

Traveller Women

Traveller women are experiencing a change in traditional roles. Many Traveller women are combining domestic responsibilities with working outside the home.



Despite discrimination in the workplace, Census 2016 shows that 10% of Traveller women work in mainly:

- Caring service occupations
- Administration
- Retail
- Health provision

TRAVELLER RIGHTS

Traveller women have also been to the forefront in the campaign for Traveller rights over the last 30 years and are largely responsible for the development of 30 Traveller organisations around the country.

DISCRIMINATION

Like women from other minority ethnic groups, Traveller women experience both racism and sexism. Traveller women will likely experience triple discrimination: discrimination as women, discrimination as Travellers and discrimination as Traveller women.

HEALTH

The marginalisation of Travellers and the neglect of Traveller health means:

- Traveller women have a mortality rate 5 times that of the national rate
- Mental health is a major issue for Traveller women with a suicide rate 5 times the national rate

Traveller women are actively involved in campaigning for more inclusive health service provision and also work as Traveller Community Health Workers in about 30 Traveller Primary Health Care Projects around the country.

EDUCATION

Early school leaving is an issue for young Traveller women. According to Census 2016

- 13% of the Traveller girls complete secondary compared to 92% of the general population

Yet, Traveller women continue to break down barriers at 3rd level and in adult education with Traveller women achieving degrees, masters and PhDs as mature students.

ACCOMMODATION

According to Census 2016 – 30% of Traveller women over 15 years are looking after the home. In this work they face the extra challenges of:

- Overcrowding
- Lack of basic facilities such as running water, electricity and toilet facilities
- Engaging with local authorities for better accommodation and services

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women is an issue that effects 1 in 5 women in Ireland. Traveller women can face specific barriers when trying to access services in this area. Relationships with An Garda Síochána and statutory services can be strained due to a history of past discrimination. There may also be language and literacy barriers for Traveller women.