



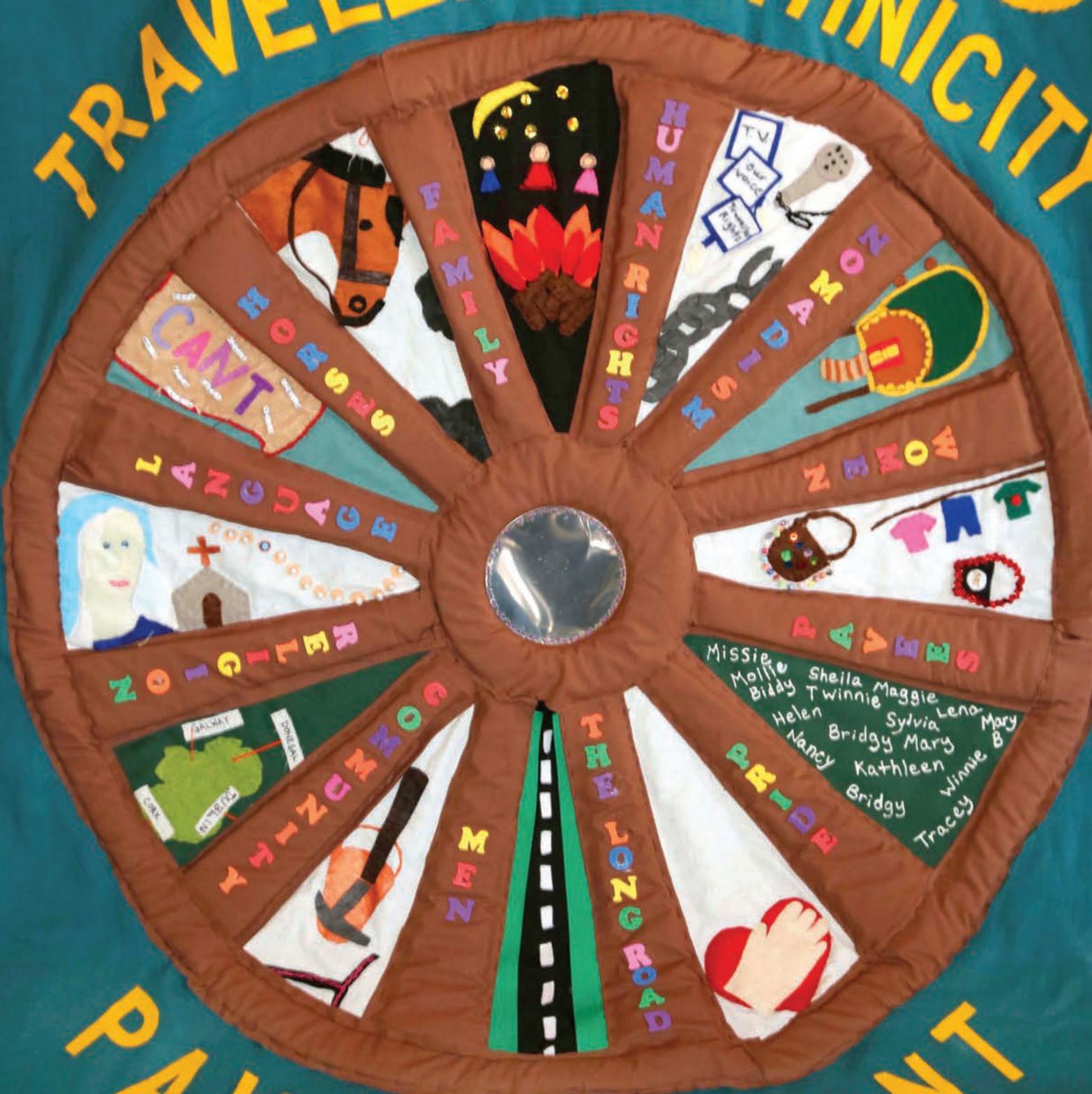
PAVEE POINT
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre Impact Report **2016**



Working for Equality and Human Rights for Travellers and Roma
www.paveepoint.ie

TRAVELLER ETHNICITY



PAVEE POINT

- PAYERS**
- Missie
 - Mollie
 - Biddy
 - Sheila
 - T Winnie
 - Maggie
 - Sylvia
 - Lena
 - Mary
 - Helen
 - Bridgy
 - Nancy
 - Kathleen
 - Winnie
 - Bridgy
 - Tracey

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Foreword

2016 was a year that saw us concentrate on working to achieve recognition of Traveller ethnicity and working to ensure the new National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy was a meaningful document for Travellers and Roma.

Everyone in our organisation focused their efforts and attention on these two areas and it is only with this co-operation and co-ordination we saw our labours bear fruit in 2017.

We also strove, throughout the year, to ensure the Traveller accommodation crisis was clearly identified as part of the overall homelessness crisis facing the country. Rebuilding Ireland now includes a number of elements specific to Traveller accommodation.

Evictions continued to be a factor in Traveller life, despite clear statements from international organisations on the hardship and trauma evictions can cause. In the aftermath of the tragic Carrickmines fire in October 2015 we worked hard to ensure that fire safety would not come at the cost of quality of life or quality of living conditions.

Traveller Mental Health remained a strong focus of our work in 2016 with two pieces of research being published and further links being forged between Traveller organisations and health service providers to ensure that Travellers can access much needed services.

Part of our overall strategy to achieve equal outcomes for Travellers and Roma is to promote ethnic data collection and we did this with community organisations, SICAP/Pobal and most notably with the CSO in Census 2016.

An overall increase of 37% in population figures for Travellers since Census 2006 is, we feel, a sign of the success of our work in building trust within the Traveller community in relation to ethnic data collection.

Pavee Point also played its role in the other national event in 2016 - the 1916 Centenary celebrations. It was our pleasure to facilitate Travellers in expressing their pride in their national identity and to learn about the role individual Travellers played in the foundation of the State.

Ronnie Fay, Martin Collins
Co Directors

OUR WORK

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre is a national NGO that works to promote Traveller and Roma human rights in Ireland through research, policy development, advocacy and collective community action. We work to address the needs of Travellers and Roma as minority ethnic groups experiencing exclusion, discrimination and racism. Our work involves a community work approach based on the principles of human rights, participation, equality and interculturalism.

OUR VISION

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

OUR 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.

Campaigns for Equality

TOWARDS RECOGNITION OF TRAVELLER ETHNICITY

Since its beginnings Pavee Point has campaigned for the recognition of Traveller ethnicity as an important step in achieving equality. Without recognising Travellers as a minority ethnic group their experience of racism is denied and attitudes, describing Travellers as ‘dysfunctional’ or ‘deviant’ settled people, could continue.

2016 proved an important year in creating the conditions to ensure the recognition of Traveller ethnicity got over the line.

- We argued for recognition of Traveller ethnicity at the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality on Wednesday 9th November 2016. This was our second time to present to this Committee on this issue
- We also presented directly to the Cabinet Sub Committee on Social Inclusion which we feel was very useful
- Much of our international lobbying highlighted the need for the recognition of Traveller ethnicity
- Our work on the National Traveller & Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) pushed for the recognition of Traveller ethnicity
- The USA raised the issue of recognition of Traveller ethnicity at Ireland’s hearing under the UN Universal Periodic Review in Geneva
- Hosting international visits by the European Commission and the Council of Europe



Pavee Point delegation at the Oireachtas Committee on Equality and Justice.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

We worked hard in 2016 to highlight the issue of Traveller accommodation as part of the homelessness crisis. Traveller homelessness is invisible in terms of this crisis as Travellers try to manage the problem within their own community. Chronic overcrowding on halting sites and worsening living conditions is the result.

In May 2016, a Pavee Point delegation presented to the Oireachtas Committee on Housing and Homelessness. The delegation submitted that 5,500 Travellers or 18% of the Traveller population were in need of proper accommodation.

In October 2016, the Homeless Committee backed our calls for a ban on all Traveller evictions until alternative accommodation is provided.

When published 'Rebuilding Ireland' promised an independent review of funding for Traveller specific accommodation within the context of local authority Traveller Accommodation Programmes.

'Rebuilding Ireland' also promises to identify the challenges that need to be addressed to bring about future progress in providing Traveller specific accommodation – recognition that a new impetus is needed to solve the Traveller accommodation crisis.

FIRE SAFETY AT TRAVELLER SITES

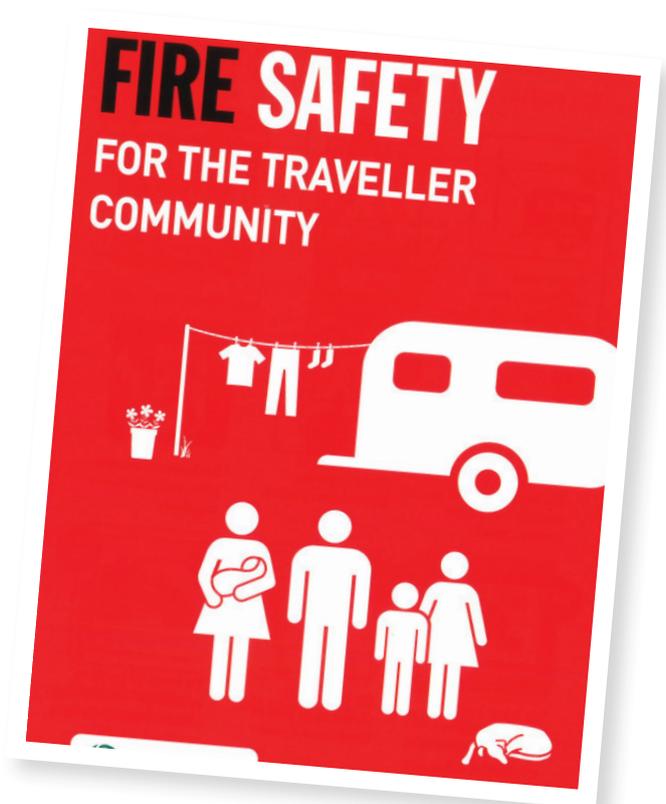
Pavee Point campaigned for a ban on Traveller evictions as part of our work on the steering committee of the working group at the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM).

We worked on this committee to develop a 'Life Safety' approach to fire safety audits that were commissioned by the Dept of Environment in the wake of the Carrickmines fire in 2015.

We campaigned so that fire safety solutions should not come at the cost of quality of life or quality of living conditions. We also argued for Traveller engagement to ensure a higher the level of fire safety on sites.

We Traveller proofed fire safety messages and supported the development of culturally appropriate education materials and worked with Traveller Primary Healthcare Projects throughout the country in disseminating this information.

In September 2016, the NDFEM report reflected many of our recommendations and we continue to lobby for improved Traveller specific accommodation with proper facilities for Travellers as the main way to improve fire safety.



Inclusive Policy

NATIONAL TRAVELLER & ROMA INCLUSION STRATEGY

The Government's National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021 was two years in the making. This now constitutes the main policy document in relation to Travellers and Roma. In 2016 Pavee Point made concerted efforts that consultation on this document would be meaningful and reflect the Traveller and Roma experience on the ground.

Two rounds of consultations took place - in February and in May. The full resources of the organisation were brought into play in mobilising Traveller and Roma participation in consultations and engaging with the Department of Justice & Equality in other meetings and feedback opportunities.

In March we welcomed the setting up of a Roma Committee at the Department of Justice & Equality with a view to working on the implementation of NTRIS in relation to Roma. We were delighted that two members of our Roma Programme now sit on this committee.



NATIONAL STRATEGY ON DOMESTIC, SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Ireland's second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2021 was launched in January. Following our submission and advocacy work, for the first time two Traveller and Roma related actions are included in this Strategy which aim to improve service provision for Traveller and Roma women who experience violence.

The Strategy also includes an important action to establish a 'gold standard' of data collection by all agencies working in the area of domestic and sexual violence and the disaggregation of data by ethnicity. Pavee Point was offered a place on the new Monitoring Committee of the Strategy.

Research

ROMA NATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In July 2014, the Report of the Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the removal of two Roma children from their families was published - the 'Logan Report'. Following this, Pavee Point worked in partnership with the Dept. of Justice and Equality to implement the recommendations of the Logan Report and a Roma national needs assessment was undertaken in partnership between Pavee Point and the Department of Justice & Equality.

This Assessment was commissioned in 2015 to establish how best to improve state agencies' interaction with the Roma community in Ireland.

Our work on the Assessment was completed in 2016. Eighteen Roma researchers were involved at every stage of this project, from design to implementation. The study report has uncovered stark findings on the experiences of Roma in Ireland. High levels of perceived discrimination, extreme poverty, sub-standard living conditions and poor mental health are of particular concern. The full report will be published and disseminated in 2017.

In anticipation of the publication of the report, Pavee Point organised training in presentation and skills and media training for Roma peer researchers.



Roma families attend our Roma Christmas event in 2016.



TRAVELLER MEN'S HEALTH



Christy Moore at the Traveller Men's Health event.

In November 2016, we launched our position paper on Traveller Men's Health and were privileged to have Christy Moore and Bressie speak at the launch. Fergal Fox, Health Improvement, HSE officially launched the document which highlighted the need for a strategy for Traveller men's health as recommended in the All Ireland Traveller Health Study 2010. The gap between Traveller men's health and that of the general population is stark and staggering. "Our lives are cut shorter simply because we are Traveller men," said Patrick Reilly, Men's Health Worker, at the launch

MENTAL HEALTH

In January 2016 we published a report that shows that mental health services for Travellers are inadequate and that there needs to be a much more targeted approach to combat a suicide rate that is six times the national rate and seven times for Traveller men.

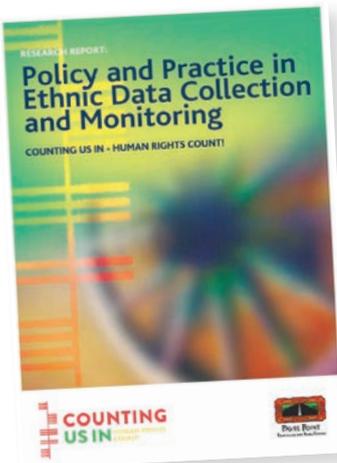
Ms. Anne O'Connor, National Director, Mental Health Division, Health Service Executive who launched the report said her office was committed to responding to Travellers' needs and it was a great opportunity to grow and develop services. "We want to be there when people need us, where people need us and to have the right people available," she said.

She said that services have to be inviting to users and that reports, such as the report we published, give the HSE the evidence upon which to base their activities.



Anne O'Connor, National Director, Mental Health Division, HSE.

ETHNIC EQUALITY MONITORING



To mark International Day Against Racism in March and as part of our ethnic data work, we held an information seminar for health practitioners.

Over 70 professionals attended the conference where we highlighted the key findings in our report Policy & Practice in Ethnic Data Collection & Monitoring in Ireland. We shared models of good practice on how to implement an ethnic identifier within a human rights framework drawing on experience from the EU, Scotland and Ireland.

In May we participated in a Pobal/Sicap conference with about 200 representatives from Local Community Development Committees, Local Authorities and Partnerships/Programme Implementers. At this conference the importance of ethnic data collection in helping SICAP identify gaps in reaching their target groups was highlighted.

We piloted a project on ethnic data collection with the Irish Prison Service and undertook training with prison officers and training liaison officers from the 14 Irish prisons. We also produced an information leaflet.



CENSUS 2016

Our work in highlighting the importance of Travellers self-identifying as Travellers in our Census really started to bear fruit and we saw the official count of Travellers increase 5.1% to 30,987 in Census 2016. This consists of an overall increase of 37% in Traveller population figures since 2006.



We undertook training with Central Statistics Office regional supervisors and published Traveller and Roma specific awareness raising materials, including a dedicated section on our website. We also undertook regional training with Traveller and Roma groups around the country. These proved very useful in generating general awareness of the importance of being counted in the Census and in particular – being counted as Travellers and Roma.

Innovation and Empowerment

AWARD FOR BREAST CHECK LEAFLET

Pavee Point's Primary Health Care Project won the National Adult Literacy Association (NALA) 'Plain English Award' for public health information. The awards are given for producing information through language that is easy to read and understand.

Our 'Be Breast Cancer Aware' card is designed for carrying in a wallet. NALA said: "This entry is a small card that clearly illustrates five steps for women to take to check their breasts. It also provides information and contact details about where to go if they are concerned about breast cancer."



It was produced in partnership with the Marie Keating Foundation and over 50 organisations competed for the award which is sponsored by Mason Hayes & Curran.



FEUDING DETERRENCE PROGRAMME



Ten young Traveller men from North Dublin completed a 12 week programme held in Mountjoy Prison and co-facilitated by a Traveller man in prison for serious offences arising from a Traveller feud.

The prisoner approached Pavee Point for support during his imprisonment and worked with the organisation to develop this programme aimed at educating young Traveller men about the consequences of feuding.

The programme used the Pavee Point resource 'We Can Sort it Out' – a Traveller specific hand book for trainers that aims to stop feuds escalating, manage conflict situations when they arise and look at the implications of feuding.

Pictured left: Michael Donnellan, Director General of the Irish Prison Service presents Richard O'Leary with his certificate.

IRISH HEALTH CARE AWARD

In November 2016 our Primary Healthcare for Travellers Project which won a 'Best Patient Lifestyle Education Project' prize at the Irish Health Care Awards.

Our project is based on outreach work in the community with Traveller families. Traveller Community Health Workers can meet the needs and concerns of their own community. Their work includes

- Providing health education and information to Travellers in Finglas and Blanchardstown
- Working in partnership with the HSE and others to address the health needs of Travellers
- Designing and publishing culturally appropriate health promotion materials
- Organising appropriate clinics for child health, diabetes, obesity and cardio-vascular health
- Networking at local, regional, national and international levels

The judging panel was made up of medical consultants, pharmaceutical representatives, patient representatives and medical journalists. The awards are organised by the Irish Medical Times.



AVILA COMMUNITY HEART GARDEN

In a joint project with Irish Heart we set up, in autumn 2016, the first Traveller community garden with a special emphasis on men's health. In conjunction with our Community Employment Scheme this project offers accredited training in horticulture and works with the men to raise awareness on issues of positive health – both physical and mental.



International Visibility

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

In January Kathleen McDonnell and Hilary Harmon attended the examination of Ireland's report before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva.

A third of the Committee's recommendations focus specifically on Traveller and Roma children. The committee repeatedly highlighted their concerns about Traveller and Roma children recommending that the state strengthen its efforts to combat discrimination, stigmatization and the social exclusion of Traveller and Roma children.

In February we also hosted part of a visit by the Council of Europe Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues visited Dublin to inform themselves on the empowerment and participation of Roma and Travellers.



Lina Papamichalopoulou of the European Commission talking to Missie Collins.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

In May our Co-Director Ronnie Fay attended the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of human rights in Ireland which was held in Geneva in May 2016. We joined with other civil society organisations to highlight human rights issues and produced an information and lobbying leaflet for UN representatives emphasising the need for State recognition of Traveller ethnicity.

The Review recommended a new National Action Plan Against Racism to combat discrimination and hate crime – which we wholeheartedly welcomed.

The UPR is a peer-to-peer review process in which each of the 193 states that comprise the United Nations voluntarily submit themselves for a review of their domestic human rights record every four and a half years.



Anastasia Crickley, President of CERD; Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald; Ronnie Fay, Pavee Point and Irish Ambassador to the UN, Patricia O' Brien at UPR hearing May 2016.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The year provided an opportunity to influence the situation of Traveller and Roma women through international human rights monitoring mechanisms under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

We made a submission to the Pre-sessional Working Group, which generated a number of questions put to the Government on the situation of Traveller and Roma women. We attended the Department of Justice and Equality CEDAW consultation on the State's draft report to the Committee. We also made a submission to the NWC and Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission to feed into their CEDAW shadow reports.

In November 2016, Pavee Point and the National Traveller Women's Forum held a consultation with Traveller and Roma women to feed into a joint shadow report to the UN CEDAW Committee.

VISIT BY EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER

Pavee Point was delighted to be able to host Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Nils Muizniek during a three day visit to Ireland in November 2016. Commissioner Muizniek visited Traveller sites in North Dublin with Pavee Point staff and was able to see first-hand the poor living conditions of many Irish Travellers.

Discussions with Travellers on their experience in education and in accessing health also took place.

The Commissioner was also very interested in gender issues and in Ireland's position on Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence.

Commissioner Muizniek's strongly worded report on his visit, expressing his concerns at the status of Irish Travellers in Irish society, no doubt contributed to raising awareness on the need for the recognition of Traveller ethnicity.



Men's Health Worker, Michael Collins accompanies Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Nils Muizniek to Traveller sites.

1916 Centenary

Pavee Point and Travellers were represented at two main events celebrating the 1916 Rising Centenary.

A group of young Dublin Travellers did us proud in the Citizen's Parade as part of the GAA Laochra celebrations in Croke Park. Their participation made a statement for diversity and anti-racism in the GAA. The after-match show was recorded for posterity and broadcast live on TG4.



Meanwhile another group representing Pavee Point and the Traveller community took part in the Reclaim 1916 parade from Merrion Square to the GPO on O'Connell Street.

In June we attended an event outside the GPO today to hear the Traveller Re-Proclamation of the Republic and to celebrate Traveller's role in the 1916 Rising.



Photo Opposite: Christmas party for Roma children in Pavee Point, December 2016.





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