experienced by Travellers as a group in Irish Society".

Traveller Health a National strategy, 2002-2005, states,

"While the situation for all women who have to leave their home in search of a violence-free life is difficult, Traveller women experience additional dilemmas which make it more difficult for them to access help and support and explore their options. This is brought about by a combination of discrimination in services and professions (institutional and individual) and a lack of culturally appropriate provision".

The Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (SAVI) Report, 2002, states,

"In order to achieve more culturally appropriate services [for Traveller women], the provision of training to increase both awareness and skills amongst service providers is needed. This should include awareness-raising regarding racist attitudes".

AIM

- To develop a Traveller analysis of Violence Against Women (VAW) that will inform the development of culturally appropriate responses for Traveller women and influence government policy.

OBJECTIVES

- To empower Traveller women to develop an analysis of the dynamics of VAW.
- To explore and document Traveller women's collective experiences of VAW.
- To create a context for a more diverse policy agenda for the development and implementation of VAW initiatives that are inclusive of Traveller women.
- To challenge Traveller men on the issues of VAW in the Traveller community.
- To develop policy material for the resourcing of local Traveller groups and service providers.
- To create a framework for networking and sharing analysis on the issues of VAW in the Traveller community.

ACTIONS

- Advocating for mainstream Government policy on VAW to have an anti-racist and Traveller dimension to it.
- Advocate for Traveller women's Human Rights.
- A commitment to acknowledge that Traveller women face not only racism, but sexism in their daily lives.
- Commit to action for political and institutional change for Traveller women.
- Continue to have an advocacy role at different fora and at policy arenas.
- Encourage local Traveller groups to facilitate safe spaces for discussion on VAW in the Traveller community.

PROGRAMME HISTORY

Pavee Point VAW Programme leads on from the innovative Pavee Point NOW Project of 1998 - 1999, which looked at specific issues faced by Traveller women experiencing violence.

The NOW Project provided an appropriate and much needed platform to enable the Pavee Point VAW Programme to continue to address violence against women in the Traveller community, challenge issues of racism and discrimination experienced by Traveller women when accessing support and, in addressing gaps within mainstream service provision.