

PAVEE POINT TRAVELLER & ROMA CENTRE

# Annual Report 2017



PAVEE POINT  
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE





## COMPANY INFORMATION

### PAVEE POINT TRAVELLER & ROMA CENTRE

A company limited by guarantee as 'Dublin Travellers Education and Development Group'

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Charity Number: 11609

Company Number: 105690

Charities Regulator Number: 20032258

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Ronnie Fay, Martin Collins

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## CONTENTS

Foreword	4
Purpose and Activities	5
Values and Guiding Principles	6
Strategic Goals and Objectives	7

## ACHIEVEMENTS:

Goal No.1	8
Goal No.2	11
Goal No.3	14
Goal No.4	20

# Foreword

2017 was a pivotal year for Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre, Traveller organisations and the Traveller community generally. March 2017 saw the culmination of three decades of campaigning when Traveller ethnicity was finally recognised by the Irish State. This brought a certain amount of completion to a long and targeted campaign - but also opened up the possibility of a new focus in the work of Pavee Point.

In June 2017 the Government published its revised National Traveller Roma and Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 after consultations with Travellers and Traveller organisations and where Pavee Point played a central role. Pavee Point welcomed this Strategy as having the potential to improve the situation of Irish Travellers and Roma in Ireland – but only if properly implemented, resourced, monitored and evaluated. These essential aspects to the Strategy have yet to be delineated.

Pavee Point's work in researching Ireland's first Roma Needs Assessment showed the high levels of discrimination facing Roma in Ireland and the extreme levels of poverty that a significant portion of the Roma population are facing. The Roma Needs Assessment is a valuable partnership project with the Department of Justice & Equality that brings these issues to light and provides pathways for the government to address these issues.

Throughout 2017, Pavee Point continued to advocate for Traveller and Roma human rights at both a European and UN level. Pavee Point sees this dimension as being vital to our work in the promotion and protection of Traveller and Roma human rights.

We have always recognised that the racism and inclusion experienced by Travellers and Roma cannot be resolved at a domestic level and that we need the support and solidarity of international organisations and human rights bodies.

The health crisis within the Traveller community remained a strong focus in Pavee Point's work. We consistently lobbied for this area to be prioritised within the Department of Health and to support the development of the essential work of Traveller Primary Health Care Projects. These projects, where 83% of Travellers receive their information on health issues and health services, have received no investment since austerity measures were introduced in 2008.

Pavee Point continues to feel the impact of austerity cuts – cuts in both the community development sector and in the broader Traveller sector. We were forced, in 2017, to close our Education Programme due to lack of mainstream funding – while Traveller education in general experienced 86% cuts during austerity.

At the same time Traveller health and Traveller education are areas where the appallingly low outcomes for Travellers are generally bemoaned and decried.

In this difficult context, Pavee Point looked, in 2017, at how we can better restructure and organise ourselves to meet future challenges. We developed our Strategic Plan 2017-2021 which outlines our Strategic Goals and redeveloped our internal management structure. We set ourselves goals in terms of achieving core funding, promoting good governance within the organisation and supporting staff in their programming areas.

We look forward to continuing our work to address inequalities for Irish Travellers and Roma in Ireland while also promoting the empowerment, participation and collective action of the Traveller community and Roma in Ireland.

We would like to thank our many supporters, both nationally and internationally, and will continue to work in solidarity with other civil society organisations on the many issues that impact on Irish Travellers and Roma in Ireland.

**Ronnie Fay, Martin Collins.**  
*Co Directors*

# Purpose and Activities

Pavee Point is a national non-governmental organisation comprised of Travellers, Roma and members of the majority population working in partnership at national, regional, local and international levels. Over the past thirty years Pavee Point has an established track record in innovative and ground-breaking work using a collective community development approach to addressing Traveller issues and promoting Traveller rights.

## VISION

Travellers & Roma are fully recognised and respected as minority ethnic groups who are proud and confident in their cultural identity and exercising their human rights.

## MISSION

Pavee Point's mission is to contribute to improvement in the quality of life, living circumstances, status and participation of Travellers & Roma through working innovatively for social justice, greater solidarity, development, equality and human rights.

## CONTEXT

Pavee Point's work in 2017 was carried out in a new political and economic environment following a prolonged period of austerity. The Irish economy, according to the government's Summer Economic Statement (SES) 2017, grew at a healthy pace and according to the ESRI the domestic growth outlook continues to be positive.

However, the austerity measures directed towards public expenditure and Traveller specific programming in 2008-2013 have had persistent and long lasting implications for Travellers and Roma, with measures towards Traveller specific services yet to be rectified or restored.

The inequality experienced by Travellers and Roma persists and shows in health, accommodation, education, employment, social protection, violence against women, drug and alcohol issues, and inclusion in decision making.

This socio-economic and political context shapes the direction and approach of Pavee Point's work. 2017 was a time of change, challenge and opportunity for Traveller and Roma organisations with the recognition of Traveller ethnicity and the publication of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS).

This was also a time of particular change and challenge for independent civil society organisations' engagement in decision making forums and with their funders, while Traveller and Roma rights remain unrealised in a number of areas.



# Values and Guiding Principles

The values that inform our work focus on the causes and symptoms of poverty, racism and exclusion and are based on principles of equality, human rights, social justice, participation, empowerment and collective decision making in a structured and co-ordinated way.

We believe a community development approach and its associated principles provide an appropriate and effective way of working with Travellers and Roma. It means working with, rather than for Travellers and Roma. It supports empowerment, participation and collective action and gives priority to prevention and early intervention.

## 1. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Community empowerment involves increasing knowledge, skills and the confidence of Travellers and Roma to lead their communities to be resilient, organised, and influential in building an inclusive and inter-cultural society.

## 2. PARTICIPATION

Participation is rooted in the self-identification of needs and interests by Travellers and Roma themselves and is central to their ability to continue to influence outcomes from policies, programmes and services.

## 3. COLLECTIVE ACTION

Collective action focuses on potential benefits and outcomes for Traveller and Roma communities - not just individuals - in the pursuit of a just and equal society.

## 4. HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY

Human rights and equality are core to enabling Travellers and Roma to live with dignity and reach their full potential in society. We believe that Traveller and Roma rights should be respected, protected and fulfilled. An equality perspective looks to the achievement of substantive equality for Traveller and Roma communities in Irish society so that Travellers and Roma of all ages, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, religion and civil status can enjoy equality of opportunity, access, participation and outcome. Gender equality is a key priority for Pavee Point.

## 5. SOCIAL JUSTICE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERSECTIONALITY

A just and sustainable society involves promoting environmental, social, cultural and economic policies and practices which value diversity and inter-culturalism, challenge injustice, poverty, discrimination and social exclusion. Single factor explanations of the situation of Travellers and Roma are simplistic, inaccurate and ineffective. Ethnic discrimination is often intertwined with discrimination on other grounds such as gender and socio-economic status. The problems experienced by Travellers and Roma are multiple and complex and require a holistic, intersectional approach.

# Strategic Goals and Objectives

The following four goals with associated objectives were identified for the five year period of our Strategic Plan (2017-2021).

- 1. To promote Traveller and Roma cultural identity and ethnicity**
- 2. To support direct Traveller and Roma participation and empowerment**
- 3. To address current issues and inequalities for Travellers and Roma**
- 4. To strengthen Pavee Point as an organisation**

Each of these programmes operates with reference our Strategic Goals and the work of each programme is directed by a Programme Co-Ordinator.

In each programme area we have a two-pronged approach. This is to:

- a. Promote Traveller inclusion**
- b. Address Traveller exclusion**

**We do this in a variety of ways:**

- Research
- Policy development
- Project work
- Delivering Training
- Communication Work
- Representation
- Networking

*Celebrating Traveller Ethnicity (L-R): Ronnie Fay, Patrick Reilly, John Paul Collins, Equality Minister, David Stanton TD and Martin Collins.*

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

Pavee Point currently operates in the following programme areas at a local, regional, national and international level:

- Primary Health Care for Travellers
- Traveller Men's Health
- Traveller Mental Health
- Traveller Health Unit
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Roma
- Violence Against Women



# GOAL NO. 1:

**To promote Traveller and Roma cultural identity and ethnicity. To further progress recognition of Traveller ethnicity and promote respect for Traveller & Roma culture and identity both within their communities and in the wider society.**

## RECOGNITION OF TRAVELLER ETHNICITY

The recognition of Traveller ethnicity on 1st of March 2017 was an historic day for Irish Travellers. This recognition established the relationship between Travellers and the general population on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

This official recognition of Traveller ethnicity reflected many years of work by Pavee Point including intensified lobbying and activism in this area in the months preceding the Taoiseach's statement in the Dáil.

Part of this process was representing the Traveller perspective on ethnicity in a variety of fora including, in January 2017, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice and Equality. This Committee went on to recommend the recognition of Traveller ethnicity at the earliest date possible.

Recognition of Traveller ethnicity is the first step on a new journey that has the potential to bring equality and improved living conditions to Irish Travellers.

There was media interest from at home and abroad in this event and Pavee Point interacted with a cross-section of the media to deepen the understanding of the implications and value of this recognition.

## ETHNICITY PIN

To mark the occasion Pavee Point produced a Traveller ethnicity pin and Traveller ethnicity leaflet. The pin, with a special design featuring the wheel and the harp, proved an instant success with great demand from Travellers and supporters of human rights as far away as Australia and America.



The ethnicity pin was the focus of a social media campaign to promote Traveller ethnicity held to celebrate International World Human Rights Day on the 10th October.

Over 100 photographs of people wearing the ethnicity pin were tweeted and published on Facebook. Our hashtag #TravellerEthnicityPin trended on Twitter over lunchtime.

## ETHNICITY LEAFLET

The Pavee Point leaflet answered important questions in relation to Traveller ethnicity and aims to show the relevance of this recognition for both Travellers and the wider community. It was distributed widely and is available in pdf format on our website.





## INITIATIVES TO DEMONSTRATE SPECIFIC CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF TRAVELLER AND ROMA HERITAGE

### TINSMITHING AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

We also approached the National Museum of Ireland to investigate the possibility of a tinsmithing project being run at Collins Barracks, the museum for decorative arts. Working with the education and outreach department we jointly ran a 10 week tinsmithing course with Traveller men finishing in October 2017.



The project proved very positive in highlighting the tinsmithing skills and the role and contribution of Travellers in Irish society. It also encouraged Travellers to engage with the museum at Collins Barracks. We are building on this work in 2018 with a project that involves Traveller women.

[www.paveepoint.ie/tinsmithing-rings-out-at-collins-barracks/](http://www.paveepoint.ie/tinsmithing-rings-out-at-collins-barracks/)

### TRAVELLER VOICE WITH THE IRISH WRITERS' MUSEUM

We also worked with the Irish Writer's Museum on a project entitled 'Traveller Voice' with our 'writer in residence' Lisa Harding. This resulted in a number of workshops around storytelling and resulted in recordings of stories and also a poem that were delivered in January 2017.

[www.paveepoint.ie/writer-in-residence-listen-to-stories/](http://www.paveepoint.ie/writer-in-residence-listen-to-stories/)

### VISIT FROM MINISTER FOR ARTS, CULTURE AND THE GAELTACHT

Pavee Point's focus on Traveller culture and heritage was also reflected in a visit by the then Minister for Arts Culture and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys to Pavee Point in May. With Minister Humphreys we discussed the importance of Traveller cultural and heritage centres and making the long neglected aspects of Traveller culture accessible to Travellers and the wider population.

*Tinsmithing (L-R): Patrick Reilly, James Collins and Michael Collins at the National Museum Collins Barracks*

### COLLABORATIVE ART PROJECT WITH THE HUGH LANE

Institutions also took an interest in the recognition of Traveller ethnicity and in 2017 we embarked on a socially engaged collaborative art commission in relation to Traveller culture with Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane, artist Seamus Nolan and Create Ireland. This was to come to fruition in a project entitled Traveller Collection in July 2018 which was located at the Hugh Lane, Dublin City Gallery and at Pavee Point.



*Left L-R: Molly Collins, author Lisa Harding and Missie Collins*

*Below: Sabina Higgins hears about the Roma Holocaust Youth Project from Bianca Paun at the Roma Holocaust Memorial at the Mansion House, August 2017.*





## ROMA HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

In August 2017 we organised a major commemoration of the Roma Holocaust at Dublin's Mansion House. The event was addressed by Sabina Higgins who spoke of the suffering of an estimated 500,000 Roma who died in Nazi concentration camps.

Young Roma presented the results of an awareness raising project among Roma young people of the Roma genocide and links were made with some Roma Holocaust survivors with links to Ireland. Earlier in the year our Roma Community Worker Gabi Muntean addressed the overall Holocaust Memorial Commemoration Day also held at the Mansion House in January.

## INTERNATIONAL ROMA DAY

Roma culture and heritage was celebrated on International Roma Day 8th of April with a lunch hosted by the American Ambassador and we celebrated Christmas at Pavee Point with a special Roma Christmas Party where toys for Roma children were donated by well-wishers.

## TRAVELLER PRIDE

Traveller Pride aims to celebrate Traveller achievements in the areas of sport, culture, community work and others. In June 2017 and Pavee Point celebrated Traveller Pride with a men's health event in the Phoenix Park.



*Above: Men's Health Day was held as part of Traveller Pride.*

*Left: International Roma Day*

## GOAL NO. 2:

To support direct Traveller and Roma participation and empowerment. To facilitate and empower Travellers and Roma and their leaders to play key roles in their communities, in Pavee Point and in other Traveller and Roma Organisations and in the wider society.

### PARTICIPATION OF TRAVELLER AND ROMA IN PAVEE POINT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS



#### WORLD CONGRESS ON WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Traveller and Roma women highlighted the mental health issues for their communities at the World Congress on Women's Mental Health which took place in Dublin's RDS in March 2017.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS IN WARSAW

In September Pavee Point's Tica Muntean participated in dialogue on inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Travellers at an event organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) during their annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw.



*Tica Muntean at Warsaw Congress*

#### THE ROMANI ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN BARCELONA

A Traveller and settled woman from Pavee Point travelled together to attend a meeting in Barcelona organised by The Romani Association of Women. This meeting was to prepare for the Second International Congress of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma women.

#### TRADE UNION MEETING

Tessa Collins of our Violence Against Women programme spoke at the ICTU and SIPTU Equality Sub Committee in March 2017. She outlined the situation for Traveller women in terms of employment and spoke about some of the barriers to employment for Traveller women.

#### ÁRAS AN UACHTARÁIN

A representative group of Traveller women, along with women from other minority ethnic groups, met with President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin in March to celebrate diversity and inclusion.

#### DIGNITY FOR LETY

In June 2018 four representatives of Roma in Ireland and Travellers travelled to the Czech Republic to protest at a pig farm being allowed to remain on the site of a World War 2 Roma concentration camp. Gabi Muntean, Tica Muntean, Bianca Paun and James Anthony McDonagh attended a demonstration on 24th of June. In August it was announced that the Czech Government would buy the site and put a proper memorial in place.





## TRAVELLER AND ROMA COMMUNITY LEADERS IDENTIFIED AND SUPPORTED

### COMMUNITY WORK / RomEd

In April 2017 Pavee Point, along with Maynooth University, organised and ran the first-time course - 'Community Work in a Changing Ireland' – a course for Traveller and Roma leaders at NUI, Maynooth.

This course took place over 4 week-end sessions to ensure the integration of a rights based approach in community development work between Traveller & Roma communities and public institutions.

Pavee Point were among the national organizers of this Maynooth University DAPPSS/ Council of Europe initiative which was supported by RomEd and the Council of Europe and the course was awarded a QQI Level 7 Certificate.

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S STRATEGY 2017-2020

A Traveller Community Development Worker, through our Violence Against Women Programme, engaged in consultations on the new National Women's Strategy.

This was also facilitated through our membership of the National Women's Council of Ireland where our board member Rosaleen McDonagh is also a member of the NWCI Board.

Through ensuring the Traveller voice was heard the Strategy includes, for the first time, specific actions in relation to Traveller and Roma women.

### NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR GENDER BASED VIOLENCE 2016-2021

Travellers, through our Violence Against Women project, represented Traveller and Roma issues on the Monitoring Committee of the National Strategy for Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence and contribute to its 3rd Progress Report in 2017

### NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY

Following the publication in July 2017 of 'Reducing Harm, Supporting Recover' – a health led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017 to 2025 our Drug and Alcohol Programme, including a Traveller Community Development Worker, received full membership for the Standing Sub Committee for the implementation of the strategy.

## SOLIDARITY AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY WITHIN THE TRAVELLER AND ROMA COMMUNITIES

### BUILDING LINKS WITH THE CHOCTAW NATION

In June 2017, Chief Gary Batton of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma led a delegation on a visit to Pavee Point. This gave Travellers, young and old, a chance to interact with members of the Choctaw Nation and to hear about their struggle for equality.

*"It's important we remain who we are as indigenous people,"*

said Chief Batton who said the biggest challenge facing the Choctaw Nation is keeping the culture and tradition alive.



L-R: Biddy Collins, Chief Gary Batton, Choctaw Nation and Missie Collins at Pavee Point.

### ROMA CHRISTMAS PARTY

In 2017 we organised our second Roma Christmas Party. This was an ideal opportunity for Travellers and Roma to work together to support the Roma community, some of whom have no access to social welfare support.

We organised a visit by Santa and a host of donations from businesses and individuals made the event possible.

### WOMEN'S NETWORKS

In 2017 Pavee Point continued its work as members of the National Women's Council of Ireland and the National Traveller Women's Forum.



## CELEBRATING LGBTQI TRAVELLER IDENTITY

In 2017, Pavee Point took part in our 12th Dublin Pride Parade. We also hosted a coffee morning before the event to enable people to meet up and we provided transport to the parade start. It was a good opportunity for people to make contacts and show their support.

Our Drugs and Alcohol programme conducted a number of events through the year with LGBTQI Travellers. We received funding for a LGBTQI support video. Work to progress this included supporting pre-development work with LGBTQI Travellers.

*Celebrating Traveller LGBTQI identity at Dublin Pride.*





# GOAL NO. 3:

To address current Issues and inequalities for Travellers and Roma. To focus on the key policy issues of health, education and accommodation in a co-ordinated, inclusive and collective way to advance the human rights of Travellers and Roma.

## WORK ON HEALTH ISSUES TO IMPACT POLICY AND PRACTICE IN ADDRESSING TRAVELLER HEALTH INEQUALITIES

### PRIORITISE TRAVELLER HEALTH

Our main focus in the area of Traveller health policy is to prioritise Traveller Health within the Department of Health. The Traveller Health Advisory Committee was halted in 2012. It is vital Traveller voices can be heard at policy development level.

To this end we invited Health Minister Simon Harris to visit Pavee Point, which he did in April 2017. During his visit he heard about the importance of Travellers being involved in delivering health services to their own communities and especially about the importance of Traveller Primary Health Care Projects.



L-R: Missie Collins, Simon Harris, TD, Minister for Health, Martin Collins and Ronnie Fay at Pavee Point.

### TRAVELLER PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROJECT

Pavee Point's Traveller Primary Health Care Project was the first of its kind and continues its work with 300 families in North Dublin. Traveller Primary Health Care Workers engage with members of their own community in raising awareness on health issues and also with service providers in raising awareness on the barriers facing Travellers in accessing health services. This model has been proven to be highly successful and the All Ireland Traveller Health Study in 2010 showed that 83% of Travellers get their health information from Traveller Primary Health Care Projects.

### EU VACCINATION AWARD

Pavee Point represented Ireland, in November 2017, as one of the 10 finalists for the "EU Health Award for NGO's 2017 Promoting Vaccination". Our project was a 'Community Awareness Programme on Vaccination'.

On behalf of Pavee Point Mary Brigid Collins received a certificate from the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commission at an event in Brussels.

### ANIMATE MATERNAL HEALTH PROJECT

In November 2017 Pavee Point won an Animate Award for our Traveller Maternal Health Initiative.

Working from a Community Development approach and using peer-led support, the initiative developed practical, accessible and culturally appropriate resource material to empower and equip Traveller women with vital information in relation to antenatal, intrapartum, postnatal and infant health.

Animate 2017 is a partnership between Social Innovation Fund Ireland, Medtronic and the Dept of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

**Further information:** <http://www.socialinnovation.ie/animate-2017/>

### TRAVELLER MENTAL HEALTH

Traveller suicide is **6 times higher** than the settled population.

Suicide accounts for **11%** of all Traveller deaths.

#### Barriers to mental health services for Travellers:

- Discrimination and racism
- Lack of trust with healthcare providers
- Lack of culturally appropriate service provision
- Lack of engagement from service providers with Travellers and Traveller organisations
- Social and cultural stigma attached to engaging with mental health services

Source: All Ireland Traveller Health Study (2010)



## MEN'S HEALTH

In July 2017 we held our Community Hearts Day in Finglas to highlight the work of our Community Heart Garden Project. As well as providing a focus for the community in Finglas, this project aims to progress Traveller men's health by addressing unemployment, healthy eating and nutrition, education and training, health checks, positive mental health and a safe space for discussion.

It involves Traveller men on Community Employment in Pavee Point. The work of the project, which is supported by Irish Heart, was featured on RTE ONE's Nationwide programme.

## MENTAL HEALTH

In 2017 we worked to develop Pavee Point's Traveller Mental Health Advocacy Initiative and to apply for funding. It is planned this initiative use four main strategies to address Traveller mental health needs:

- Maintain and promote positive mental health and well-being
- Create and develop Traveller access and outcomes from mainstream mental health services
- Develop culturally competent and appropriate mental health services
- Impact on policy and research and highlight and address social determinants of Traveller mental health

*Men's Health - Michael Collins presents the polytunnel plants during Community Heart Garden Open Day*



## VISIT BY MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

In February 2017 we invited the then Minister for Mental Health and Older People Helen McEntee, TD to visit Pavee Point. We spoke to Minister McEntee about the crisis in mental health within the Traveller community and the barriers to mental health services. Further contacts with her Department were developed.

## NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY

Our Drug and Alcohol Programme continued to lobby for Traveller inclusion in 'Reducing Harm, Supporting Recover' – a health led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017 to 2025. This resulted in Travellers being named in the strategy and a number of target initiatives to be included.

## NATIONAL TRAVELLER DRUG NETWORK

Two Traveller Drug Network meetings were convened in 2017. The first looked at the actions that Traveller organisations had taken in terms of influencing the National Drugs Strategy 2017. The second focused on the contents of this Strategy. Work was also started to identify needs in building capacity for Travellers to act as representatives on Drug and Alcohol Task Forces.

## TRAVELLER HEALTH NETWORKS

The National Traveller Health Network and the Eastern Regional Traveller Health Network continue to be important networks for communication and exchange between Traveller Primary Health Care Projects. Pavee Point is also active on the Traveller Health Unit.

## HEALTHY IRELAND NETWORK CHARTER

In May 2017 Pavee Point signed up to the Healthy Ireland Network Charter. This Network was launched thanks to the work of the Healthy Ireland Council, who in 2016, identified 'health and wellbeing' as a priority for the country in the next 100 years.



This new Network will help provide a platform for organisations to connect with others, to communicate about what they are doing and contribute to actively bringing Healthy Ireland to life across the country.

## KEY POLICY & RESEARCH WORK

### NATIONAL TRAVELLER ROMA INCLUSION STRATEGY 2017 - 2021

In June 2017 the Government published the National Traveller & Roma Inclusion Strategy. This is now the main policy document in relation to Travellers and Roma in Ireland. Pavee Point was central to the consultation process on this document and gave the Strategy a broad welcome on publication.



The Strategy contains 149 actions in relation to Traveller and Roma. Pavee Point sits on the National Steering Committee for the Implementation of NTRIS which met four times in 2017. The aim of the Steering Group is to foster inter-Departmental and cross-sectoral working. It is chaired by the Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration David Stanton T.D. Members of the group include relevant Government Departments and statutory agencies and Traveller and Roma civil society organisations.

### ROMA CIVIL MONITORING – LACK OF IMPLEMENTATION ON NTRIS

As part of the Roma Civil Monitoring Project, Pavee Point produced a mid-term report on the implementation of NTRIS for the European Commission. In this report which looks at structural preconditions for the implementation of NTRIS, Pavee Point highlights that the NTRIS Steering Group does not function effectively at present. In 2017 it met just four times and needs to meet more frequently. There is no clear budget allocated to the strategy and there is a lack of transparency around allocated funding and actual spend. The Strategy does not have named impact indicators and it lacks a rigorous monitoring and evaluation framework.

*Helen McEntee, TD,  
Minister for Mental  
Health hears from  
Traveller women about  
mental health issues.*

## ACCOMMODATION

NTRIS actions in relation to Traveller accommodation refer to the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. Pavee Point is represented on this committee which is the main focus of our work on Traveller accommodation.

In 2017 the NTACC oversaw a review of funding, allocations, spending and outputs in relation to Traveller accommodation. This review highlighted the flaws that impact on the lives of many Traveller. In this context Traveller representatives succeeded in securing an independent review of the 1998 Traveller Accommodation Act.

## TRAVELLER EDUCATION

Pavee Point is also represented on the Education Sub-Committee of the NTRIS Steering Group where our focus was on improving Traveller school completion by improving supports and combating racism and discrimination.

In 2017 Pavee Point was forced to close its Education Programme due to lack of mainstream funding. This is a highly regrettable situation which has hampered our ability to raise awareness on Traveller education issues and to lobby for policy changes.

*Launch of Roma Needs Assessment (L-R) Ronnie Fay, Gabi Muntean, Emily Logan, Siobhan Curran and Tica Muntean.*

## ROMA NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Pavee Point continued its work in 2017 to ensure the publication of the Roma Needs Assessment which was a partnership project with the Department of Justice & Equality. While the study was carried out the year previous, 2017 saw the disaggregation of data, analysis of trends and writing of the report which was published in January 2018.

## CENSUS RESULTS

In October 2017, Census 2016 results in relation to Travellers were published by the Central Statistics Office. These statistics provided valuable information in relation to the inequalities experienced by Travellers. We worked to raise awareness on this new information among Traveller groups and the wider population.

A 5% increase in the numbers of Traveller self-identifying as Travellers showed that our work in raising awareness on the importance of ethnic equality data is coming to fruition.

Also in 2017 we published a submission on Census 2021, that argues for an extended question on ethnicity, including a census category on Roma.

## ESRI RESEARCH ON TRAVELLERS

Pavee Point was a member of the Steering Group for 'A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland' published by the Economic and Social Research Institute in January 2017. In the report the ESRI point out that the disadvantage experienced by Travellers in our society is so serious as to warrant specific policy measures.





## COLLABORATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

### CEDAW

Following a consultation session with Traveller and Roma women, we produced a shadow report to the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Committee on the situation of Traveller and Roma women in Ireland.

In preparation for the hearing in Geneva in February 2017, we secured a training place for our Traveller representative with International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific in "From Global to Local" programme. This three day comprehensive training aimed to develop knowledge, skills and capacity of participants to engage in CEDAW monitoring and implementation, providing valuable tools for the engagement in the CEDAW process before, during and after the CEDAW hearing.

During the hearing in Geneva, we prepared and delivered an oral statement to the CEDAW Committee, organised a lunch briefing with Committee members, and engaged in other lobbying activities throughout the review. The activities proved successful as the Committee's questions and recommendations to the State in relation to Traveller and Roma women covered a wide variety of thematic areas.

The Committee issued specific recommendations to the State to intensify efforts to combat Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, particularly against Traveller and Roma women, disaggregate data by ethnicity, and address the wider social exclusion of Traveller and Roma women which acts as a barrier to safety and protection from violence.

## SECOND NATIONAL STRATEGY ON DOMESTIC, SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Our Violence Against Women Programme continued to represent Pavee Point on Cosc's Monitoring Committee of the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

Our specific focus was on progressing actions related to Traveller and Roma women and developing a gold standard of data collection by agencies working in the area of DSGBV.

Together with the Irish Observatory on Violence against Women we held a bilateral meeting with Cosc to address some of the shortcomings of the Strategy, including delays with the implementation of actions and lack of concrete monitoring and evaluation framework associated with the Strategy. Cosc subsequently indicated a commitment towards the development of an evaluation and monitoring framework.

## NATIONAL TRAVELLER PARTNERSHIP

Pavee Point continued to play an active role in the National Traveller Partnership. This partnership is made up of 14 local a number of Traveller organisations and 3 national groups. The NTP is a conduit for the allocation of funding from the Department of Justice & Equality to local projects. The objective of the NTP is to promote and protect the independence of Traveller organisations.

## NATIONAL TRAVELLER ORGANISATIONS

Pavee Point continues to be an active member of Minceirs Whiden (MW), the Irish Traveller Movement (ITM) and The National Traveller Women's Forum (NTWF), attending the Annual General Meetings and other events. We also work alongside MW, the ITM and the NTWF on the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

## TRAVELLERS IN PRISON

There was an increase in Travellers and family members of Traveller prisoners seeking supports in prison in 2017. This involved Pavee Point meeting with family members to give advice and support, prison visits and accompanying prisoners to meetings. Pavee Point's Drug and Alcohol Programme offered technical advice and linked in with support services.

The Drugs and Alcohol Programme is also a member of the Travellers in Prison Initiative. As part of the steering group of this Initiative, which comprises Traveller organisations and statutory services, we supported the organising of the first ever national conference of Travellers in prison that took place on the 20th October in Dublin Castle.



## ETHNIC IDENTIFIER IN THE PRISON SERVICE

In 2017 Pavee Point progressed its ongoing work in the introduction of an ethnic identifier in the Irish Prison Service. We carried out 3 days training with key administration staff and Training Liaison Officers in Portlaoise, Castlerea and Dochas prisons. This was with a view to assist the IPS in fulfilling its statutory obligations - positive duty - as per Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014.

## RAISING AWARENESS OF EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS AND APPROPRIATE RESPONSES

### SEMINAR ON SOCIAL WELFARE RIGHTS

Pavee Point and Waterford Roma Interagency Group commissioned Barrister Derek Shortall to develop a paper on social welfare rights of EU citizens in Ireland. This work was commissioned in the context of our work with Roma in Ireland, many of whom are unable to access social protection and who are facing extreme poverty and hardship as a result. In April Mr. Shortall delivered a seminar on his research at Pavee Point.



*Barrister Derek Shortall with Siobhan McLaughlin, Donegal Traveller Project and Siobhan Curran, Pavee Point Roma Programme.*

### INFORMATION WORK

Pavee Point responds to almost daily requests by Travellers and Roma for information on their rights. Often people reported incidents of discrimination and looked for information on how to seek redress. Accommodation is another major issue and Travellers ring in and Roma call by in person, often in desperation, to find out how they can access local authority accommodation. Traveller evictions from private rented accommodation was also a major issue for 2017.



*Martin Collins speaking at Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality chaired by Caoimhghin O Caoilain TD.*

### JUSTROM

In 2017, Pavee Point participated JustRom a Council of Europe and European Commission joint programme to improve the access to justice of Roma and Traveller women in Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Romania. We worked with FLAC – the Free Legal Advice Centres – to make legal information and advice accessible to Traveller women.

# GOAL NO. 4:

Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre

Annual Report 2017

**To strengthen Pavee Point as an organisation. To ensure relevance and sustainability of the organisation in order to fulfil our vision and mission.**

## A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

2017 saw Pavee Point finalise our Strategic Plan 2017-2021. This plan was given priority within the organisation and was seen as essential to help Pavee Point develop a clear vision for its work in the future, especially in the wake of the recognition of Traveller ethnicity in March 2017.

Recent economic austerity has also meant the organisation has had to review its work in the light of demands on a diminished staff and fewer operating resources.

The strategic planning process which led to our new Strategy involved members of the management committee, staff and training programme participants and was carried out over a period with the support of an external consultant.

This five-year plan is reflected in an annual organisational workplan and in annual programme workplans.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

### PROGRAMME COMPLIANCE

Each of our programmes is required to provide annual reports to funders and to comply with strict funding criteria – which can involve monthly or quarterly reports depending on the programme.

Steering Committees, with external representatives, operates each programme. All programmes have an agreed Service Level Agreement with the funder and our Community Employment Scheme operates on an application basis.

### ORGANISATIONAL COMPLIANCE

Pavee Point registered in 2017 as a Company Limited by Guarantee, having previously been registered as a limited company. We continue to use our original name – the Dublin Traveller Education and Development Group – but trade under the name Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre.

We comply with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 and we are working towards the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) which requires greater level of information, disclosure and analysis but which will ensure that we comply with best practice procedures.

We are registered with the Charities Regulator and comply with Section 848A of the Taxes Consolidation Act.

We also registered on the Lobbying Register and provide regular reports via [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie)



*UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination all wearing the Traveller ethnicity pin.*

## MANAGEMENT

### NEW INTERNAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

An internal management structure was redeveloped to help broaden the decision-making base within the organisation and to ensure operational structures are meeting the needs of the organisation. The new IMT was functioning on a trial basis in 2017 and reviews of the IMT continue.

Through the IMT a reinvigorated structure for staff support was also developed with renewed emphasis on shared goals and objectives, as per our Strategy.







## FUNDING LEVELS

In 2017 we maintained funding for the majority of our programme areas in a continuing difficult funding environment. Staff received no increments or pay increases again in 2017, as has been the case since 2007 and our budgets have been cut on a year on year basis since that year.

In February of 2017 we were forced to discontinue our Education Programme due to lack of mainstream funding being made available by the Department of Education and Skills. This meant the loss of key personnel and a degradation in our work in this area. It has also impacted on the overall work of the organisation as we continue to try to respond to demands in this area as best we can.



*Minister for Public Expenditure, Paschal Donohoe, T.D. visits Pavee Point and hears about Traveller issues from Patrick Reilly.*

A variety of new funding proposals were made especially in the area of our work with Roma, Violence Against Women and Traveller Health. Some of these received the go ahead in 2018. In 2017 we secured funding on a project basis for a number of smaller projects, for example - RomEd, NTRIS Consultations, SICAP.

## MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND REFORM

In May of 2017 we hosted a visit by Minister Paschal Donohoe, TD the then Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. Minister Donohoe met with a variety of Pavee Point workers and heard about the investment needed by the State in targeted services eg., primary health care for Travellers and also investment needed in Traveller organisations.

## PROFILE OF THE ORGANISATION STRENGTHENED IN LINE WITH PRIORITY ISSUES

The recognition of Traveller ethnicity provided a boost to the profile of the organisation and to the Traveller community in general. The issue of Traveller ethnicity was catapulted onto the national stage - and the work of Pavee Point and other Traveller organisations in this area over the last 30 years was acknowledged.

Pavee Point received a letter of congratulations from President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins and other messages of support from around the world. In appreciation we produced a thank you card on International Roma Day 8th of April.

Pavee Point's Roma Holocaust Memorial Event at the Mansion House in October also helped raise the profile of the organisation and featured on national print and broadcast media including RTE News, TV3 News and on Morning Ireland RTE Radio One.

## INCREASED WEBSITE TRAFFIC

Our website is a news based website with regular updates and we installed Google Analytics in 2017 to monitor traffic on our website. From the time monitoring started in September 2017 to end of year our users increased by just under 200 having 5,355 users in January 2018.

## INCREASED FOLLOWING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

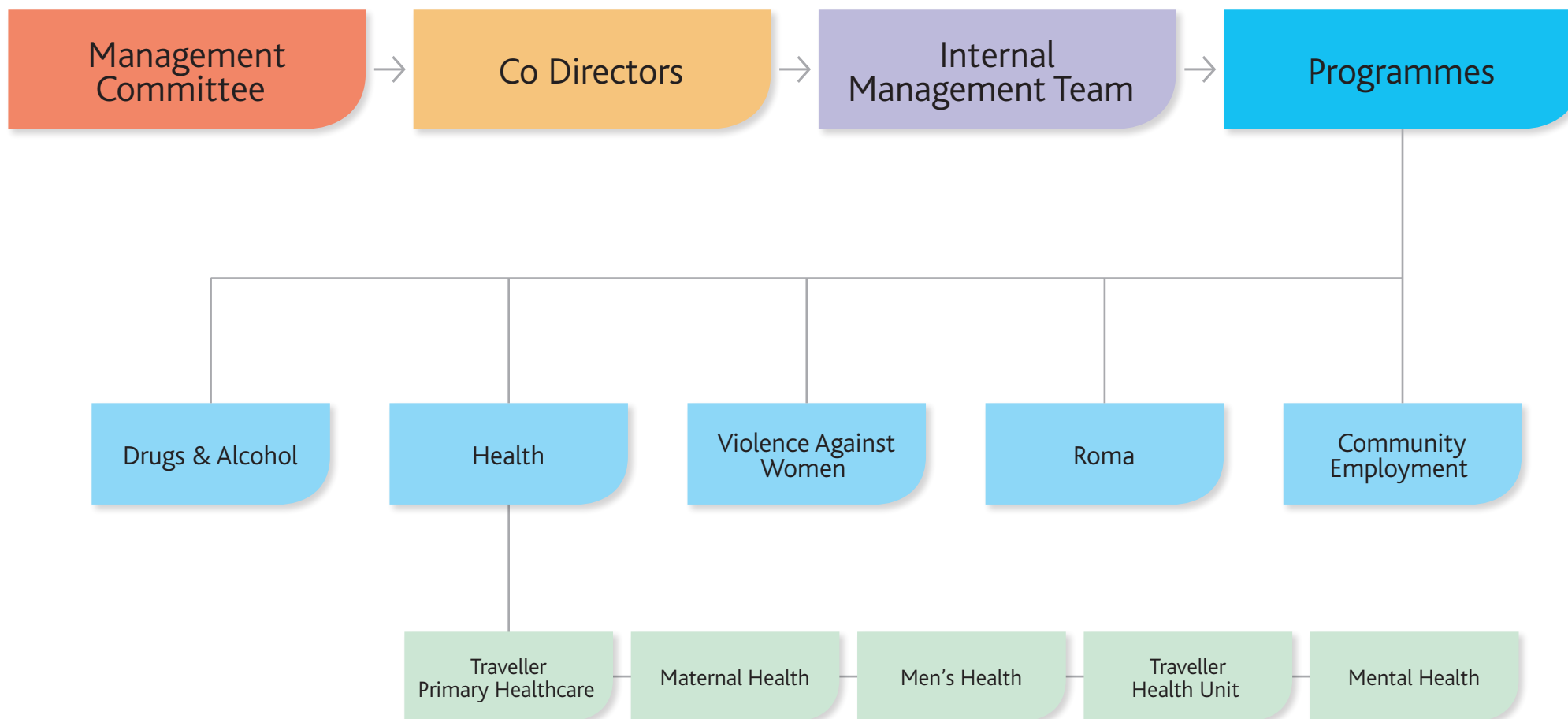
Our Facebook followers increased in 2017 from 3,698 to 4472 with our biggest reach being at the time of the recognition of Traveller ethnicity on 1st March. Our Social Media Campaign on the Traveller Ethnicity Pin also generated extra followers with about 5,000 Twitter followers at the end of 2017.

## COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

A consultative process was undertaken in 2017 to develop a Communications Strategy. Two workshops were carried out with all Pavee Point programmes and an external facilitator and a Draft Strategy was produced.

Communications objectives were developed in line with our Strategic Plan. Further consultation meetings took place on this and a process was begun to work on areas recommended in the Strategy such as key messaging, internal communications and developing supporting communications plans.

## Pavee Point Structures







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PAVEE POINT  
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE