



PUBLIC CONSULTATION 2015

Written submissions on the Strategy Statement

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (the Commission) is preparing its first Strategy Statement to cover the period 2016-2018. The Commission is committed to preparing this plan in a way that listens to the views of interested organisations and individuals.

As well as holding a number of public meetings in different parts of the country, we are inviting written submissions. The call for written submissions is open **from 1 September to 9 October 2015**.

A key purpose of the public consultation is to consult on activities in order to inform our first Strategy Statement. We have suggested a number of headings to assist you in making your submission.

Please return written submissions:

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By post to: Laura Brady
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
16-22 Green Street
Dublin 7

All submissions received will be acknowledged.

Background

The Commission was established on 1 November 2014, under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 (IHREC Act 2014) as an independent national human rights and equality institution. This independence is established by the appointment of all members of the Commission by our Head of State, President Michael D. Higgins. The Commission is accountable to the Oireachtas for its statutory functions. Our purpose is to protect and promote human rights and equality in Ireland. We aim to build a welcoming organisation that nurtures a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding. Further information about the Commission is available on our website www.ihrec.ie



Developing our first Strategy Statement 2016-2018

The Commission has proposed five goals for our first Strategy Statement. These were developed in the context of our mandate and functions as set out in the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014 (2014 Act).

Section 10(1) of the 2014 Act stipulates that the **overall general functions** of the Commission shall be:

- (a) To protect and promote human rights and equality,
- (b) To encourage the development of a culture of respect for human rights, equality, and intercultural understanding in the State,
- (c) To promote understanding and awareness of the importance of human rights and equality in the State,
- (d) To encourage good practice in intercultural relations, to promote tolerance and acceptance of diversity in the State and respect for the freedom and dignity of each person, and
- (e) To work towards the elimination of human rights abuses, discrimination and prohibited conduct.

A full list of our list of our functions under the 2014 Act is available [here](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2014/en/act/pub/0025/sec0010.html)
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2014/en/act/pub/0025/sec0010.html>

GOALS

Goal 1: Leadership

IHREC acts as an independent, authoritative and influential institution in the promotion and protection of human rights and equality

Goal 2: Pro-active approach to monitoring and compliance

IHREC uses its full range of powers for monitoring of and compliance with equality and human rights obligations

Goal 3: Interdependence of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights

IHREC will give equal weight to civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights

Goal 4: Making Rights Real

IHREC will give human rights and equality real meaning to people

Goal 5: Intercultural Understanding

Positive intercultural relations are enhanced



CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

In order to help us to refine our strategy we would like to consult with you on activities for its implementation. Please note that when preparing your submission you do not have to comment on every question. If there are particular issues which you would like to focus on please do so.

A: Creating a Culture of Human Rights and Equality

1. What do you think is needed to promote human rights and equality in Ireland?

Recognition of Traveller ethnicity

Recognition of Traveller ethnicity is vital to promote human rights and equality in Ireland. Despite the recommendation of many UN treaty monitoring bodies (CERD; CEDAW; CRC), and that of a range of European institutions (ECRI, FCPNM; Council of Europe) as well as equality and human rights bodies within Ireland including the Irish Human Rights Commission and Equality Authority, the Government continues to refuse to acknowledge Traveller ethnicity. Various countries also made recommendations for recognition during the UPR process in 2011. This impacts Travellers in many ways. In particular, the Government division responsible for development of anti-racism initiatives does not include Travellers as part of its brief and so Travellers are not included in such initiatives by design. In short, racism against Travellers is not acknowledged by the State.

Ethnic data collection and ethnic equality monitoring

There remains a significant gap in the availability of disaggregated statistical data regarding the situation of Travellers and Roma across thematic areas including health, accommodation, social protection and violence against women. Currently, ethnicity is not included as an administrative category in official data collection systems.ⁱ This results in serious gaps in knowledge about the situation of Travellers and Roma and absence of evidence based policies and practices to ensure the needs of ethnic minority communities are met. The lack of data contributes to significant obstacles in gathering evidence about racism and discrimination based on ethnicity, making it difficult for relevant stakeholders to monitor measures to promote non-discrimination and to monitor progressive realisation of rights.ⁱⁱ

Pavee Point has long called for the recognition of Travellers as an ethnic group and for the implementation of an ethnic identifier to provide better services to minority groups. Pavee Point calls for an ethnic identification and ethnic equality monitoring process which will facilitate the collection of data disaggregated on basis of ethnicity (inclusive of Travellers) within a human rights framework. Such data should be used to plan for the realisation of human rights, the introduction of targeted measures where needed and monitoring implementation of plans.

Recognition of Traveller Culture

Recognition of Traveller and Roma culture and Traveller and Roma cultural identity is integral in creating a culture of human rights and equality in Irish society. Travellers and Roma communities



have a right to a cultural identity and this should be recognised and reflected in government and public sector bodies' strategies, policies and action plans. Resources should be made available for the promotion and preservation of Traveller culture, in order to inform policy, and in order to develop rich social and educational programmes that promote anti-racism and respect for diversity among settled people, and that promote Travellers' entitlement to explore their own cultural heritage. One key measure is the inclusion of Traveller and Roma culture in education curriculums.

Renewal of the National Action Plan Against Racism

It is vital that the National Action Plan Against Racism (2005-2008) is renewed. Even though the plan has not been renewed it was referenced as part of Ireland's commitment to human rights as a member of the Human Rights Council in 2012. The failure to renew the National Action Plan has been noted as a concern by the European Commission on Racism Intolerance (ECRI) in its most recent report on Ireland, 2013. In 2011, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) noted the importance of the State giving effect to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action through the National Action Plan and Ireland will be required to include specific information on this in its next periodic report. The Irish Government has noted that it does not intend to develop a new National Action Plan and will instead incorporate anti-racism measures into a new Migrant Integration Strategy. However, an explicit National Action Plan Against Racism is needed, in recognition that there is a wider group in Irish society that experience racism, including Irish Travellers and other non-migrants.

Anti-Racist and Intercultural Infrastructure

The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) was closed down in December 2008 as an austerity measure. A number of initiatives that were undertaken by the NCCRI were key in tackling and challenging racism. These included development of policies and measures to create an intercultural society e.g. Intercultural Health Strategy, Intercultural Education Strategy, Intercultural Youth Strategy etc. They coordinated the National Action Plan Against Racism and the Know Racism Campaign (Public Awareness) They also developed the reporting and monitoring of racist incidents system. Training in anti-racism and interculturalism and resources were provided to a range of public service bodies and to NGOs. The NCCRI took a very pro-active approach in working with minority ethnic groups including Travellers and Roma and other groups experiencing racism. It was intended that its functions would be transferred to the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration but this has not happened. While the office undertakes measures for the promotion of migrant integration it has not absorbed all of the above functions outlined above. Furthermore, its focus on migrants means that it does not include Travellers in its remit and this has had the effect of excluding Travellers from the remit of anti-racism and intercultural initiatives which sit in the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration. There is a separate Traveller Policy Division in the Department of Justice and Equality and the particular experience of Roma has not been addressed effectively by either the Traveller Policy Division or the Office of the Minister for Integration.



Hate crime and hate speech legislation

Criminal legislation prohibiting hate speech is essential to ensure the rights of minority groups are protected. The Government's key legislation for dealing with racist crime and speech is the Incitement to Hatred Act, 1989 (art. 20. 1). Criticisms of the legislation include:

- It relates to "incitement" and not racist act in itself;
- It can be difficult to prove intent
- The average number of successful prosecutions since the act was introduced stands at less than one per year;
- The penalties do not reflect the seriousness of the crime;
- Judgments of District and Circuit Courts where these cases are held are not recorded (unless reported in local media), so there is little visibility of outcomes.
- Lack of capacity to tackle incitement to hatred on social media.

No measures have been taken to effectively prohibit hate speech and protect minority groups from hate speech and hate crime. The need for this is clear. In this context, the 2011 report CERD recommended that legislation be passed to declare that racist motivation be consistently taken into account as an aggravating factor in sentencing practice for criminal offences. It is vital that robust legislation is developed to prohibit hate speech with provision to take racist motivation into account as an aggravating factor in sentencing practice for criminal offences.

Repeal of Discriminatory Legislation

IHREC should conduct a human rights and equality review of current legislation and make recommendations of repeal of discriminatory legislation. For example Section 24 of the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act (2002) continues to criminalise nomadism and disproportionately impacts upon Travellers. This makes trespass on land with an 'object' such as a caravan, a criminal offence, despite the lack of provision of transient sites by local authorities. This means nomadic Travellers are prevented from travelling. This is a form of institutionalised racism. This section of the legislation needs to be repealed.

Civil Society Space

Civil society organisations play an integral role in promoting and furthering the realisation of human rights and equality. To do so civil society space needs to be protected so organisations can campaign on human rights and equality issues without fear of reprisal. As such civil society should be autonomous and independent of the State. Adequate funding should be made available for civil society organisations to promote human rights and equality issues.

National Action Plan on Human Rights

The development of a National Action Plan on Human Rights utilising a participatory process would also work to promote human rights and equality. However this should not be seen as a panacea or replace targeted or thematic strategies focused on minority groups.

2. What do you think are the key barriers / obstacles to achieving progress on human rights and equality?



Inequalities experienced by Travellers

Travellers have experienced a history of racism and discrimination and remain one of the most marginalised and excluded groups in Irish society. This disadvantage is evidenced across several areas including health, accommodation, access to education and employment. The All Ireland Traveller Health Study (AITHS) (2010) and the 2011 Census provide startling statistics in these areas:

- Life expectancy at birth for male Travellers has remained at the 1987 level of 61.7 years, which is 15.1 years less than men in the general population, representing a widening of the gap by 5.2 years since 1987. Life expectancy for females is now 70.1 which is 11.5 years less than women in the general population.
- Mortality rates are near 3.5 times the national average for men, women and children
- Traveller suicide rate is 6 times higher than in the general population and accounts for approximately 11% of all Traveller deaths
- 7.6% of Travellers, or 2,753 Traveller men women and children do not have access to running waterⁱⁱⁱ
- 84% of Travellers are unemployed in comparison to an overall national figure of 14%
- 55% of Travellers leave school before the age of 15 and less than 1% of Travellers go on to third level education^{iv}

Human rights and equality proofing of legislation, strategies, policies and actions is required to address this structural and institutionalised racism and discrimination. Positive action measures are also needed to address these inequalities. Monitoring access, participation and outcomes is also vital to chart progress in addressing inequalities.

Contradictory and conflicting legislation

Contradictory legislation is a key barrier in achieving progress on human rights and equality. The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 (Section 42, IHREC) “positive duty” obligations places a commitment on public bodies to be proactive and advance equality and human rights practices within the public sector. However there is discriminatory legislation which contradicts and conflicts with this duty. Section 24 of the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act (2002) continues to criminalise nomadism and disproportionately impacts upon Travellers. Public bodies actively discriminate against Traveller by implementing this legislation. Legislation which prioritises the protection of human rights and equality is at odds with legislation which prioritises the protection of property. IHREC should review these issues.

Limited understanding of historical and institutional discrimination

Travellers and Roma have experienced a history of racism and discrimination and are two of the most marginalised and excluded groups in Irish society. Traveller experience discrimination at an individual and institutional level however racism is significantly under reported and there is a lack of action in relation to racism experienced by Travellers. Although public attitudes towards Travellers are mixed, research showed that high levels of prejudice and discrimination still exist; for example, 79.6% of those surveyed responded that they “would be reluctant to buy a house next door to a Traveller.”^v The All Ireland Traveller Health Study (AITHS) found that approximately 50% of all Travellers experienced discrimination in a range of daily activities. Traveller families often face discrimination, harassment and racist attacks by people who do not want them to live in their area



and several politicians have also utilised anti-Traveller rhetoric in their campaigning including committing to prevent Traveller accommodation being built in their constituency. Racism and discrimination towards Travellers in wider society is reflected within the education system and continues to present a significant barrier for Traveller students. The AITHS also found that 62% of Travellers experienced discrimination in schools. This has a hugely negative impact on retention levels of Traveller students and in turn on their future employment opportunities. Travellers also experience discrimination in engaging with health services. The level of complete trust by Travellers in health professionals was only 41% as compared with a trust level of 82% by the general population. Over 40% of Travellers had a concern that they were not always treated with respect and dignity. Over 50% of Travellers had concerns about the quality of care they had received when they engaged with services. This discrimination has a hugely negative impact on Travellers mental health which is evident from the high suicide rate among the community. Roma experience indirect discrimination through existing policies and there is a policy vacuum and a lack of targeted policies at the national level to address substantive discrimination. Due to the lack of targeted policies in Ireland, a history of discrimination throughout Europe and the disproportionate impact of certain policies in Ireland, such as the habitual residence condition, Roma are placed in very vulnerable situations.

Travellers have long experienced structural and institutional racism through the assimilationist policies of the state. Social initiatives in relation to Travellers (for instance, in education and/or training for employment) have clearly failed to eliminate or even to substantially weaken anti-Traveller prejudice among the majority settled population, and have failed to enable Travellers to achieve inclusion in Irish society. There should be recognition that mainstreaming approaches do not address this historical discrimination or address inequalities effectively. Nor do they address the diverse needs of an intercultural population. For example a 'mainstreaming approach' in relation to Traveller health ignores disparities in health outcomes and has resulted in a lack of action or a targeted strategy to implement the recommendations of the All Ireland Traveller Health Study. There is a need for targeted initiatives to be developed and implemented utilising a participatory process with Travellers and Roma and Traveller and Roma organisations to address this historical discrimination and combat racism and discrimination. These initiatives should be developed based on the principles of interculturalism and anti-racism.

Lack of progress in adhering to international human rights obligations

The State continues to make slow progress on adhering to international human rights obligations using domestic law as an excuse for this lack of progression. For example Ireland has not signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).^{vi} Ireland previously stated that "administrative and legislative" arrangements required to enable signature were being examined.^{vii} Domestic legislation is not a valid reason to not sign and ratify conventions and the State must be held accountable for this lack of progress.



Lack of recognition of economic, social and cultural rights

There is a lack of recognition of economic, social and cultural rights as they are not incorporated into domestic law. Recognition of Traveller ethnicity is as a key part of progressing Traveller cultural, social and economic rights. This move would signify an acknowledgement of racism as core to the situation of Travellers exclusion and symbolise a move by the State to respecting Travellers' cultural rights, which are indivisible from their social and economic rights. As previously stated recognition of the Traveller and Roma communities' cultural identity is vital in progressing human rights and equality. Travellers and Roma experience acute social and economic exclusion from Irish society and incorporation of economic, social and cultural rights within domestic law would provide legal protection of these rights and avenues to ensure the realisation of these rights.

3. How do you think a stronger public awareness of human rights and equality issues could be promoted?

Establishment of a Human Rights and Equality training project

A comprehensive human rights and equality training project should be developed utilising expertise across civil society and minority groups experiencing inequality. This training should focus on the civil and public service but also be offered to other sectors.

Public Engagement

IHREC's Red C Poll found that 96 per cent of people surveyed believe that laws protecting human rights are important in order to create a fairer, more equal society, while 93 per cent care deeply about making Ireland a fairer place in which to live. This would imply that there is strong public support for addressing human rights and equality issues. However discriminatory attitudes towards Travellers and other ethnic minority groups are still pervasive. 34 per cent of people believe it acceptable for shopping centres and pubs to refuse entry to members of the Traveller or Roma community. This work on public engagement should be built on and include exploring understandings of collective rights rather than Western legalistic conceptualisation of individual human rights. IHREC can use its position to challenge racism and discrimination and utilise its platform to show the impact discrimination has on minority ethnic groups and marginalised communities. A public education campaign could work to illustrate that people's attitudes and behaviours are contributing to inequalities. This work can be done in partnership with Traveller and Roma organisations and organisations working with other ethnic minority groups to build solidarity and increase understanding of cultural identities differing from the majority population.

Visibility of Human Rights and Equality proofing and positive duty processes

IHREC must ensure these processes are made visible to the public at national and local level.



B: What do you think we should do?

Goal 1: Leadership

IHREC acts as an independent, authoritative and influential institution in the promotion and protection of human rights and equality

1. Have you any feedback on this proposed goal?
2. How do you believe that we can most effectively deliver on this goal?

Watchdog Role

Although the IHREC should remain independent it can demonstrate its leadership by not remaining neutral. It should take a critical stance on human rights violations and discriminatory practices of the State. For instance Pavee Point welcomes IHREC's calls for the recognition of Travellers as an ethnic group. IHREC should play a role as a watchdog to challenge the State on its curtailment of rights within domestic law. It should do this through engagement with civil society organisations who are working on these issues.

Utilise combined powers

IHREC should challenge the State when it is not making progress on key human rights issues despite pressure from international bodies. IHREC should not allow the State to use domestic law as a barrier to progression and to signing and ratifying conventions. IHREC to utilise all legal avenues available in these circumstances including act as an amicus curiae in cases. For example IHREC should utilise these combined powers including litigation to ensure recognition of Traveller ethnicity.

Civil Society Engagement

IHREC should support, strengthen and amplify the work of civil society organisations. This includes supporting specific civil society asks which align with international human rights standards. There should also be ongoing dialogue and engagement with civil society with engagement strategies developed which recognise the challenges of engagement for organisations operating on significantly reduced budgets. Mechanisms should include the establishment of a civil society consultative forum alongside ongoing reciprocal engagement including reviewing IHREC strategic plans and work plans. There should also be opportunities for meaningful participation through working groups where civil society organisations' expertise is recognised and valued.

Enquiry Mechanism

Establish a mechanism whereby civil society can submit enquiries requesting IHREC to undertake a human rights and equality analysis of an issue or a review of the human rights and equality implications of legislation or policies.



Proactive Role

The State should seek expertise from IHREC when interpreting international law into domestic law. IHREC should also play a key role in human rights and equality proofing legislation, national budgets and policies and also ensure human rights and equality impacts assessments are undertaken in these areas.

Leadership in International Arenas

The IHREC should utilise its membership of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) to address human rights violations on a European level including challenging discriminatory EU Directives.

Goal 2: Pro-active approach to monitoring and compliance

Arrangements, opportunities and full range of powers for monitoring of and compliance with equality and human rights obligations are strategically utilised are strengthened

1. Have you any feedback on this proposed goal?
2. How do you believe that we can most effectively deliver on this goal?

Comprehensive implementation of positive duty

IHREC should develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for the implementation of positive duty with specific supports for public sector bodies. This should include a structured and participatory approach to the implementation of the public sector duty between civil society and public authorities. IHREC should support public bodies in the development of their plans to implement the duty. Plans must encompass how the duty will be embedded into the body's work processes, and secure participation of people experiencing inequality and human rights issues. Monitoring and evaluation of outcomes on an ongoing basis is crucial with a clear public accountability mechanism for reporting progress with a particular focus on dialogue with representative organisations of people experiencing inequality or human rights issues. For this implementation to be effective it is crucial that IHREC champions and supports the mainstreaming of ethnic data collection, analysis, disaggregation and dissemination in order to have data to facilitate equality reviews and positive duty analysis.

Key Pilot Initiatives

Key pilot initiatives should be developed as part of the implementation process of the duty for example in local authorities and government departments such as the Department of Education, the Department of Health and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Reviews of these pilots can be utilised to develop good practice guidance.

Human Rights and Equality proofing strategies, policies and action plans

Evidence shows that since 2008, there has been an extraordinary and disproportionate level of disinvestment by the Irish State in the Traveller community. However, decisions made in the



context of austerity have been made without human rights proofing these decisions or working from the principle of non-discrimination.

We would strongly recommend that IHREC plays a leading role in mandatory equality proofing of all strategies, policies and action plans of public bodies. This would establish the potential impact (positive and negative) of strategies and policies on Travellers and Roma with regard to achieving equality of outcome. This would involve implementing an equality and human rights review and a human rights and equality impact assessments on programmes and policies. Reviews would assess internal policies, procedures, staff perceptions and practices for their impact on equality and human rights of staff, service users and groups targeted by policy. It must also involve a programme of monitoring changes arising from equality/social impact assessment. All proofing measures should be overseen by a steering or working group comprised of stakeholders, including Traveller and Roma organisation representatives.

Goal 3: Interdependence of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights

The interdependence of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights is actively promoted and more widely recognised

1. Have you any feedback on this proposed goal?
2. How do you believe we can most effectively deliver on this goal?

IHREC should work to ensure recognition of economic, social and cultural rights and their incorporation into domestic law. It should also work to promote an understanding of the indivisibility of the two covenants and a more holistic understanding of human rights as a whole.

Goal 4: Making Rights Real

Greater awareness achieved of human rights and equality obligations and avenues of recourse amongst the public

1. Have you any feedback on this proposed goal?
2. How do you believe that we can most effectively deliver on this goal?

Action on under reporting of racism

IHREC should prioritise substantial action on under reporting of racism. It should work to ensure a critical mass of cases are supported through the new workplace relations commission.

Inquiry on human rights and equality for Roma community

Pavee Point are currently undertaking a Roma needs assessment to address the lack of reliable and accurate data on the Roma community. IHREC should undertake an inquiry on the current situation of Roma and their experiences of human rights and equality issues. This inquiry should include specific recommendations to address inequalities faced by the community and support the communities' overall well-being.



Human Rights Fund

IHREC should establish a human rights fund to facilitate groups' engagement in human rights processes. Funding should also be available to support capacity building including supporting groups to report and act as representatives.

Engagement Processes

IHREC should establish processes to facilitate engagement of groups with a particular focus on groups experiencing inequalities and human rights issues. IHREC should utilise approaches which have successfully engaged with marginalised communities for example community development approaches.

Goal 5: Intercultural Understanding

Positive intercultural relations are enhanced

1. Have you any feedback on the proposed goal?
2. How do you believe that we can most effectively deliver on this goal?

Inclusion of Travellers and Roma

As two of the most marginalised minority ethnic groups in Irish society Traveller and Roma should be included in the development, design and implementation of all initiatives, programmes and actions derived from this goal.

Action on disproportionate cuts to targeted services

In the All Ireland Traveller Health Study (AITHS) 83% of the Travellers interviewed said they received their health information and advice from Primary Health Care for Traveller Projects and Travellers organisations. Other research also points to the integral role Primary Health Care Projects play in providing information^{viii} and as a useful model for empowerment and resourcing of people to act as health promoters within their own communities (HSE, 2008: 99). The HSE acknowledged the effectiveness of peer-led approaches and committed to supporting and expanding them in the Intercultural Health Strategy^{ix}. Despite the integral role Traveller specific supports have played in addressing discrimination and social exclusion faced by Travellers, these supports have faced disproportionate cuts since 2008. Two of the starkest cuts are an 86.6% to Traveller education and an 85% to Traveller accommodation.^x There has been a failure to reinvest in these services despite an upturn in the economy. Given the severity of discrimination and social exclusion experienced by Travellers these sustained cuts cannot be justified.

Pilot Initiatives

IHREC should examine other successful initiatives and good practice in this area including the work of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI). Initiatives should be developed within an intercultural and anti-racist framework and be piloted in collaboration with organisations working with ethnic minority groups.



Promotion of Intercultural Education

Census 2011 and the All-Ireland Health Study reveal stark inequalities in Traveller access to and outcomes from education. Despite these inequalities since 2008 there has been an 86.6% cut to supports for Traveller education. A targeted strategy to address these inequalities must be prioritised as part of the development of an intercultural education system. An intercultural education system requires a complete re-framing of the education system rather than tokenistic additional curricular to include Travellers, Roma and other ethnic minority groups. Intercultural education must promote diversity in cultural identity and ensure inclusive provision and effective outcomes for Travellers, Roma and other ethnic minority groups.



C: Supplementary Questions

1. How can we best engage with you or your organisation to promote and protect human rights and equality?

Structured engagement

Ongoing reciprocal dialogue and structured engagement is key in supporting our work on promoting and protecting human rights and equality including participation in consultative fora. Clear avenues for participation with IHREC is also critical including through working groups or advisory groups.

Utilise Expertise

Pavee Point has built extensive knowledge and expertise over the last 30 years which IHREC should utilise for example in the development of submission for human rights processes. Civil society organisations such as Pavee Point are also well placed to develop evidence based responses to human rights and equality issues.

Support for Campaign on Right to Health

A key priority in addressing Traveller human rights is tackling the stark health inequalities between Travellers and the general population. There has been a consistent lack of action by the Irish Government in this area and a lack of priority given to Traveller health. Given the evidence base provided by the All-Ireland Traveller Health Study, which shows the level of health inequalities faced by Travellers, immediate action is required by the Irish state. IHREC should support Pavee Point's campaign focused on Traveller's right to health and support calls for a strategy targeting Traveller health.

Funding

Funding for projects which address human rights and equality issues and support the development of innovative responses.

2. Are there other areas not covered by the existing goals that you think we should focus on?

Focus on Outcomes and Substantive Equality

Specific support for the collection of disaggregated data to monitor measures to promote non-discrimination and to monitor progressive realisation of rights. An analysis this data should be used to plan for the realisation of human rights, the introduction of targeted measures where needed and monitoring implementation of plans. This data can help to track outcomes and support substantive equality.



Intercultural framework in policy and practice

Support the development of intercultural and culturally appropriate programmes in partnership with Travellers and Roma organisations and promote the use of an intercultural framework in policy and practice.

3. Imagine yourself five years from now. Thinking about human rights and equality, what changes would need to happen to enable you to judge us as an effective organisation?

- Recognition of Traveller ethnicity
- Recognition of Traveller and Roma culture
- Robust strategy in place to address Traveller health and education inequalities
- Mainstreaming of ethnic data collection and ethnic equality monitoring
- Recognition of Traveller and Roma inequalities and positive action programmes to address these inequalities
- Renewed anti-racist and intercultural infrastructure alongside strategies and action plans to combat racism, discrimination and inequality
- Progress on adherence to international human rights standards
- Progressive legislation in relation to hate crime and recognition of economic, social and cultural rights
- Meaningful implementation of public sector duty
- Process in place where legislation is human rights and equality proofed
- Meaningful and structured engagement with civil society
- A thriving civil society and acknowledgement of key role it plays in the promotion and protection of human rights and equality

For further information on the public consultation process for the Strategy Statement 2016-2018, please contact Laura Brady at lxbrady@ihrec.ie or phone 01 8589601.

ⁱ See Pavee Point Ethnic Data Monitoring Initiative, <http://www.paveepoint.ie/resources/data-portal/>

ⁱⁱ See Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) Concluding Observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on Ireland 2015, E/C.12/IRL/CO/3

ⁱⁱⁱ Kelleher, C. et al (2010) All Ireland Traveller Health Study – Our Geels: Summary of Findings. Dublin: UCD.

^{iv} Central Statistics Office. (2011). Census Results. Available at: <http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/census/documents/north-south-spreadsheets/Census2011IrelandandNorthernIrelandwebversion1.pdf>

^v MacGréil, M. (2010) Emancipation of the Travelling People. National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

^{vi} Ireland is one of only 9 countries out of 47 Council of Europe member States which has not signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

^{vii} It is contended that the barrier to signature and ratification identified by the Government is Article 52 of the Convention which provides for emergency barring orders which are not provided for under Irish law. Notwithstanding the need to have such legislation in place in order to ratify the Convention, there is a clear need, in any event, for barring orders to be available outside of traditional Court hours, so that victims of domestic violence do not find themselves without protection for extended periods of time.

Recent new commitments by the Minister for Justice and Equality on the issue are available from:

<<http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/PR15000436>>; <<http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/0724/716887-domestic-violence-barring-orders/>> [Accessed 21 September 2015].



^{viii} Van Hout, M. C. (2010). Travellers and substance use - implications for service provision. *International Journal of Health Promotion & Education*, Vol 48 36-41.

^{ix} Health Service Executive (2008). *National Intercultural Health Strategy 2007-2012*. Dublin: Health Service Executive.

^x Harvey, B. (2013). *Travelling with Austerity: Impacts of Cuts on Travellers, Traveller Projects and Services*. Dublin: Pavee Point.

