

Violence  
against Roma  
Women **Violence**  
against Roma  
W o m e n  
Violence against  
Roma Women  
V i o l e n c e  
**against** Roma  
Women Violence  
against **Roma**  
W o m e n  
V i o l e n c e  
against  
Roma  
**Women**



principles to  
human rights-based and  
gender-responsive approach to protection

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This toolkit provides a context for understanding violence against women (VAW) in Roma communities and presents good practice principles for policy makers and service providers. Embedded in human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches, the principles are designed to ensure that the needs of Roma women are met in ways that are adequate, effective and sensitive to their individual and human rights contexts.<sup>1</sup>

The toolkit is developed in collaboration with members of Roma communities and Pavee Point Roma Project. It is based on desk research and semi-structured interviews with Roma women.

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### 9 principles to human rights-based and gender-responsive approach

#### 1 human rights-based approach

Integrate international human rights norms and principles in all relevant strategy, policy and practice.

#### 2 gender-responsiveness

Develop knowledge, skills and capacity to address Roma women's experiences of violence as issues of multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination based on gender and ethnicity.

#### 3 cross-sectoral response

Actively address the barriers that prevent Roma women from being able to seek short, medium and long-term options for protection.

#### 4 anti-discrimination

Integrate anti-racism, anti-discrimination and equality frameworks into policy and practice and ensure ongoing training in these areas to stakeholders and staff.

#### 5 avoiding cultural blaming

Avoid cultural blaming and uphold the duty to respond without ethnic profiling.

#### 6 disaggregated data

Disaggregate data by ethnicity in line with human rights principles and standards.

#### 7 empowerment

Involve Roma women in decision making processes and ensure active participation of Roma women and representative organisations in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policy and service provision.

#### 8 confidentiality

Maintain confidentiality, privacy and clear communication to build relationships and trust.

#### 9 working in partnership

Engage in multi-agency cooperation to form adequate, effective and appropriate responses.

for a full description of these principles, please see page 26 - 35

### about pavee point

### violence against women programme



Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre is a non-governmental organisation committed to achieving human rights for Irish Travellers and Roma.

Dedicated Violence against Women (VAW) Programme aims to prevent violence against Traveller and Roma women and increase access to services and protection.

## what is violence against women?

*VAW is “a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.<sup>2</sup>*

VAW constitutes one of the most widespread violations of women’s human rights affecting women from all ethnic and social backgrounds. VAW is often normalised, legitimised and minimised through a number of mechanisms, including by reproducing stereotypes and false assumptions.<sup>3</sup>

While men can also be exposed to domestic and sexual violence, women and girls are disproportionately affected. The abuse of women’s right to safety and protection from violence is intrinsically linked with patriarchal power relations, and is a manifestation of gender inequality.

## who are roma?

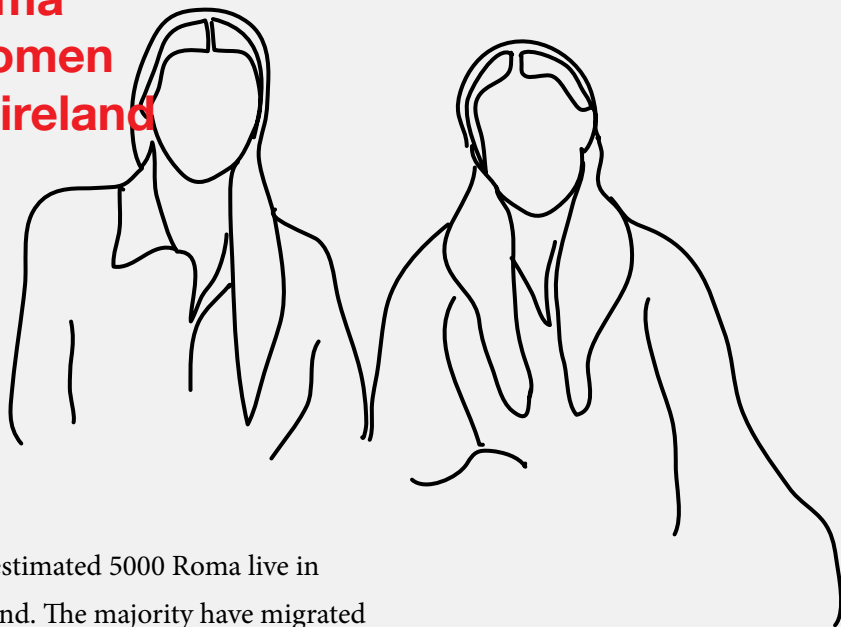
Roma constitute the largest minority group in Europe. They are an extremely diverse ethnic group in terms of language, legal status, and social, cultural and religious attitudes and practices. The overwhelming majority of Roma share the experience of a vicious cycle of poverty and social exclusion as a result of deep-rooted anti-Roma discrimination and racism.<sup>4</sup> In fact, Roma are one of the most discriminated groups in the European Union (EU) with an estimated 90% of Roma living below national poverty lines.<sup>5</sup>



## gendered dimensions

Roma women constitute one of the most threatened individuals and groups in the EU.<sup>6</sup> They face additional marginalisation in comparison to Roma men and non-Roma women due to multiple discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and other factors. This has a serious impact on accessing employment, social protection, health, education, housing and decision making.

## roma women in ireland



An estimated 5000 Roma live in Ireland. The majority have migrated from Eastern and Central European countries as a result of forced migration, poverty and hopes of obtaining better living opportunities.

There is very little comprehensive and reliable data on the situation of Roma women due to data not disaggregated by ethnicity. However, it is evident that many are subjected to socioeconomic and political exclusion, anti-Roma racism and discrimination, poverty and destitution.<sup>7</sup>

Under the EU institutions, Ireland is obliged to ensure the inclusion of Roma women in employment, housing, education and health. Ireland's current National Traveller Roma Integration Strategy has been strongly criticised by the European Commission as failing to meet these obligations.<sup>8</sup> Without an adequate national framework, Roma women continue to be denied basic human rights.

## anti-roma racism, discrimination and stereotypes

*“that’s the ‘gypsy’ woman, she is here to steal”.<sup>9</sup>*

Anti-Roma prejudice and racism are widespread and deep-rooted with Roma women being subjected to additional racial stereotyping.<sup>10</sup> Stereotypes of ‘dirty’, ‘lazy’, ‘criminals’ who ‘steal children’, fuel anti-Roma violence and hatred, and can feed into inappropriate responses by policy makers, authorities and other professionals.<sup>11</sup>

Research and involvement by Pavee Point with members of Roma communities unveil high levels of discrimination against Roma in Ireland, including by the Gardaí, Health Service Executive, local authorities and staff at social protection offices.<sup>12</sup> Relationship between the Gardaí and Roma women is particularly problematic with clear indicators of ethnic profiling practices.<sup>13</sup> Women who wear traditional clothing are easily identified targets and experience further verbal abuse and being repeatedly turned away from shops and businesses.

## employment



In comparison to Roma men, unemployment rate is approximately one third higher among Roma women in the EU.<sup>14</sup> Roma women have fewer opportunities to access formal employment due to discrimination, lack of education and ability to afford childcare. Having main responsibility for the family can limit women's engagement in paid employment and restrict economic independence.

While many Roma women are in employment, it often consists of small and infrequent work. Some women may have little option but to engage in informal economic activities, such as begging, while others may be forced into petty crime or prostitution. It is important to note that these activities are not part of a 'Roma culture', but responses to situations of extreme poverty in the absence of access to employment and social protection.<sup>15</sup>

## education



Roma are one of the most disadvantaged groups in education across the EU.<sup>16</sup> Participation in education drops significantly for Roma girls when compared with Roma boys and non-Roma girls. Within the most deprived Roma communities, school engagement and completion for girls can be disrupted by responsibilities towards caring for family members or relatively young child bearing age.

Recent report highlights how poverty, lack of social protection, negative experiences in education, and poor housing conditions create significant barriers for Roma to access and engage in the Irish education system.<sup>17</sup> This contributes to low levels of literacy skills and risks exclusion from future education and employment.

## social protection



In comparison to Roma men, Roma women are more likely to be dependent on social protection due to additional barriers to access employment. However, many Roma women in Ireland are unable to access any social protection, leaving women and children at risk of extreme poverty and destitution.<sup>18</sup>

### case study: habitual residence condition

The Habitual Residence Condition (HRC) determines access to certain social welfare payments in Ireland, including access to means-tested social welfare payments and Child Benefit. To access these payments, applicants must show that they are habitually resident by proving their connection to the State. Five factors are examined to determine whether a person is habitually resident;

- nature and pattern of employment
- length and continuity of residence in Ireland
- length and purpose of any absence from Ireland
- applicant's main centre of interest
- future intentions

It is important to note that no single factor is supposed to be more important than the others. Rather, each decision should balance all five factors taking into consideration the individual circumstances of each case.<sup>19</sup>

Roma women often face a number of additional difficulties in satisfying the criteria, even if they have been living in the State for several years. The conditions can be seen strongly linked to employment, which creates a significant barrier for Roma women who have been subjected to discrimination in education and employment. In addition, poverty creates conditions where Roma women can live in overcrowded and precarious housing conditions. In this context, many women find significant difficulties to provide adequate proof of pattern of employment, residence and 'centre of interest'.

Serious issues have also been raised about the application process. These include Roma having been subjected to discriminatory behaviour, verbal abuse and racist comments by staff; resistance to grant social protection to Roma; significant delays and obstructions with processing applications; and demands for unnecessary documentation.<sup>20</sup>

## housing



Roma often live in overcrowded, substandard and segregated housing conditions with lack of access to basic services and public infrastructure. As primary housekeepers, inadequate housing, sanitary and living conditions can expose Roma women to further health and safety hazards.<sup>21</sup>

As elsewhere in Europe, Roma in Ireland are also subjected to local and national expulsions.<sup>22</sup> Research shows that 50% of Roma women surveyed in Ireland had been homeless at one time.<sup>23</sup>

## health



Roma women are more likely to have health related problems that limit their daily activities than Roma men.<sup>24</sup> Roma women have been subjected to serious human rights violations in health care across Europe, including systematic programmes of forced sterilisations.<sup>25</sup>

Discrimination and racism have contributed to fear and mistrust in health care professionals and women often leaving their health problems going unattended. Many Roma women in Ireland are unable to afford the cost of health care due to lack of access to social protection and employment.<sup>26</sup>

## gender roles

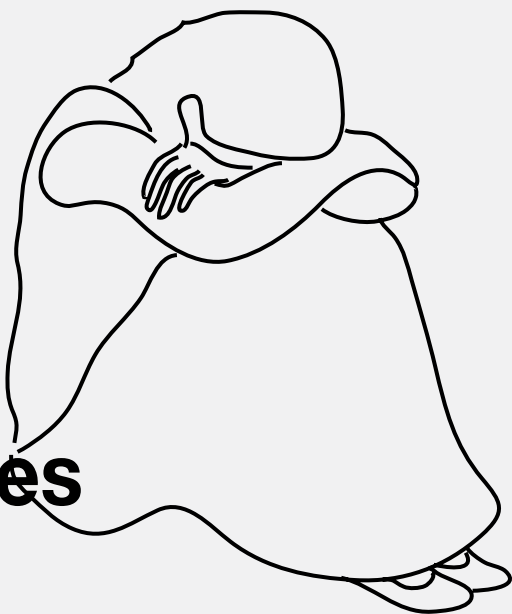


Extended family and community are key social institutions in most Roma communities. In addition to defining identities and roles, they provide important support and protection in the face of anti-Roma discrimination and social exclusion.

Gender discrimination manifests itself differently from some other communities as Roma women are subjected to patriarchal gender norms and gender discrimination both within and outside their communities. This means that Roma women may not enjoy full right to freedom of choice in matters that affect their lives, and the roles of women may be over-dependent on the decisions and interests of the community or family.<sup>27</sup> It is important to note that patriarchy operates very differently depending on the community. Therefore, gender relations differ widely between Roma groups and nationalities, and simple generalisations about individual Roma or Roma communities must be avoided.



# VAW and roma communities



Violence against Roma women is an issue of human rights, structural discrimination and gender inequality. The effects of multiple discrimination place Roma women at further risk of violence, and jeopardises the right to live free from violence.

There is little comprehensive and reliable data about Roma women's experiences of domestic and sexual violence due to lack of data disaggregated by ethnicity and Roma women rarely reporting or seeking support from services. The Irish State has been urged to meet its commitments under international human rights treaties and engage in systematic collection of disaggregated data on VAW and systematic monitoring and evaluation of its components particularly in relation to vulnerable and marginalised women, including Roma, Traveller and migrant women.<sup>28</sup>

## cultural blaming

VAW is often portrayed as being part of 'a Roma culture'. This is in sharp contrast to VAW within majority populations, which is not similarly culturalised. With lack of disaggregated data by ethnicity, the validity of such claims needs to be examined in the context of anti-Roma prejudice and stereotypes.

In reality, VAW is not part of cultural practices or values of Roma communities. "Although culture is crucial to understanding and combating domestic violence, we cannot rest on simplistic notions of culture. Rather, we must address how different communities' cultural experiences of violence are mediated through structural forms of oppression, such as racism, colonialism, economic exploitation, heterosexism, and the like".<sup>29</sup>

Multiple discrimination on grounds such as ethnicity, race, gender, class, culture, immigration status, and state policies and practices, exacerbate the violence that Roma women face. The impact of discrimination contributes to conditions of poverty and marginalisation, which create additional barriers to seeking information, support and safety from violence and can expose women and girls at increased risk of prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation.

## domestic violence

As any woman, Roma women can be victims of domestic violence in the hands of their partners/ex-partners or family members. Domestic violence can contribute to further marginalisation of Roma women. Control over making phone calls, going out, being prevented from seeking work or attending English language classes can further increase isolation and dependency on the perpetrator. Women, who are expected to be solely responsible for housework and caring for children, may be more vulnerable to financial abuse with partners providing very little or no financial support.

## sexual violence: prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation

Roma women and girls are highly vulnerable to prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation.<sup>30</sup> Prostitution results from structural discrimination, marginalisation and extreme poverty, and is a means for women and girls to provide for themselves and/or their children with basic necessities. A number of factors contribute to becoming vulnerable to prostitution, including inability to access social protection and employment, growing up in state care, disability and mental health issues. Research shows a significant overrepresentation of Roma communities in trafficked persons in Europe.<sup>31</sup>

**40-80%**

of trafficking victims in Eastern European countries are known to be Roma.

**68%**

of Roma are trafficked to another EU country.

**20%**

of the victims are minors at the time of being trafficked.



Trafficking for sexual exploitation is one of the most common forms of trafficking of Roma, and needs to be examined in the context of widespread anti-Roma discrimination and extreme marginalisation of Roma women across Europe.

## racist- sexist violence against roma women

Over the past decade, increasing levels of anti-Roma racism have been observed across Europe particularly among extreme right-wing political groups. Roma women are often primary targets of violence and intimidation, and are subjected to attacks on their physical integrity. Such practices build from racist stereotypes and rhetoric, and constitute serious human rights abuses.

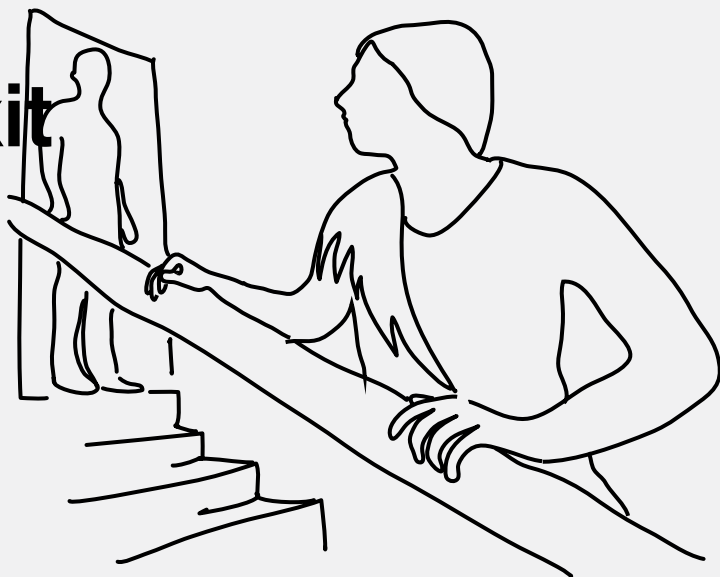
## early marriage

*“Non-Roma reproduce the idea that Roma communities would be pre-modern, or if you wish, uncivilized and primitive...by treating the phenomenon of early marriages in the context of interethnic relations - the ‘Roma woman’ gets to be perceived by and subjected to gendered norms both in her own community and by the majority population”.*<sup>32</sup>

Debates about early marriage are often surrounded by myths about arranged, forced marriages as a cultural tradition of Roma communities. In reality, early family creation is a patriarchal rather than ‘a Roma tradition’. In paternalistic communities and societies family is the source of economic production, wealth, security and social status, making it important to marry and have children at a young age.<sup>33</sup> Research also shows that “marriage has a ‘traditional’ function in richer communities, the social function of managing the family’s wealth and heritage, and the function of ‘escaping’ poverty in other types of communities, where solid alternatives for the future do not exist”.<sup>34</sup>

In fact, early marriage occurs generally in the most marginalised and deprived Roma communities, and is a result of internal and external oppressions. When early marriage occurs, it has wider human rights consequences by exposing girls to the risk of domestic and sexual violence, increased school drop-out, future unemployment, poverty and social exclusion.

# barriers to disclose, report and exit

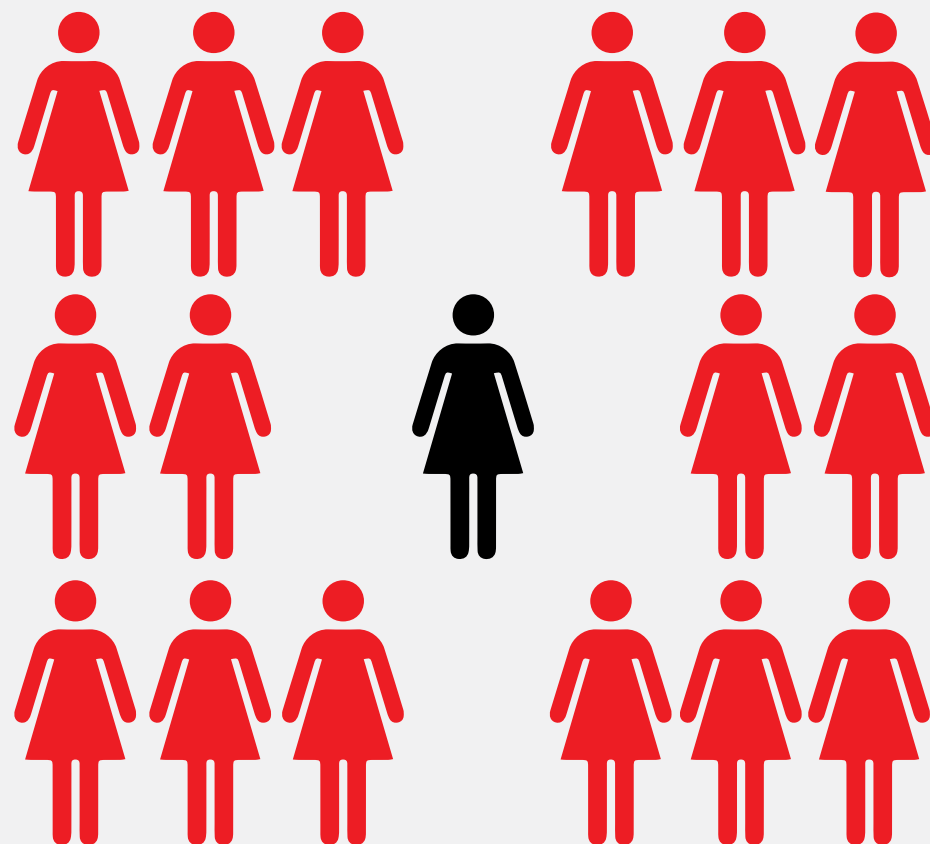


*“The decision to leave cannot be understood simply in terms of individual choice. Women’s agency is determined by a range of structural factors related to their socio-economic position, the availability of support, knowledge of services, the opportunity to leave safely, and the response of services to help-seeking”.<sup>35</sup>*

Roma women experience further barriers to services, which delay or prevent their help seeking efforts. In vast majority of cases, violence against Roma women goes unreported and many continue to be exposed to violence. The experiences of violence among Roma women “demonstrate that for minoritised women, the struggle against violence within the home cannot be separate or separable from the struggle against violence outside the home”.<sup>36</sup>

## socioeconomic exclusion

Lack of access to employment, education, health services, adequate accommodation and childcare makes exiting violence particularly difficult. Without access to basic needs, including food, shelter, medical needs or school supplies, there are few options but to stay or face poverty, destitution or even homelessness. For women who do exit violence, the pattern of poverty often continues due to discrimination in employment, responsibilities over caring for children, and dealing with the effects of violence.<sup>37</sup>



## access to protection

State policies can intensify the pattern of violence for women with insecure immigration or social protection status. Roma women who are not able to access public funds, such as child benefit, jobseeker's allowance or housing benefit, experience intensified patterns of violence. If women are able to leave a violent relationship they are subjected to further victimisation. The lack of access to social protection, refuges, safe accommodation and threats of expulsion place minority ethnic women at further risk of violence.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the UN Human Rights Committee have identified significant gaps in policy and legislation in Ireland, which prevent marginalised, migrant, Traveller and Roma women from equal access to protection from VAW.<sup>38</sup> These concerns include financial and administrative obstacles to access support services for women who do not meet the Habitual Residence Condition or are dependent on their partner's immigration status. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is particularly "concerned with the discriminatory effect of the habitual residence condition on women who are victims of domestic violence, the homeless, migrants, Travellers and Roma in accessing social security benefits. It is also concerned at the lack of understanding of and clear guidelines for the relevant officials on the criteria applicable to decide on the condition".<sup>39</sup>

Without access to social protection and ability to pay for services, Roma women experience limited options for short, medium and long-term protection. Access to refuges is restricted beyond emergency period, after which there is almost a complete lack of viable options. In this way, the HRC creates further dependency on the perpetrator and contributes to the cycle of violence.

## discrimination and inadequate responses

*"She is not going to go to a refuge or another service - she would rather go to a hotel or the streets".<sup>40</sup>*

Negative experiences of anti-Roma racism, discrimination and prejudice leave many Roma women reluctant to report violence or access support services. This is particularly the case with social services, the An Garda Síochána and judicial system. A fear of being expelled from the country or exposed to negative or discriminatory treatment often acts as a deterrent to seeking protection from state authorities.<sup>41</sup> Inadequate interpretation services can also intensify negative experiences in instances where Roma women are subjected to racist harassment by interpreters, or when a family member or friend is used as an interpreter.

Evidence shows that discrimination is frequently a consequence of prejudices, stereotypes and personal beliefs.<sup>42</sup> Low levels of understanding about the situation of Roma women and cultural blaming can inform inappropriate and dangerous responses by policy makers and professionals. In fact, "violations of women's rights are often sanctioned under the cover of local cultural practices and norms".<sup>43</sup> Cultural blaming perpetuates violence against Roma women by contributing to reproduction of racial stereotypes and prejudice; passivity and inaction by relevant institutions and actors;<sup>44</sup> and unwillingness to apply already limited legal remedies on Roma women.<sup>45</sup>

## case study: anti-roma discrimination and child protection concerns

For any woman experiencing domestic or sexual violence, the fear of child protection concerns acts as a significant barrier to reporting violence. This fear is even further elevated for Roma women as a result of past experiences where a disproportionate number of Roma children have been removed to state care as a result of anti-Roma discrimination and assimilation policies. This has resulted in fear, mistrust and reluctance to engage with state authorities among Roma.<sup>46</sup>

This anxiety has been further heightened in the Irish context as a result of events in 2013. In two separate instances, the An Garda Síochána acted hastily on reports about Roma children in Tallaght

and Athlone, who were assumed to have been abducted by their Roma parents. Without adequate investigation, the children were removed from the care of their families.

A special inquiry by the Ombudsman for Children found that the removal of the two Roma children was unlawful, and the actions of the An Garda Síochána in the case of Roma 'Child A' conformed to the definition of ethnic profiling.<sup>47</sup> The inquiry confirmed that the events were influenced by unfounded and deeply prejudiced myth about Roma 'stealing children', and by an international dimension of the case of 'Maria' in Greece, which witnessed the removal of a blonde child from a Roma family under the same suspicion.

## awareness

*"people should know,  
we should create awareness about violence with Roma".<sup>48</sup>*

The effects of multiple discrimination can impact the ability of Roma women to recognise and disclose violence.<sup>49</sup> Mainstream awareness raising and prevention strategies in relation to VAW tend not to reach marginalised members of Roma communities. Low levels of education, literacy and English language skills can contribute to little awareness about domestic and sexual violence as crimes, and create further barriers to accessing information about help and protection.

## barriers within communities

As any woman, many Roma remain silent about their experiences of violence because of self-blame, denial, fear of further abuse, and hopes of things getting better. Roma women often avoid drawing more negative attention to already stigmatised Roma communities, and living in a close-knit community contributes to a fear that any help seeking effort would be discovered by the perpetrator.

Leaving a violent relationship for a Roma woman may mean leaving her family and community. This may mean losing her support network and facing a hostile environment, where she may struggle to find housing and provide for basic needs for herself and her children. Not wanting to risk this, many women are forced to stay in a violent relationship.

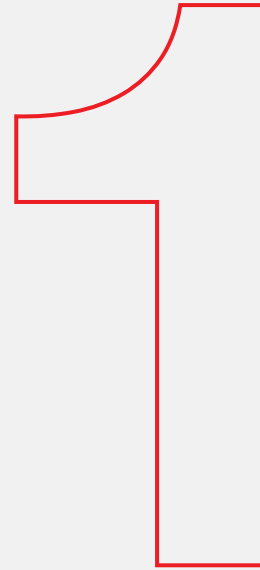
# 9

## principles: human rights- based and gender- responsive approach

*“This is the most sensitive and seemingly navigable way to diffuse the tension between women’s rights and cultural relativism- by seeing the struggles for women’s right not as a way to save women from their cultures, but rather as a means to increase their choices and opportunities, so that they can play greater roles in shaping their cultures and their lives”.<sup>50</sup>*

This section outlines the guiding principles for policy and service provision. The principles are embedded in human rights-based and gender responsive approaches, guiding the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of holistic responses.<sup>51</sup> Together, the principles form key conditions for the realisation of Roma women’s right to enjoy life free from violence.

## principle



*“Because a human rights-based approach is grounded in the principles of universality, indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, and accountability, it encourages cultural sensitivity and gender-responsiveness”.<sup>52</sup>*

## human rights - based approach

Human rights-based approach recognises VAW as a violation of human rights and integrates international human rights norms and principles in all relevant strategies, policies and services. It moves away from a needs-based approach, which generally focuses on short-term emergency needs, towards upholding obligations to promote and protect the medium-to-long-term safety and rights of Roma women.

A rights-based approach is embedded in an understanding of the situation and role of women in their particular context, and involves addressing the socioeconomic, political, legal, and societal contexts, which perpetuate violence and create additional barriers to protection. This involves actively promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of women by aiming to provide for immediate needs in terms of safety, legal protection, physical and mental health, as well as for medium to long-term supports in accessing social protection, employment, housing, health care, education and training.



## **gender - responsiveness**

Gender equality is key to prevention and protection from VAW. Gender-responsive approach identifies and recognises how the experiences of violence are compounded for Roma women due to their gender and ethnicity, and aims to tackle the underlying causes of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination Roma women face within and outside their communities. As a cross-cutting approach, it promotes gender equality in policy, legislation, service provision and general value systems, and aims to create conditions under which VAW becomes less likely to occur and increasingly possible to challenge.



## **cross-sectoral response**

Effective prevention, protection and support can only be realised by tackling the lack of access to basic rights and ensuring the overall inclusion of Roma women. Cross-sectoral approach acknowledges that access to protection from VAW is inseparable from access to basic rights. This implies a holistic approach to addressing VAW at policy, community and individual levels to ensure that Roma women can access employment, social protection, secure housing, education, English language classes, and support services to recover from effects of violence. Cross-sectoral response explicitly includes Roma women as integral part of all relevant strategies and policies.



## **anti - discrimination**

Women affected by violence have a right to fair and equal protection and treatment regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, age, sexual orientation, or any other factor.<sup>53</sup> Being intertwined, combatting anti-Roma racism, stereotypes and prejudice is as essential as tackling discriminatory policies and practices.

All policy, legislation and service provision, which discriminate against minority ethnic women need urgent amendment. The principle of anti-discrimination involves integrating equality, human rights and anti-racism frameworks into policy and practice, and ensuring ongoing training to stakeholders and staff in these areas.



## **avoiding cultural blaming**

Culture should never be used to justify violence or discrimination against Roma women. Any individual or institutional response must retain awareness of racial stereotypes and commonly held assumptions, which maintain a myth about violence against Roma women as a cultural behaviour and pathology.

Instead, authorities and services need to understand the effects of discrimination and stigma that prevent Roma women from reporting violence, and uphold their duty to respond to violence without ethnic profiling. It is also crucial to recognise the diversity of Roma women in terms of culture, situation and vulnerability and experiences of violence, and avoid 'one size fits all'-responses.





## disaggregated data

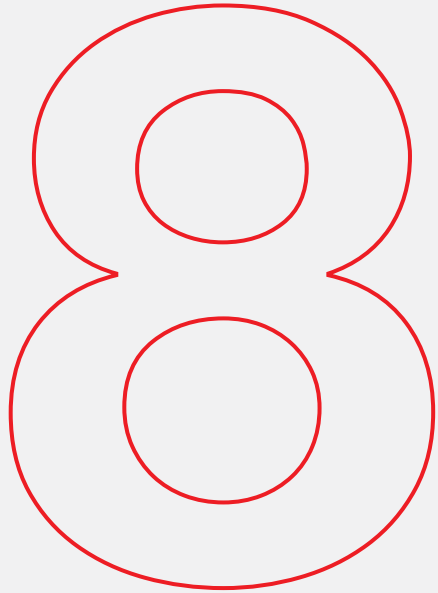
Effective and adequate responses can only be developed from comprehensive data disaggregated by ethnicity. Ethnic data must be collected, analysed and disseminated in line with human rights principles and standards to avoid ethnic profiling and racial discrimination. Such data can be used to ensure evidence-based policy and service provision, monitor anti-Roma discrimination and racism, and shape funding priorities in relation to VAW.



## empowerment

Successful policy and service provision must integrate individual and collective voices of Roma women at all stages. Empowerment implies a woman-centred approach, which is crucial in helping women to regain independence and confidence. It involves including Roma women in decision making processes to ensure they make informed decisions about their situation and respecting their right to making decisions. Fostering community development approaches, whereby Roma women are resourced to become leaders in their own communities, are crucial in promoting social change for the wider Roma community.

## principle



### confidentiality and trust

Any response should maintain awareness about the negative experiences and human rights violations against Roma women, which contribute to low levels of trust and engagement in services. Maintaining confidentiality, privacy and clear communication is key to building relationships and trust.

Women with limited language and literacy skills must be able to access appropriate interpretation services and accessible information about their rights, entitlements, services and protections. Community development approach is particularly useful in bridging mistrust and can be achieved by including Roma women in the labour force and using Roma mediators. Any child protection concerns or actions taken on woman's behalf should be clearly explained.

*“Just to be nice and be honest, let her know you won't hurt her and treat her with respect...Building a relationship is important, if trust is there she will talk”.*

## principle



### working in partnership

Collaboration between key stakeholders, including service providers, policy makers, civil society, community groups and academia, is central in developing informed responses. It allows for sharing of good practice, experiences, skills and knowledge; overcoming fear and mistrust between Roma women and service providers; and the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of effective policy and service provision.

Special regard needs to be given to working in partnership with Roma women and organisations representing Roma rights, as well as those working towards realising the rights of women and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Positive action measures are also needed in order to ensure the inclusion of Roma women in the labour force.

<sup>1</sup> 'Woman' in this document refers to both girls and women.

<sup>2</sup> Council of Europe, *Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence*, 11 May 2011, <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?CL=ENG&NT=210>.

<sup>3</sup> Surt, *EMPOWAIR- Tackling Male Violence against Romani Women: Recommendations for the Prevention, Detection and Intervention*, 2012, [http://www.surt.org/empow-air/docs/Guia\\_Ingles.pdf](http://www.surt.org/empow-air/docs/Guia_Ingles.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Council of Europe, *Human Rights in Europe: No Grounds for Complacency*, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2011, [http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/source/prems/HR-Europe-no-grounds-complacency\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/source/prems/HR-Europe-no-grounds-complacency_en.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> FRA, *The Situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States: Survey Results at a Glance*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2012, [http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/2099-FRA-2012-Roma-at-a-glance\\_EN.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/2099-FRA-2012-Roma-at-a-glance_EN.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> European Parliament, *Roma Women in the EU: European Parliament Resolution on the situation of Roma Women in the European Union* (2005/2164(INI), 2006.

<sup>7</sup> McGaughey, F., *Roma Communities and Child Protection Considerations*, Pavee Point and the Health Service Executive, Dublin, 2012; Pohjolainen, L., *Challenging Barriers and Misconceptions: Roma Maternal Health in Ireland*, Pavee Point, Dublin, 2014.

<sup>8</sup> Pavee Point, *Briefing Note: Ireland's National Traveller Roma Integration Strategy*, 2014, <http://www.paveepoint.ie/document/briefing-note-irelands-national-traveller-roma-integration-strategy/>.

<sup>9</sup> Comment made about a Roma woman interviewee.

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<sup>15</sup> McGaughey, 2012 (7).

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<sup>37</sup> Anitha, 2010 (35).

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<sup>52</sup> UNFPA (43).

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# available supports and resources for roma women



## keeping safe

Accessible information leaflets about domestic violence and services and supports, available in English, Slovak and Romanian. Copies available from [www.paveepoint.ie](http://www.paveepoint.ie) / [vaw@pavee.ie](mailto:vaw@pavee.ie) / 01 878 0255

## barring and safety orders – what steps to take

Accessible information leaflet about legal protection from domestic violence and how to apply for court orders. Copies available from [www.paveepoint.ie](http://www.paveepoint.ie) / [vaw@pavee.ie](mailto:vaw@pavee.ie) / 01 878 0255



Women's Aid National Freephone Helpline 1800 341900 - Telephone Interpretation Service.

Free and confidential helpline offers support to women from domestic violence in over 170 languages, including Romanian, Slovak, Bulgarian, Czech and Polish. The Freephone is open 10.00am -10.00pm, 7 days a week- except Christmas Day.



Ruhama provides a range of direct support services to women affected by prostitution, including victims of sex trafficking.

Telephone: 9.00am-5.00pm + 353 1 836 0292 - out of office hours + 353 86 381 3783

Web: [www.ruhama.ie](http://www.ruhama.ie)



The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre National 24-hour Helpline 1800 77 88 88

Free and confidential helpline offers support and information related to rape and sexual violence.

Information about Local and National Domestic and Sexual Violence Services and Supports can be accessed through [www.cosc.ie](http://www.cosc.ie)



PAVEE POINT  
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre

Violence against Women Programme

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