



PAVEE POINT TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

Concluding Observations on the Eighth Periodic Report of Ireland

Introduction

Pavee Point welcomes today's publication of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Ireland. We particularly welcome the inclusion of clear and comprehensive recommendations for the State on addressing the stark discrimination and inequalities currently faced by Traveller and Roma women.

The Committee considered the eighth periodic reports of Ireland (CEDAW/C/IRL/8) at its 2156th and 2157th meetings (see CEDAW/C/SR.2156 and 2157), held on 20 June 2025. Representatives from our coalition of Traveller and Roma organisations had the opportunity to contribute at these sessions and highlight our key concerns.

Recommendation 48: A Traveller and Roma Focused Recommendation

Recommendation 48 explicitly focuses on the discrimination faced by Traveller and Roma women and calls for the full implementation of NTRIS and penalising Local Authorities when they fail to meet Traveller accommodation needs:

The Committee recalls its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/IRL/CO/6-7, para.49) and recommends that the State party take concrete measures to improve access to education, employment, health services and housing for Traveller women and girls, including by ensuring the effective implementation of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II (NTRIS II) 2024–2028, through adequate human and financial resources, and revising the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act of 1998 to penalize authorities when they fail to provide accommodation for Travellers.

It further recommends that the State party:

- **48 (a)** Address the root causes of the **overrepresentation of Traveller women in places of deprivation of liberty** and expand non-custodial alternatives, ensuring gender-responsive prison services developed in consultation with Traveller and ethnic minority women
- **48(b)** Ensure effective **access to justice and legal aid** through culturally appropriate services for Roma and Traveller women and girls

COBs with Traveller and Roma Women Explicitly Named

Traveller and Roma women are also named and included across a number of wider COBs:

- **16 (a)** Promote the role of minority women, such as Traveller, Roma and migrant women, in the elaboration of the upcoming **National Action Plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)**
- **24** the State party adopt temporary special measures, including parity nested **gender quotas**, in all areas where women are disadvantaged or underrepresented in both the public and private spheres, including local governance bodies, academia, and the private sector, as well as for corporate boards. The Committee also requests the State party to adopt special temporary measures, with measurable objectives and clear time frames, aimed at **accelerating de facto equality for women belonging to disadvantaged groups, such as Traveller, Roma, migrant and rural women and women with disabilities**
- **32(f)** Take concrete measures, including temporary special measures, to promote the participation of rural, Traveller, Roma, and migrant women and women with disabilities in **political and public life**
- **36(d)** Address the **education attainment** among Traveller, Roma and migrant women, including by abolishing the past-pupil criterion for school admissions, and adopt temporary special measures, such as scholarships for girls and non-stereotypical career counselling
- **38(d)** Implement targeted interventions to **reduce unemployment** among Traveller and Roma women
- **40(a)** Ensure **universal access to health services** with **specific measures** for Traveller, Roma, migrant and rural women, and women with disabilities, and ensure their inclusion in the digital health transformation under the **Digital Health & Social Care Strategic Roadmap (2024-2030)**;
- **44(a)** Strengthen support programmes for **women entrepreneurs**, including targeted measures to ensure the participation of women from disadvantaged groups, particularly rural women, women with disabilities, Roma, Traveller and migrant women, and ethnic minority women
- **57(b)** Ensure that such **disaggregated data** is collected with appropriate safeguards for privacy and confidentiality, in consultation with representatives of marginalized groups, particularly rural, Traveller, Roma and migrant women's organizations and organizations representing women with disabilities

Roma women were also explicitly named in 2 COBs on forced sterilisation 26(f) and 40(e). This was not based on the coalition's submission or opening statement and we will engage further with the committee for more information on the basis of these recommendations

Other COBs that are of interest to Traveller and Roma organisations that can be used in our wider advocacy work:

Equality Legislation

- **14).** The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the drafting and enactment of legislation relating to the **Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill** of 2024 and ensure the inclusion of the broad range of internationally recognized grounds of discrimination against women and girls, including **intersecting forms of discrimination**.

Access to Justice

- **18(a)** Remove systemic barriers to women's access to justice by **eliminating restrictive financial eligibility criteria for legal aid**, especially for women victims of domestic violence and marginalized groups of women
- **18(c)** Expand **access to legal aid and legal representation** for women in all areas of law where discrimination occurs, including labour disputes, welfare benefits and other civil matters, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent women from accessing justice

National Strategy Women and Girls and Supporting Women's Organisations

- **20(c)** Incorporate lessons learned from the previous strategy cycle and ensure full alignment with the Convention in the new **National Strategy for Women and Girls**
- **20(d)** Ensure that **women's organizations have access to adequate funding** and cooperate with them in the implementation of national gender equality strategies

Employment

- **38(c)** Analyse root causes for **women's concentration in low-paid employment** and adopt targeted measures to enhance their access to formal employment and eliminate horizontal and vertical occupational segregation, including training opportunities and safeguards to protect women from discriminatory recruitment practices

Health

- **40 (b)** Expand **the Free Contraception Scheme** to include women at all ages and marginalised groups of women and ensure culturally sensitive sexual and reproductive health services for all women, including rural women, women with disabilities and migrant women;
- **40(g)** Integrate **gender-sensitive, community-based mental health services** into public health services, with special support for women and girl victims of gender-based violence and trafficking, and for women with psychosocial disabilities.

Poverty and Welfare Policies

- **44(b)** Fully implement **gender-responsive budgeting** with a robust legal framework and conduct **evaluations of fiscal and welfare policies to assess their differential impact on women** and men, with particular attention to intersecting forms of discrimination
- **44 (c)** Develop a comprehensive strategy to **address feminization of poverty** and female homelessness that includes specific measures for female-headed households and single women, and **accelerate the provision of affordable housing with priority allocation to women at risk of social exclusion**

Women in Prison

- **50 (a)** Take immediate and effective measures to address **overcrowding in women's prisons** and ensure that detention conditions meet international standards
- **50 (b)** Expand **community-based alternatives to detention** and establish open prisons for women detainees
- **50 (c)** Systematically collect **disaggregated data** in the criminal justice system to enable evidence-based policy-making and monitoring of discriminatory practices.

Addressing Gender Stereotypes/Harmful Practices

- **26 (d)** Ensure that initiatives to **combat gender stereotypes** adopt an intersectional approach addressing the needs of marginalized women

Climate Action

- **54 (a)** Ensure the full integration of a gender perspective in its climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and the systematic assessment of the **differentiated impact of climate change on women, particularly rural and marginalized women**
- **54 (d)** Develop a **gender-responsive climate strategy** ensuring meaningful inclusion of women, including women from vulnerable communities in climate decision-making