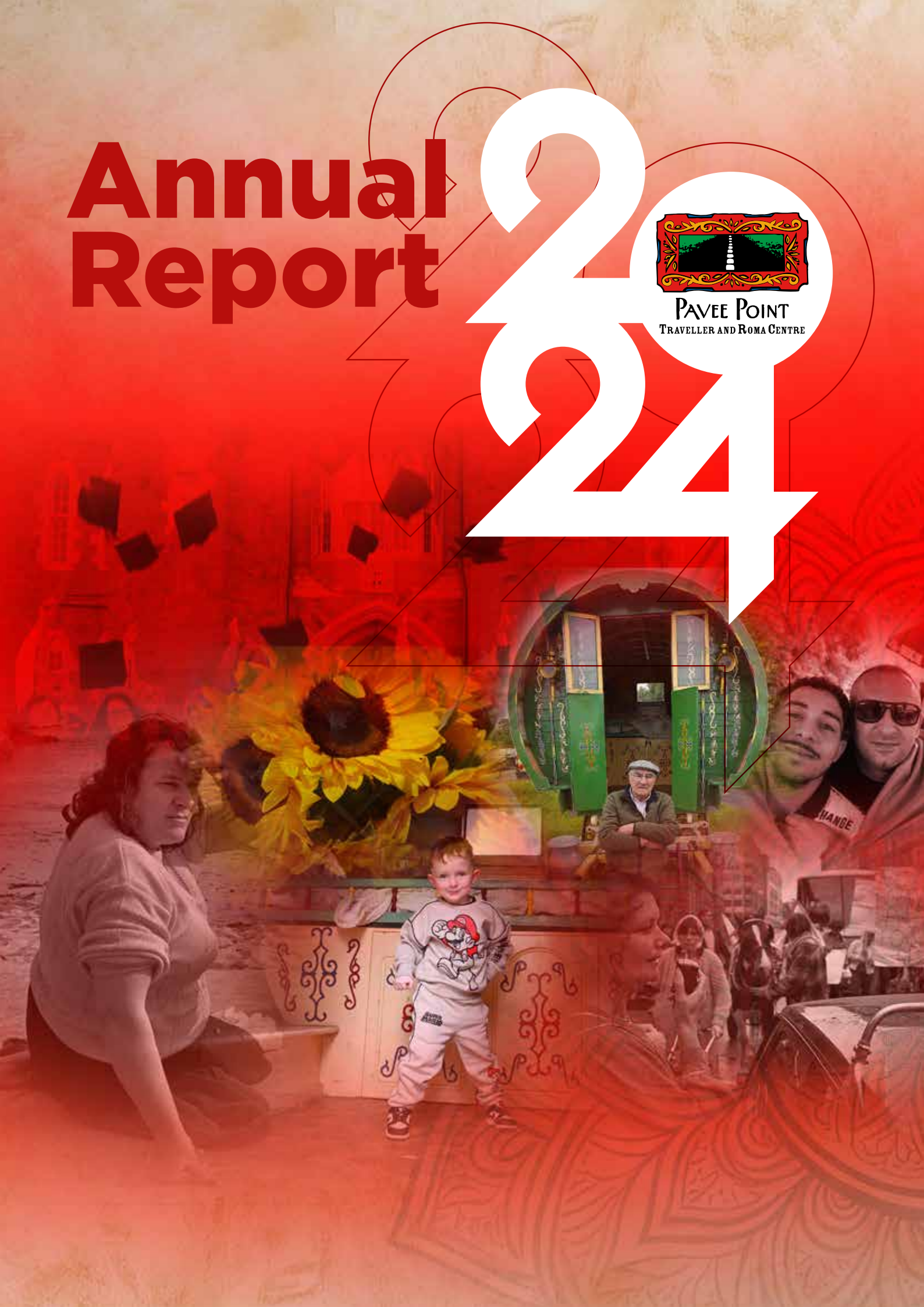


Annual Report

24



PAVEE POINT
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE





PAVEE POINT
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

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

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Message from the Chairperson

This 2024 Annual Report demonstrates the extent of the work undertaken by staff during the year to address challenges and inequalities for Travellers and Roma in areas such as gender equality, addiction, health, and education, to name a few. As we approach the organisation's 40th year, we look back on just how much progress has been made for Travellers and Roma in Ireland, while recognising that the journey and fight is far from over. We must continue to work together with Traveller organisations, groups working with Roma, and other likeminded organisations to ensure the Government, its agencies and bodies address gaps in policies and policy implementation to improve lives.

Solidarity has been core to our work since the organisation's inception, and our commitment to working in solidarity is reaffirmed in the midst of the rise of hatred. Pavee Point will continue to name issues including racism and discrimination for what they are, while seeking partners to address them with full Traveller and Roma involvement in 2025. While the passage of hate crime legislation, Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024, was a positive step, Ireland must now ensure that it ratifies robust and modern hate speech legislation to protect marginalised, minoritised and racialised groups. Legislation must be supported by wide measures and mechanisms such as the National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR).

Pavee Point published a refreshed Strategic Plan in 2024 which reaffirms our commitment to the realisation of Traveller and Roma rights and equality. The Plan takes into account the many challenges we face in the current context and looks to overcome these. We welcomed new staff members throughout the year. I also commend Pavee Point's Co-Directors, Lynsey Kavanagh and Martin Collins, who worked tirelessly to bring the organisation forward during the last year.

Plans to celebrate our landmark 40th anniversary are well underway. These plans remember those who dedicated their work and vision to the organisation. These are just a few; we remember all colleagues and friends who have contributed throughout the years. I would like to take this opportunity to further acknowledge and commend all current staff at Pavee Point for their commitment to our strategic goals. Their work, beyond the call of duty, to realise Roma and Traveller rights and play a role in creating collective ways forward for all Travellers and Roma, is rightly recognised both at home and abroad.

I also wish to extend thanks to our funders without whom our work would not be possible. Your support for Pavee Point is appreciated, and we look forward to your continued commitment. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow directors on our Pavee Point Board. Your time and expertise are much appreciated and very helpful in reviewing, reflecting and rethinking, as well as ensuring compliance with all our requirements.

Message from the Co-Directors



2024 was a landmark year for policy and strategy to progress Traveller and Roma rights and equality. Key strategies and policy measures that the organisation,

The year saw the publication of the second National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS II, 2024–2028) which Pavee Point advocated, alongside other Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma. This important policy framework is Ireland's commitment to Traveller and Roma inclusion.

Pavee Point is represented on the NTRIS II Steering Committee alongside senior officials from relevant Government Departments and State Agencies as well as other Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma. This Strategy, if implemented fully, has the potential to have tangible outcomes for improving the lives of Travellers and Roma.

In the summer, we also welcomed the publication of the first Traveller and Roma Education Strategy (TRES, 2024–2030) which aims to achieve equality of outcomes in education for Traveller and Roma. Again, Pavee Point provided steering and oversight throughout the Strategy's development.

Local and General Elections took place in Ireland in 2024 changing the context in which Pavee Point operates. The organisation ran campaigns throughout the year to encourage Pavees and Roma to exercise their right to vote. In advance of the General Election, we published and disseminated our Election Manifesto to urge political candidates and parties to prioritise Traveller and Roma rights and equality. We also encouraged Traveller candidates to run. A new coalition Government elected in November, led by Fianna Fáil, will be responsible for seeing that policy commitments are delivered on. We will endeavour to hold this new government accountable. We were concerned to see the elections used as a breeding ground for hate, racism and disinformation, as well as the appointment of a small number of far-right councillors in local government. However, this was tempered with the election of minority ethnic and diverse candidates, as well as those with a commitment to Travellers and Roma rights.

New hate crime legislation, the Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Bill 2022, was signed into law in October, though we, along with many others, were disappointed that the Hate Speech elements of the bill were dropped. Updated hate crime legislation is a step closer to a safer Ireland for minorities. However, robust hate speech legislation is also needed so that racism in all forms is eliminated.

Health continued to be a key focus for the organisation. Pavee Point, through its work of the Eastern Region Traveller Unit, launched its regional Traveller Health Action Plan in September, which translates the National Traveller Health Action Plan (NTHAP, 2022) into action for the Eastern Region. We remain committed to working in partnership with the HSE and other key stakeholders to support implementation of the National Traveller Health Action Plan, including being represented on the implementation group, the National Traveller Health Implementation Group and the need to ensure that a strong and independent Traveller health infrastructure is fully resourced and sustained into the future.

In the current national homelessness and housing crisis, combatting Traveller homelessness and advocating for accessible, affordable and culturally appropriate accommodation is an ever-growing priority for the organisation. In 2024, Pavee Point continued to represent on the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (NTACC), which advises the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on Traveller accommodation. The organisation welcomed the establishment of Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees (LTACCs) following the local elections in July. We will continue to urge local authorities deliver on their legal obligations to ensure the full and effective implementation of 5-year Traveller Accommodation Programmes.

In December, in partnership with the HSE and the National Traveller Health Network, we celebrated the success of Primary Health Care for Travellers Projects, with a 30-year anniversary conference. Pavee Point started Primary Health Care for Travellers in 1994, and now there are almost 30 projects, and 300 workers, across the country. At the conference, Traveller Community Health Workers expressed what is needed to sustain these projects going forward, including sufficient funding for the projects and fair standardised pay, conditions, pension scheme and progression paths for workers.

The organisation continued its work to commemorate the Porjamos, with 2024 marking 80 years since the genocide of Roma and Sinti during the Nazi era including attendance at commemorative events at Auschwitz in August in collaboration with Dikh He Na Bister. Pavee Point and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), organised a national event in September to remember the 80th Anniversary of the genocide, as we have done for many years. By marking the anniversary of these atrocities we keep this history alive and are reminded of the dangers of racism and hatred that we face today.

The organisation has continued to deepen the scope and impact of its work in Ireland and beyond. We continued to engage internationally with human rights bodies to advance Traveller and Roma human rights. We attended the 4th Review of Ireland's progress in implementing the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and raised a number of important issues regarding Traveller and Roma health, accommodation and poverty in Ireland. We also engaged with the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and also were delighted to host the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe, Michael O'Flaherty, who visited Ireland as part of his work to improve the human rights situation of Roma and Travellers. Pavee Point played a crucial role in providing national co-ordination and support for research on behalf of the European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) with Travellers and Roma in Ireland due to be published in Autumn 2025.

As we enter our 40th year, we would like to acknowledge both the work and commitment of Pavee Point throughout the year and over the last four decades. Our work would not be possible without dedicated staff who continue to demonstrate innovation and commitment to affect positive change for Travellers and Roma. Sadly, this year we also said goodbye to a number of friends and colleagues, including Sheila Reilly who sadly passed away in January. Sheila was one of the longest serving Traveller Community Health Workers in Pavee Point and in Ireland. Sheila dedicated her life to addressing Traveller health inequalities. She will be fondly remembered by all, may she Rest in Peace.

Furthermore, we would like to thank our Board, including the Chair, for their strategic support of the organisation throughout the year. Lastly, we thank funders for supporting and maintain this important work to progress Traveller and Roma rights.



Lynsey Kavanagh , Co-Director



Martin Collins, Co-Director

About Us

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre ('Pavee Point') is a national non-governmental organisation (NGO) working at local, regional, national and international levels on all areas affecting Travellers and Roma.

Since 1985, almost forty years ago, Pavee Point has established a track record in innovative and ground-breaking work using a collective community development approach to address Traveller and Roma issues and promote Traveller and Roma human rights and equality.

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 and Roma through working innovatively for social justice, greater solidarity, development, equality and human rights.

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 positive outcomes from policies, programmes and services.

3. COLLECTIVE ACTION

Collective action focuses on potential benefits and positive 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.

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. 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

The following four goals are outlined in Pavee Point's Strategic Plan (2024-2027) and guide all work undertaken by the organisation in each of its programmes:



Pavee Point Programmes:

- **Arts and Culture**
- **Education**
- **Health:**
 - Primary Health Care for Travellers Project (PHCTP)
 - Men's Health
 - Mental Health
 - Pavee Mothers
 - Drugs, Alcohol and Addiction
 - Roma Health
- **Violence Against Women**
- **Roma**
- **Information and Communications**



Promoting Traveller and Roma Cultural Identity and Ethnicity

In 2024, Pavee Point continued to work to further develop better knowledge and understanding of Traveller and Roma culture and identity, and to support Traveller and Roma engagement and visibility in arts, culture and heritage. Pavee Point was delighted to receive funding from the Heritage Council to employ an archivist and a Traveller community trainee archivist. The archivists worked together to archive and catalogue almost 1000 photographs, the majority of which were taken by Derek Speirs.

A number of events were held during the year to directly engage with Travellers, Roma and wider Irish society. Activities and initiatives organised throughout the year included Culture Night, Traveller Pride Week, and events to remember 80 years since the genocide of over 500,000 Roma during the Nazi Era.

Commitments to valuing, respecting, promoting and preserving Traveller and Roma culture, heritage and identities, and supporting Traveller and Roma contribution to arts and culture were made in the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (2024-2028), published in July 2024 by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability and Youth.

CULTURE NIGHT 2024

Pavee Point continued its annual tradition of marking Culture Night and held an event to celebrate the diversity and richness of Traveller and Roma cultures. A traditional wagon and tent were pitched outside Pavee Point for all to visit. The night started with a session on Traveller cures and traditions with Oein DeBhairduin. Attendees ate homemade traditional Traveller coddle and cake bread. The evening finished with wonderful music by Laura McDonagh, Annemarie Moorehouse and Fin Furey. There was also an open mic for people from all over to sing traditional songs.



Hughie Collins



Thomas McDonnell



Janos Lang, Roma music collective Ando Glaso



Martin Collins.



Fin Furey



Laura McDonagh and Annemarie Moorehouse give us some lovely tunes.



Oein de Bharduin shows how yarn was died and woven to make the traditional Traveller cords.



Martin Collins and John Collins



Fin Furey and his cousin Connor Furey put on a rousing show.



Attendees



Winnie Collins

All photos by Bryan Meade

TRAVELLER PRIDE AWARDS 2024

Along with several other Traveller organisations, Pavee Point helped to organise the Traveller Pride Awards 2024. The Awards Ceremony marks the beginning of Traveller Pride Week, and has become an important event to celebrate and promote the achievements of the Traveller Community.

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability and Integration, Roderic O’Gorman, TD, who opened the Awards ceremony said:

“ Traveller Pride Week is a wonderful opportunity for younger and older generations of Traveller and settled communities to come together and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Traveller Community and their positive contribution to Irish society. It is important that Traveller culture is supported and valued within Irish society, and that hidden voices have the opportunity to be amplified through celebrations such as Traveller Pride Week ”

ST. PATRICK’S DAY 2024

In 2024, the organisation continued its longstanding work of ensuring Traveller visibility as part of St. Patrick’s Day celebrations. Some of our Traveller Community Health Workers showcased traditional flower-making skills by hosting a workshop to a packed audience in Collins Barracks. There was also singing and stories from Thomas McCarthy and Trish Reilly.

“ Paper flower making was an important tradition among Traveller women. Women swapped flowers for food or money, helping the family income. ”

Bridgie Collins, Traveller Community Health Worker, Pavee Point.

‘PAVEE PICTURES’ – MARKING HERITAGE WEEK WITH THE PHOTOS OF DEREK SPEIRS

As part of Heritage Week 2024, Pavee Point hosted ‘In Conversation with photographer Derek Speirs’, to discuss the 40-year collaboration between the photographer and Pavee Point. Pavee Point was delighted to have worked with Derek to catalogue this collection with support from The Heritage Council.



Opening the event, Martin Collins, Co-Director, said, “Derek has kindly donated thousands of photographs to Pavee Point. They have historical value, as they document many of the key, iconic moments, certainly in Pavee Point’s history and indeed the struggle beyond.”

Derek told the stories behind the book and exhibition ‘Pavee Pictures’ and reflected on key moments while capturing the work and ethos of Pavee Point. He also spoke of documenting key milestones for Travellers and Roma through his photography.

Derek’s work reflects his overall commitment to social justice, rights and equality. He has always ensured the issues affecting Travellers, Roma and other marginalised groups are portrayed sensitively and with respect. His approach has meant that he has been able to develop strong relationships and trust with Travellers and Roma.

A selection of his photos, ‘Pavee Pictures’ was exhibited to the public during Heritage Week at Pavee Point.

Nan Joyce. Photo by Derek Speirs

REMEMBERING THE ROMA GENOCIDE – 80 YEARS ON

Pavee Point has always commemorated the atrocities of Nazi Germany's "forgotten" genocide, the *Porajmos* (which means the 'Devouring' in Romani language) where an estimated 500,000 Roma and Sinti were murdered in concentration camps or by mobile death squads in Nazi occupied regions of Europe. In addition, at least another 500,000 were displaced, dispossessed, or had their identity papers lost or destroyed. The organisation continued our important work on commemorating these atrocities with this year marking the 80th anniversary. Building on existing work to create the space for the Roma community in Ireland to remember and recall, and for Irish society to become more aware of the *Porajmos*, we undertook national and European activities, highlighting the significant milestone. This included:

European:

An international visit and knowledge/practice exchange with Traveller and Roma organisations in Krakow, Poland which included an exchange visit to Auschwitz and workshops on Roma History, hosted by *Dikh He Na Bister* (Look and Don't Forget), the Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative. Alongside this, participation in Central Council of German Sinti and Roma conference which brought together Presidents of the National Parliaments, governmental representatives, and civil society which sought to further develop relationships and sharing of experiences; and to strengthen solidarity at local and international levels to challenge racism in all of its forms, including anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism.

National:

In September, we held a national event which brought together Roma and Travellers, policymakers, civil society, and others, with a focus on memorialising and reflecting on the *Porajmos*. A range of international speakers, including Dr Ethel Brooks, Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexual Studies at Rutgers University, Mr. Christian Pfeil, Roma Genocide survivor, and family members of Roma Genocide victims contributed to the event. The event was opened by Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr. James Geoghegan, and Minister of State at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Anne Rabbitte TD. The was held in association Cairde, Musiciantia and Holocaust Ireland.

Rudolf Simonic, Roma Worker, highlighted the importance of recognising and commemorating the Roma Genocide, stating:

" It's vital that young people everywhere, including Travellers and Roma, preserve the memory of the survivors, so that mistakes of the past do not repeat themselves. "



Auschwitz. Photo by Stephanie McDermott.

" It fills me with great concern when I see the rise of nationalism and right-wing extremism in the world today...There are always fanatical people who despise other people, who ostracize, persecute or even kill other people because of their skin color, nationality or because they belong to a minority. We see this violent racism in Germany and throughout Europe today... We need young people to courageously and actively stand up against racism and antiziganism. " Mr Christian Pfeil, German-Sinti Survivor of Nazi Terror

Julieann Collins, Traveller Community Health Worker, who attended Dikh He Na Bister, said:

" Although Travellers and Roma may be two different ethnic groups we have similarities which bring us together in the fight for better human rights for both. It is important that Travellers and Roma stand with one another to remember this horrific event. "



L-R: Maximilián and Rudolf Simonic. Sunflowers at the Dikh He Na Bister Commemoration. Auschwitz. Photos by Stephanie McDermott.



L-R: back-front)) Damaris Paun, Roma Community Development Worker, Virginia Paun, Melissa Ursan, Vanessa Paszkowska, Seline Muntean.

Lynsey Kavanagh, Co-Director, Dr. Ethel Brooks, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology at Rutgers University, Anastasia Crickley, Chairperson, Gabi Muntean, Roma Community Development Worker, Martin Collins, Co-Director. Photo: Conor Healy, Picture It



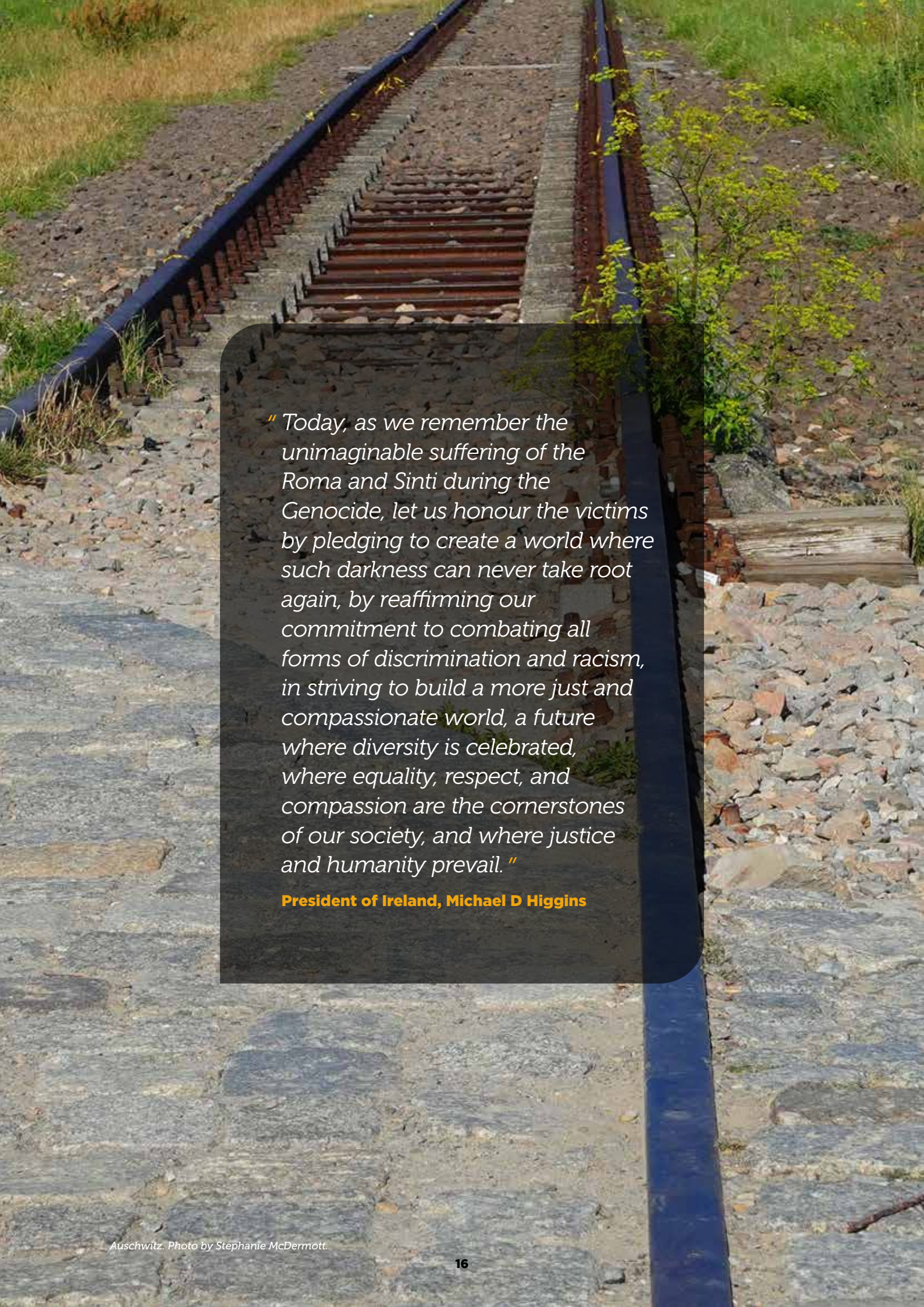
L-R: Tica Muntean, Lynsey Kavanagh, Gabi Muntean, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr James Geoghegan, Minister of State, Anne Rabbitte, TD, Rudolf Simonic, Martin Collins, Anastasia Crickley Photo: Conor Healy, Picture It



Christian Pfeil and Seline Muntean



Auschwitz. Photo by Stephanie McDermott.



" Today, as we remember the unimaginable suffering of the Roma and Sinti during the Genocide, let us honour the victims by pledging to create a world where such darkness can never take root again, by reaffirming our commitment to combating all forms of discrimination and racism, in striving to build a more just and compassionate world, a future where diversity is celebrated, where equality, respect, and compassion are the cornerstones of our society, and where justice and humanity prevail. "

President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins

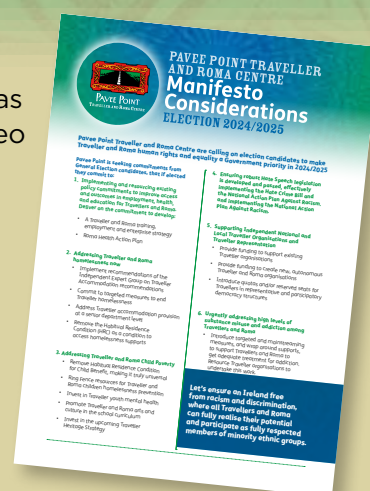
Supporting Direct Traveller and Roma Participation and Empowerment

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'A TRAVELLER VOTE, A TRAVELLER VOICE' - TRAVELLER AND ROMA VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN 2024

2024 was a year of political change in which local elections, a General Election and two Referenda took place. In line with our strategic goal to support direct Traveller and Roma participation and empowerment, and as part of our ongoing work on political participation, Pavee Point ran a video campaign to encourage all Travellers and Roma to vote in the local elections. The organisation teamed up with leaders from key political parties to create videos to highlight how important voting is and explain how to vote.

In advance of the election, Pavee Point established an Election Manifesto and disseminated it to all relevant party spokespersons. The organisation also published the Manifesto to our platforms. The organisation also shared videos from Traveller workers encouraging Travellers and Roma to get out and use their vote in the General Election.



PAVEE POINT SPEAKS IN THE SEANAD AT 'GIVE TRAVELLERS THE FLOOR'

Pavee Point was delighted to participate at 'Give Travellers the Floor', a day of Traveller and Roma representation in the Seanad, and the first day of its kind. It was organised by the Joint Committee on Key Issues affecting the Traveller Community, and had members of different Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma attend the roundtable discussion. Key issues raised on the day included accommodation, education, employment, health and justice.

Pavee Point was represented by Patrick Reilly, Mental Health Co-ordinator, and Gabi Muntean, Roma Community Development Worker, who spoke on the day.

Mr Reilly spoke to the impact of the social determinants of health:

"We know that 90% of what affects a person's health happens outside of the medical system – that means living conditions, poverty, employment, educational attainment, racism and discrimination all affect Travellers' health outcomes. If we are to realistically address Traveller health inequalities, other Government Departments have to also address the determinants."

Gabi Muntean also highlighted racism and discrimination that the Roma community face daily, and the urgent need for updated Hate Crime legislation to be passed.

PAVEE POINT URGES GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE DRUG EPIDEMIC AMONG TRAVELLERS

Pavee Point addressed the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Drug Use to discuss the need for a social determinants of health-led approach to drug use. Speaking to the Committee, John Paul Collins, Drugs Alcohol and Addiction Programme (DAAP) Worker, stressed the gravity of the situation on the ground, “I’ve never seen it as bad today; the impact that drugs are having on our community.”

Drug misuse and addiction among Travellers are influenced by many factors. While the last National Drugs Strategy referenced the social determinants as a key principle, it fell short of addressing these key issues for marginalised groups, including Travellers. As part of our presentation to the Committee, we recommended the rapid conclusion and publication of the next National Drugs Strategy and recommended the implementation of the National Traveller Health Action Plan, the implementation of ethnic equality monitoring across all health services, and increased funding for Traveller organisations to support measures related to addiction.

Pavee Point welcomed the Joint Committee on Drug Use’s Interim report which highlights that the response to drug and alcohol misuse must be holistic and integrated. Despite issues, there have been positive developments over recent years, in particular, initiatives in the drug and alcohol sector and the HSE that are innovative, impactful and show positive outcomes. These models should be further developed, resourced and mainstreamed.



CELEBRATING PAVEE RECOVERY FROM ADDICTION - 'RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE'

Pavee Point's Drugs, Alcohol and Addiction Programme held its second annual 'Pavees Celebration of Recovery' to mark Recovery Month in September. The event aimed to highlight key issues facing Travellers experiencing addiction and to show that recovery from addiction is possible for Travellers and their families and celebrated those are working toward recovery.

2024's event saw the number of Travellers in recovery and supporters in attendance double compared to the year before. The event opened and closed with music from Steo Wall and also featured a number of Traveller speakers who shared their personal journeys with addiction. Among those in attendance was Senator Lynn Ruane, a member of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Drugs Use, who expressed solidarity with Travellers seeking support.

"I've been in recovery for 13 years, and for Traveller women, accessing services has been extremely difficult. Last year, there were few Travellers in recovery at this event, so it's good to start the conversation about addiction and recovery in our community."

Annemarie Sweeney, Traveller Outreach Worker, Coolmine

To mark the end of Recovery Month, Pavee Point's Drug Alcohol and Addiction Programme rolled out its media campaign, 'Recovery is Possible' targeting Travellers and Roma struggling with substance misuse. The videos were in English, Czech, Romanian and Romanes, and featured messages from Traveller, Roma and services working with Travellers and Roma.

Available data suggest concerning trends for Travellers ; almost 70% Travellers reported that drug use was a problem in the community (All Ireland Traveller Health Study, 2010) and a higher percentage of Travellers seek treatment than non-Travellers. In 2023 (2.68%) of people starting treatment were Travellers, over four times the national average. However, the data also suggests that Travellers are accessing treatment which is positive and needs to be further built on.

RESPONDING TO URGENT ISSUES

2024 saw several worrying alerts from the HSE in relation to counterfeit drugs. Our Drugs, Alcohol and Addiction Programme worked proactively and in response to these alarming alerts issues by the HSE of warnings for tablet overdoses after Nitazene-laced opioids and extra strong benzodiazepine counterfeit tablets were found in circulation.

The programme developed Traveller-proofed resources and supported services to directly link in with Traveller organisations and Travellers on the ground, highlighting the dangers of counterfeit and potentially lethal tablets and also for services to provide Nalaxone on site where required.



10TH NATIONAL TRAVELLER AND ROMA MEN'S HEALTH DAY

In June, Pavee Point, through the Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit (ER THU), held its 10th National Traveller and Roma Men's Health Day at the Phoenix Park. The day was officially opened by Senator Eileen Flynn. The event has grown each year, with over 200 Traveller and Roma men attending in June to engage with one another and health services as part of Men's Health Week.



Soilse, the winning team, celebrate their victory.



James Collins, showcasing traditional tinsmithing and barrel top wagon



Senator Eileen Flynn Photo: Tommy Clancy



Cutting the 10 year anniversary cake.



Getting a health check.



Brian Kerr, Former Ireland Manager, addresses the crowd.

Addressing attendees, Senator Flynn said, "Days like today are so important to further develop trust between health services and Traveller and Roma men given health inequalities and experiences of racism and discrimination."

Senator Flynn continued, "We know barriers in accessing healthcare exist but through the work of Traveller organisations and Primary Health Care Projects, there has been improvements in addressing these issues – but there is more work to be done."

The day was very positive and included a number of activities and health checks. 16 teams played in the tournament including Traveller and Roma groups from all over Ireland.

Commenting on the impact of Traveller and Roma Men's Health Day on the community, Michael Collins, Men's Health Worker, said, "Men's Health Day is about creating the conditions where Traveller and Roma men participate in sport and take positive action for their health. Many Traveller men don't get health checks because of a lack of trust in the health services. Linking men and health services is a step towards men feeling empowered about health."

Health services in attendance this year included HSE Social Inclusion, HSE Recovery Team, FAST, San Kalpa, Coolmine, Red Door, Recovery Cafe, Marie Keating Foundation, Irish Heart Foundation, HSE Health and Wellbeing, Exchange House, HSE Mental Health and Public Health, Traveller Counselling Service, Connecting for Life, and Pieta House.

THIRD ANNUAL EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE FOCUSES ON NEW STRATEGY

As part of our longstanding work on education, in November our education programme held our third Annual Roundtable, which focused on the first National Traveller and Roma Education Strategy (TRES), published earlier in the year. The publication of the Strategy was a direct result of lobbying by Pavee Point and other Traveller organisations over many years. Attendees included the Department of Education, Traveller organisations and education stakeholders.



Pavee Point's Third Annual Education Roundtable



Tracey Reilly



LCRL Roma and New Communities CDP

We warmly welcomed the roundtable focused on the TRES, its actions, implementation, key priorities regarding Traveller and Roma education, and concerns around equity of access, participation and improved outcomes. Attendees had plenty of opportunity to participate and discuss issues and themes throughout the day.

Grainne Cullen, Principal Officer in the Social Inclusion Unit, Director of the Social Inclusion Unit, Department of, spoke of the TRES's aim to ensure Traveller and Roma students would be welcomed in education and that they would feel valued and supported throughout.

" Education is important for our Roma community and it would be difficult to make and measure progress without adequate data. We welcome that collecting ethnic data is a key priority in the first action plan. "

Gabi Muntean, Roma Community Development Worker, Pavee Point.



Anastasia Crickley



Gráinne Cullen, Director of Social Inclusion, Department of Education

MILESTONES IN TRAVELLER EDUCATION

In Autumn, Pavee Point celebrated Traveller workers' achievements in education. Pavee Point has seen education as key to the realisation of Traveller and Roma rights since its foundation in 1985 as Dublin Travellers Education and Development Group. The organisation has long campaigned for actions to address gaps in Traveller and Roma education outcomes.

Missie Collins, Traveller Community Health Worker received an honorary doctorate from UCD for her lifetime of dedication to Traveller health. Missie began working as part of the first Traveller Primary Health Care Project in 1994, alongside Ronnie Fay (RIP) and other Traveller women which set up a model of Traveller participation in the promotion of health. The group built up the trust and respect of Traveller families and brought about major changes in the areas of health education, women's reproductive health, child health, vaccinations and screenings.

Over the years, Missie, alongside others, has successfully lobbied many Health Ministers for improvements to Traveller health outcomes including the National Traveller Health Action Plan, published in 2022. Pavee Point was delighted to see her honoured by UCD for her tireless work and passion over the years.

Speaking on Missie's achievement, Lynsey Kavanagh, Co-Director, said:

" This award recognises the trailblazing work by Missie and other Traveller Community Health Workers decades-long track record in addressing Traveller rights and equality, specifically in the area of Traveller health. It is also an important acknowledgement of the work of Pavee Point and for all of the Traveller Primary Health Care Workers around the country, including those who are no longer with us, in the work to advance Traveller rights. "

The organisation also celebrated the achievements of five Traveller students who graduated from the Bachelor of Social Science Community and Youth Work at Maynooth University. The graduates all work for Traveller organisations, including Pavee Point. They began the part-time in-service course in 2020.

" The success of these students shows that Maynooth has continued to create the conditions for students from marginalised and minority communities, including Travellers, to thrive, "

said Anastasia Crickley, former Head of Department of Applied Social Studies at Maynooth, and current Chairperson, Pavee Point.

The degree is a professionally recognised qualification and connects academic coursework to practice. This innovative pilot initiative was the result of a partnership between the Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit (ER THU), Pavee Point, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Department of Applied Social Studies in Maynooth University (MU). The initiative sought to promote Traveller participation in higher education and support Traveller employment opportunities within the HSE.

Each student graduating had a diverse education background. Some had very few years of formal schooling, while others had completed their Leaving Certificate. Despite these different starting points, and challenges which arose during, they all shared a common goal: to enhance their skills.

"This initiative enabled us as Traveller workers to complete a degree, taking into account gaps in formal education and our core work in community development."

said Bridget Nevin, Primary Health Care Coordinator, TravAct.

"Initiatives like this where Travellers are supported are needed to bridge the gap until all Travellers have the same equality of access, participation and outcomes as anyone else. "



Missie Collins pictured with (LtoR) Bridget Quirke, HSE Social Inclusion, Oonagh Fay, Pavee Point, Lynsey Kavanagh, Pavee Point, Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences.



Missie Collins and the Pavee Point Primary Health Care team (LtoR) Molly Collins, Bridgie Collins, Nancy Collins, Maggie McDonnell.



Geraldine McDonnell, Mental Health Worker, Pavee Point, Bridget Nevin, Primary Health Care Coordinator, TravAct, Patrick Reilly, Mental Health Coordinator, Pavee Point, Megan McDonnell, DSGBV worker, Pavee Point, Geraldine McDonagh, Tallaght Travellers, graduate from their BA in Social Science (Community and Youth Work) at Maynooth University.

Current issues and inequalities for Travellers and Roma

3

One of Pavee Point's main strategic priorities is to tackle the current Traveller and Roma issues and inequalities. This section explores the work of Pavee Point's programmes to address and tackle the key issues through policy, advocacy, research, publications and community development approaches.



Mellany McLoone, Chief Officer for Dublin North City and County at the HSE, and Chair of the Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit (ERTHU).



Mary Brigid Collins, Primary Health Care Coordinator, Pavee Point, Bridgie Nevin, Primary Health Care Coordinator, TravAct, Kathleen O'Connor, Primary Health Care Coordinator, Wicklow Travellers Group



Mary Brigid Collins, Primary Health Care Coordinator at Pavee Point.



L-R: Lynsey Kavanagh, Co-Director, Pavee Point, Aisling Heffernan, HSE, Missie Collins, Traveller Community Health Worker, Martina Queally, HSE.

In 2024, the second National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II (NTRIS II, 2024-2028) and the first ever Traveller and Roma Education Strategy (TRES, 2024-2030) were published. Both policies contain actions and objectives to ensure Travellers and Roma achieve the same equality of access, inclusion and outcomes in all areas as the general population. Pavee Point played a key role in the consultation process for and development of these policies.

Furthermore, the Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit launched its regional Traveller Health Action Plan, the Eastern Region Traveller Health Action Plan (ER THAP), in September. The Plan is a regional implementation plan based the National Traveller Health Action Plan. The Plan was devised through partnership between local Traveller organisations/Primary Health Care Projects in the Eastern Region and the HSE, with engagement from local authorities given the need to address the broader social determinants of health. The process of developing the plan spanned five months, 10 consultations and was overseen by the ER THU.

Speaking at the launch, Martina Queally, Dublin and South East Regional Executive Officer at the HSE, said,

"The HSE reiterates its commitment to support Traveller Health Projects. My optimism for this plan is based on evidence, Primary Health Care Projects for Travellers are evidence in practice of what works."

The ER THAP looks to translate the National Traveller Health Action Plan, published in 2022, into action in the Eastern Region. Pavee Point welcomed the NTHAP, a recommendation of the finding of the All-Ireland Traveller Health Study (2010), due to its acknowledgement of the impact of systemic racism, discrimination and the social determinants of health have on Traveller health outcomes. The NTHAP commits to strengthening partnership working between the HSE, Traveller Health Units and local Traveller organisations/Traveller Primary Health Care Projects.

All photos: Tommy Clancy

Improving Traveller and Roma Health

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FOR TRAVELLERS PROJECT (PHCTP)

During the year Traveller Community Health Workers continued to visit families and provide health information and education on a range of issues including child health, men's health, women's health, vaccinations, diabetes and positive mental health. The PHCTP attended training and workshops focusing on emerging health trends and concerns throughout the year, including, but not limited to, vaccinations, immunisation, skin cancer and sun protection, and drugs. The programme provided anti-racism training to healthcare professionals and students. The programme was represented at various events and in networks such as the National Traveller Health Network, the Eastern Region Traveller Health Network, and others. The PHCTP developed Traveller-specific resources on cervical cancer and bowel cancer developed in partnership with the Marie Keating Foundation.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FOR TRAVELLERS

A national conference to mark 30 years of Primary Health Care for Traveller Projects (PHCTPs) took place in December at Croke Park, Dublin.

In 1992 a group of Traveller women at Pavee Point decided they wanted to tackle the health needs of Travellers who experience huge inequalities in health when compared with the general population.

Primary Health Care was identified as an approach that could be piloted to facilitate Traveller participation in health. In 1994 the first Primary Health Care for Travellers project (PHTCP) was set up by Pavee Point. The initial project was met with reticence from the Eastern Region Health Board, however, there were supporters and eventually agreed to support a nine-month pilot project. Primary Health Care was a resounding success, and now there are nearly 30 Primary Health Care for Traveller Projects operating across Ireland.



Panel discusses the achievements of Traveller Primary Health Care. L-R: Brigid Quilligan, Kerry Traveller PHC; Mary Nevin, Longford PHC; Mellany McClune, HSE; Margaret O Riada, Galway Traveller Movement and Tony McCusker, Mental Health Services HSE.



Attendees at the conference.



Martina Queally, Dublin and South East Regional Executive Officer at the HSE.

Primary Health Care for Travellers Project sees Traveller Community Health Workers undertake health advocacy and signposting primarily through outreach work to improve health outcomes. Traveller workers have trust and rapport on the ground, as well as the institutional knowledge. The workers bridge the gap between services and the community.

“Some of the key achievements of the projects include Travellers accessing mainstream health services, including more Travellers accessing BreastCheck and cervical screening,” said Lynsey Kavanagh, Co-Director, Pavee Point, speaking on RTÉ’s Morning Ireland.

“86% of Travellers receive their health information from PHCTPs.”

Kavanagh praised the success of the Traveller Primary Health Care Projects around the country that are “flourishing” despite challenges throughout the 30 years. Significant key challenges remain, however, including the need for better terms and conditions for Traveller Community Health Workers, career progression, recruitment and retention as well as increased investment in the projects.



Missie Collins, Traveller Community Health Worker



Back L-R: Concepta DeBrun, Martina Queally, Maggie McDonnell, Lynsey Kavanagh, Aisling Heffernan. Front L-R: Bridgie Collins, Molly Collins, Missie Collins.



Aisling Heffernan, Chairperson of the National Traveller Health Implementation Group (NTHIG) and HSE Community Healthcare East Chief Officer, spoke about the need to value the work of Traveller Primary Health Care Workers.

CONFERENCE HEARS OF HARD WORK AND PARTNERSHIP

The conference at Croke Park was a joyous occasion and celebrated the hard work of the Primary Health Care workers and the achievements of the project. Attendees heard from representatives from HSE Social Inclusion and Traveller Organisations across the country. Bernard Gloster, CEO, HSE, sent a special message to thank those working in Traveller Primary Health Care for their tireless contribution.

" Thank you for your work, you are of your community, from your community and for your community, " said Mr Gloster.

Speakers throughout the day emphasised the importance of the partnership between services and PHCTPs. Traveller Community Health Workers expressed that much more is required to sustain projects going forward. This includes robust implementation of and funding for the National Traveller Health Action Plan (NTHAP, 2022), better terms and conditions for workers, career progression and partnership between Traveller organisations and HSE.

" We need pay parity for Primary Health Care workers. At present, they earn minimum wage, on part time hours and their secondary benefits are affected "

said Bridget Nevin, PHC Coordinator, TravAct.

" There is, at present, no pension scheme in place for these workers, some of whom have been working 30 years. This needs to change. "

" Workers must have the opportunity to progress in their careers, become coordinators and managers, and to move into mainstream health services too. What's more, we want to attract young people into the projects, and make sure they are given training. "

said Mary Brigid Collins, PHC Co-ordinator, Pavee Point.

"...[During labour] I felt I was getting no attention, like the nurses were just ignoring ya. Like when I was voicing me concerns to them like I just felt that they weren't listening.""

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TRAVELLERS

In 2024, Pavee Point published two key research reports on the impact of COVID-19 on Travellers; one that focused on mental health and another that centred on the experiences of Traveller women and babies. The research showed that the pandemic exacerbated already key issues that pre-dated COVID-19, including the impact of the social determinants of health in equality of access, participation and outcomes in health. The reports also identified examples of good practice and innovation.



Findings from 'Traveller's Mental Health: Reflections on the Impact of COVID-19' showed:

- Travellers had limited access to protective factors; Travellers experienced overcrowding due to the chronic lack of Traveller accommodation which stopped any way to socially distance and prevent further outbreaks.
- Lack of access to running water and electricity remains to be an issue for Travellers.
- Digital tools during the pandemic were not accessible to Travellers with low literacy skills. The pandemic widened the educational disadvantages faced by young people due to the lack of access to online resources.
- Travellers place significant importance on engaging with extended family and community; movement restrictions were therefore particularly difficult.
- Unemployment from casual labour, movement restrictions, racism and discrimination from the State all contributed to significantly more stress in this period.
- There are limited resources available for the Primary Health Care for Travellers Projects, who are the frontline workers for Travellers. Traveller Community Health Workers experienced high levels of burnout and strain during this time.

The COVID-19 pandemic created further challenges for Traveller women who were pregnant and in early motherhood. Throughout the pandemic, maternity services transformed dramatically to reduce the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks. Traveller mothers, already facing racism and discrimination in health services, faced further challenges during COVID-19. Findings from 'Pavee Mothering during COVID-19' showed:

- Racism, discrimination and stereotyping were reported by Traveller mothers in maternity services.
- A lack of information and communication with staff, especially during labour and in times of crisis, added to their distress.
- The lack of partner and family support at appointments during early labour, and sometimes during the actual birth, led to distress for the women.
- Delays in breastfeeding support and information resulted in little success in breastfeeding.



“...imagine being in a trailer with a tap outside, maybe five or six children in the trailer and bringing a new baby.”

'TRAVELLER ROAD TO HOPE AND CHANGE' (PAVEES TOMAR TOBAR A NUCK)

Pavee Point, as part a National Traveller Suicide and Mental Health Awareness Month, alongside the Traveller Counselling Service and Exchange House Ireland launched a campaign aimed to offer hope and support for Travellers impacted by suicide, and to highlight the need to address Traveller mental health inequalities through policy, research and service provision.

" The campaign is a wakeup call to the State to take action before more of our people take their lives. The National Traveller Health Action Plan was launched in 2022; not nearly enough investment has went into this Plan. The government also committed to developing Traveller and Roma Mental Health Action Plan in 2020. Traveller families and Traveller organisations are still waiting. "

said Geraldine McDonnell, Mental Health Worker, Pavee Point.

'Traveller Road to Hope and Change' was funded by HSE Mental Health Operations, launched in Carlow on World Suicide Prevention Day, 10th September, and ran until 8th October, National Traveller Mental Health Awareness Day. Campaign events included coffee mornings, information sessions, masses, the launch of signposting materials, community walks and tree planting, with an estimated 800 plus people taking part across the country.

Pavee Point held a Suicide Prevention walk 'Misli to Howth Head' as part of the campaign. Over 50 Traveller men walked Howth Head to remember loved ones lost to suicide.

ROMA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Throughout 2024, the Roma team continued its work to promote Roma rights and equality. In addition to key events highlighting the Pojarmos, the programme worked directly with Roma to tackle issues related to health, education, employment, homelessness, child protection, human rights, equality racism and discrimination. This also included signposting individuals and families to mainstream services and following up where required.

The team continued to work with Ukrainian Roma seeking refuge in Ireland to address current and emerging barriers to adequate support.

Support for Ukrainian Roma carried out included:

- maintaining a support line which supported 570 Ukrainian Roma in Ireland in 2024
- direct advocacy work and highlighting concerns with government agencies
- facilitating training for organisations and staff who directly work with Ukrainian Roma
- Supporting accommodation challenges
- Working collaboratively with interpreting services, HSE, the Department of Justice, other government agencies and local NGOs

Education

Roma staff were part of the first initiative across Ireland to look into the needs and experiences of Roma, and Traveller students, in tertiary education. College Connect, led by Maynooth University, is a Community Needs Analysis towards a strategy for widening Roma and Traveller inclusion and participation in third level education. The report was launched in 2024.

Employment

The Roma team worked on the development of an Employer Guide – Inclusive Employment for Traveller and Roma Communities with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). Due to be published in 2025, the Guide will identify barriers to employment for Travellers and Roma, offer practical guidance for employers for addressing under-representation and provide a directory of organisations that can support employers and employees through recruitment and retention.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In 2024, Pavee Point's Violence Against Women (VAW) Programme achieved notable progress in further developing and enhancing strategic relationships with other Traveller and community organisations. This work has resulted in developing analysis and insight into emerging issues such as intimate image abuse, stalking, digital and financial abuse, and victim-blaming. As a result, the programme has seen a number of young Traveller women speaking out on Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) issues.

Additionally, cross programme collaboration between the VAW programme programmes in Pavee Point was very positive. Through the Traveller DSGBV Project and associated Advisory Group, it was reported that Traveller women subjected to DSGBV were also struggling with substance misuse as a means of coping with the abuse. Due to substance use, many Traveller women were unable to seek support through refuges due to their zero-tolerance substance policy. This led to conversations between the programme and the Drug, Alcohol and Addiction Programme to create a space to explore how DSGBV and substance use interact with each other and where Traveller organisations could signpost Traveller women. With intimate image abuse and digital abuse also impacting the young Travellers, the Programme collaborated with Eastern Regional Traveller Health Unit Mental Health Initiative to develop and design a page on the YoungPavees.ie website on social media, inclusive of digital abuse and relevant legislation.

The VAW team continues to push for the implementation of actions inclusive of Traveller, Roma and other ethnic minority women in the Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence. VAW's Joint Submission to Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) on the next National Strategy for Women and Girls (NSWG II) highlighted priority issues to progress the socioeconomic, political and cultural situation of Traveller and Roma women in Ireland. This includes the need for a strong implementation framework, ring-fenced multi annual funding, linked to targets and timelines to deliver on key commitments and priority actions.

POLICY

Policy work is a key priority for Pavee Point and crucial to tackle Traveller and Roma inequalities and identify solutions. 2024 has been pivotal in changing the Irish policy landscape to further include Travellers and Roma. The second National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS II, 2024-2028) was published, which the organisation commended for its collaborative and outcome-focused approach. In addition, the Traveller and Roma Education Strategy (TRES, 2024-2030), and its associated Action Plan, which Pavee Point and other Traveller organisations had long lobbied for, was published. The organisation also welcomed the publication of the Eastern Region Traveller Health Action Plan, which aimed to translate the National Traveller Health Action Plan, published in 2022, into action in the Eastern Region.

PAVEE POINT WELCOMES NEW HATE CRIME LEGISLATION



The Coalition Against Hate Crime, a group of 23 civil society organisations including Pavee Point at Leinster House in May 2024 to call on the Government to recommit to the Hate Crime Bill. L-R: Pádraig Rice, National LGBT Federation (NXF), Luna Liboni, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Shane Curry, Irish Network Against Racism, Martin Collins, Pavee Point

Pavee Point and other members of the Coalition Against Hate Crime, welcomed the passing of the Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Bill 2024. This came after political pushback and inaction from Government throughout the year; the Government also abandoned proposed Hate Speech legislation due to backlash played out in the media and the prospect of a general election.

The passage of the Hate Crime Bill sends a clear message that crime motivated by racism and hatred against Travellers, Roma, and other minorities will not be tolerated. Next steps need to ensure that appropriate Hate Speech legislation is revisited and passed in 2025, as Hate Speech and Hate Crime are intrinsically linked.

1ST NATIONAL TRAVELLER AND ROMA EDUCATION STRATEGY

Since Pavee Point's foundation in 1985 as Dublin Travellers Education and Development Group, the organisation has seen education as key to the realisation of Traveller and Roma rights. In 2024, Pavee Point welcomed the first Traveller and Roma Education Strategy (TRES) which is a cross departmental collaboration between the Departments of Education, Higher Education and Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The organisation held two of the six consultations for the Strategy in early 2024. The Strategy aims to improve the education outcomes of Traveller and Roma, which are lower than the general population.

Commenting on the publication of the TRES, Martin Collins, Pavee Point, Co-Director, said,

"The Strategy needs to ensure that Travellers' education experiences, which all too often have been of racism and discrimination, can no longer get in the way of our education ambitions. The collaborative process followed for the development of this strategy needs to be continued."

SECOND NATIONAL TRAVELLER AND ROMA INCLUSION STRATEGY

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre welcomed the publication of the second National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS II) 2024-2028 by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and Minister O'Gorman. Pavee Point was pleased the Strategy has a strong implementation structure, which Pavee Point is represented on, taking a whole of government approach and commits to partnership working.

NTRIS II delivered on a commitment in the Programme for Government (2020), to ensure a stronger outcome-focused approach to Traveller and Roma inclusion in Ireland.



Gina Miyagawa, Martin Collins and Melissa Ursan at the launch of NTRIS II, photo by Maxwell Photography

The development of the strategy was informed by a comprehensive national and regional consultation process with Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma. Key Government Departments and State Agencies were actively involved in the development of the Strategy, with strong commitments to partnership working.

ADVISORY GROUP ON RACISM ESTABLISHED

Minister of State with Responsibility for Integration, Joe O'Brien, TD announced the establishment of a National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR) Advisory Group, to oversee the implementation, monitoring and review of the Plan. We were delighted that Martin Collins was appointed as a member of this group in his own right, along with other experts on racial equality and racism given his longstanding work and expertise in this area.



Advisory Group on Racism and Racial Equality. Photograph Credit: Maxwell Photography 2024.

"I welcome this opportunity to continue Pavee Point's ongoing work with the Special Rapporteur and other group members who share the urgent concern to eliminate racism in all forms. As a Traveller, I am only too familiar with racism and its long-term effects on my community individually and collectively. I'll strive to ensure that the particular forms of racism experienced by Travellers and Roma in Ireland are named and addressed.

The National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR) which Pavee Point called for and contributed to, has a key focus on systemic and intersectional racism which gives us a good starting point. Worsening manifestations of racism, for example, against Roma since last November, and against people seeking International Protection now need our immediate attention."

NATIONAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (NTACC)

The organisation continued to represent on the NTACC to ensure Traveller homelessness and the provision of Traveller-specific accommodation is prioritised by the Government. Following the local elections in July, local authorities were requested to establish Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees (LTACCs). These local committees advise on the preparation and implementation of any accommodation programme for the functional area of the appointing authority concerned; advise on the management of accommodation for Travellers; and provide a liaison between Travellers and officials of the appointing authority concerned. Local Authorities also published their Traveller Accommodation Programmes, some of which had positive aims, while others lacked specificity and timelines. Pavee Point believes it is crucial a Traveller Accommodation Agency is established to implement Traveller accommodation programmes and also that the recommendations of the independent Expert Review Group on Traveller Accommodation published in 2019 are fully implemented.

Strengthening Pavee Point as an Organisation



Pavee Point fulfilled all aims and commitments in line with its Strategic Plan (2024-2027) and overall Organisation Plan for 2024. Service Level Agreements and priorities for 2024 were finalised with all funders and some new developments commenced including initiatives with the Arts Council and the Heritage Council. The organisation complied with all legal, financial and reporting requirements. In the Strategic Plan 2024-2027, Pavee Point highlighted a need to focus on Gender Equality, Solidarity and Sustainability in its work and outputs.

The Information and Communications Programme continued to raise the profile of the organisation publicly in line with its strategic priorities. Furthermore, in 2024, the Board continued to strive to bring new analysis with the addition of three new members. The organisation continued its work and contribution to research through our Research Advisory Group (RAG) to oversee, coordinate and monitor research activity through Pavee Point in terms of both commissioned research and collaborative research for and with Travellers and Roma. Fundamental to the work of the RAG is a commitment to uphold the key values and principles of Pavee Point through research engagement and partnership approaches to research. As part of this commitment, the RAG has developed a best practice guidance to ensure that the core values embedded in the work of Pavee Point is reflected in any associated research endeavour, whilst maintaining research integrity, rigour and foundation of human rights and meaningful partnership. Publication of the guidelines are due in 2025; however, a number of national research projects were carried out through the year including the EU Fundamental Rights Agency Travellers and Roma Survey, National Traveller Cancer Awareness Research, Pavee Mother During COVID-19 and the Traveller's Mental Health Reflections on the Impact of COVID-19. We also contributed to, and participated in a range of external research projects, reflecting the importance of a strong evidence-base for policymaking and service provision.

REMEMBERING SHEILA REILLY

In January 2024, Sheila Reilly, Traveller Community Health Worker in the Primary Health Care Project, passed away. Sheila was a huge part of Pavee Point for over thirty years. She was committed to bringing positive change for Travellers and never faltered in her dedication. She was among the women who identified Traveller health as a key area of focus and was part of the first Primary Health Care for Travellers Project set up in 1994.

Sheila was committed to Traveller rights and equality and dedicated her life to ensuring Traveller women's right to health. Sheila built up the trust and respect of Travellers and was able to help bring about major changes in the areas of health education, women's reproductive health, child health, vaccinations and screenings. This trust was vital in the success of the All-Ireland Traveller Health Study (AITHS) – the research for which was carried out by Traveller Community Health Workers all over Ireland in 2008.

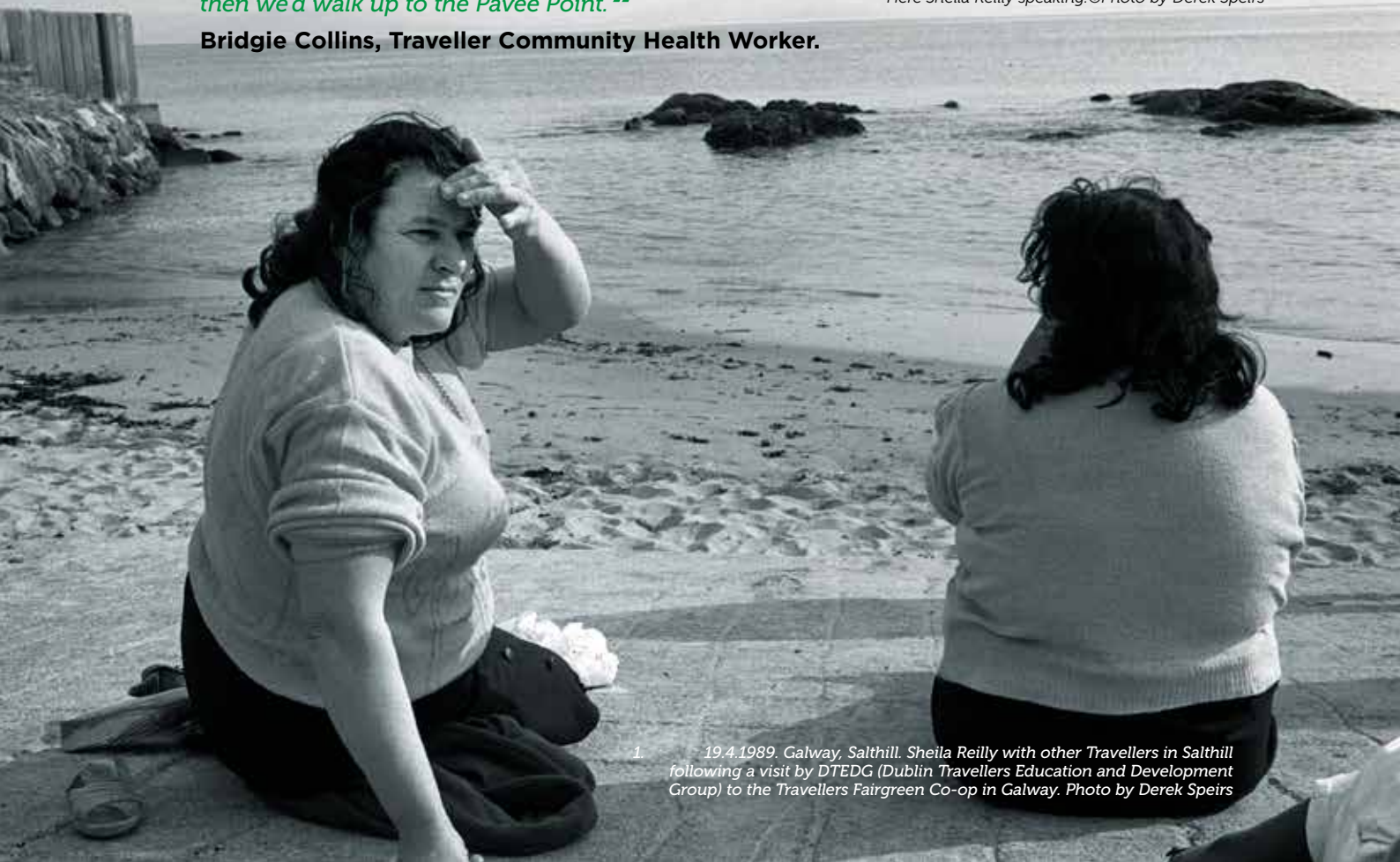
“ She loved coming in and she loved the women. She had good times with us and we had with her. She also used to love going out and doing the groundwork two days a week. She loved working; she loved coming into Pavee Point. We used to get up at five in the morning. We'd get together and get the half seven bus and we'd get off at the Big Tree and we'd go to half-eight Mass on Church Street. She loved going to Mass, she was very religious and she was good natured. We'd come out of Mass and then we'd walk up to the Pavee Point. ”

Bridgie Collins, Traveller Community Health Worker.



Top Photo:
13.6.19. Dublin, Ireland. Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre. Launch of Traveller Horse Ownership Research by Minister for Equality, David Stanton, TD. ©Photo by Derek Speirs

Bottom Photo:
17.9.21. Dublin, Ireland. CULTURE NIGHT at the Wood Quay Amphitheatre. Presentation of Traveller Culture. Tinsmithing demonstration by Traveller Tinsmiths; James Collins and Tom McDonnell, with Molly Collins, Brigid Collins & Sheila Reilly talking about Traveller Culture. Presentation MC was Geraldine McDonnell. Here Sheila Reilly speaking. ©Photo by Derek Speirs



1. 19.4.1989. Galway, Salthill. Sheila Reilly with other Travellers in Salthill following a visit by DTEDG (Dublin Travellers Education and Development Group) to the Travellers Fairgreen Co-op in Galway. Photo by Derek Speirs

IMPORTANT TRAVELLER VOICE HEARD ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Pavee Point was delighted to attend a stakeholder forum with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to highlight the need to include Travellers, Roma and other marginalised groups when talking about Sustainable Development Goals.

Mary Brigid Collins, Primary Health Care Coordinator, spoke at the event.

“ Travellers and Roma want to be healthy. We want to live long and happy lives. We want to live lives where we do not die 15 years less than the general population, or experience 7 times more suicides, ” she said.

“ We want to make the right choices for our health –whether that is to walk, to cycle, to get public transport. Unfortunately, we can’t always do that, because we live in places that don’t have the right roads, cycle lanes, or are polluted from being near motorways and dumps. ”

Pavee Point also highlighted some of the areas where Travellers are left out. For example, retrofitting and grants are largely unavailable to Traveller and Roma families due to the type of accommodation that they live in. Energy poverty also not being addressed for Travellers, especially those living in trailers. Mary Brigid said,

“ The message today, is that Travellers want to be involved. The poorest and most marginalised should have a seat at the table. ”

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Information and Communications is a critical part of Pavee Point’s work. The bulk of the work consisted of supporting Pavee Point programmes with communications outputs. The programme played a particular role in publicising 30 Years Celebration of Primary Health Care for Travellers Projects, main events such as Traveller and Roma Men’s Health Day, Culture Night, ‘Never Again’ Roma Genocide Memorial Event, Heritage Week and others online and through the press. The Information and Communications programme secured 16 pieces of national and regional press coverage specifically on Pavee Point achievements and events. The team also issued statements on some of the main human rights issues of the year including the introduction of renewed Hate Crime and Hate Speech legislation, racism, poverty and social deprivation.

Information sessions for the public were held on a case-by-case basis, specifically tailored to the needs of the groups. Pavee Point also continued to respond to information requests via email, telephone and social media messaging.

The Programme supported publications, leaflets and brochures from all teams, providing advice on dissemination, and design work. The Programme ran campaigns on social media and the website in advance of the elections and referenda to encourage Travellers and Roma to use their vote. Information and Communications also increased the amount of video content posted to Pavee Point social media to increase accessibility.

Pavee Point social media following steadily increased, on LinkedIn, where our following increased threefold in 2024 from circa 400 followers to over 1500 by year end.

SHOWING SOLIDARITY

Pavee Point continued to show solidarity with other marginalised and minority ethnic groups, who experience racism and discrimination marginalised, racialised and minoritised communities. Throughout the year, the organisation attended Solidarity Marches organised by Le Cheile. Pavee Point and other Traveller organisations took part in the Dublin Pride parade. The organisation also showed its support of the Palestinian people by attending several Irish Palestine Solidarity Campaign marches in the capital.

LINKING LOCAL TO GLOBAL – PAVEE POINT'S INTERNATIONAL WORK

Throughout 2024, Pavee Point continued its policy and advocacy work internationally. In February, Pavee Point attended the 4th Review of Ireland's progress in implementing the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The organisation raised a number of important issues regarding Traveller and Roma health, accommodation and poverty in Ireland.

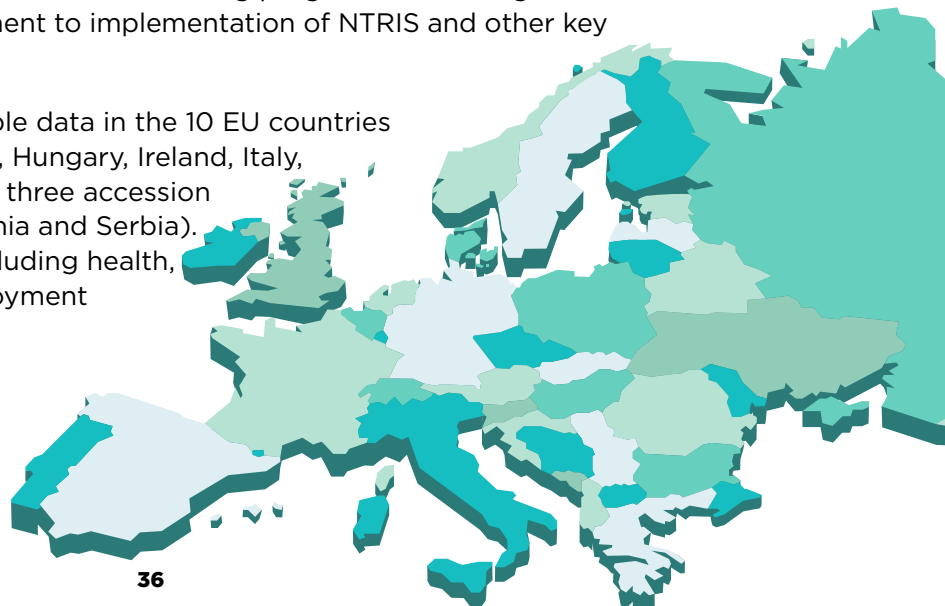
2024 marked 80 years since the Roma Genocide. Pavee Point attended the 17th Meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller Civil Society 'Teaching Roma and Traveller History', to see how these atrocities could be taught in the classroom. Pavee Point was delighted to welcome the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe, Michael O'Flaherty. Mr O'Flaherty visited Ireland as part of the Council's work to improve the human rights situation of Roma and Travellers, which is one of the priorities of his 6-year mandate, along with developing a Human Rights Action Plan.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AGENCY RESEARCH ON TRAVELLERS AND ROMA

Pavee Point played a crucial role in conducting research on behalf of the European Fundamental Rights Agency with Travellers and Roma in Ireland. This research will form a valued and much needed basis of policy development at a local, national and international level going forward.

The European Fundamental Rights Agency conducted research on Travellers and Roma across 13 European Countries. This is a follow-up to the 2019 survey, and it is the first time in Ireland that Roma were included. The Irish survey, which was directly supported by Pavee Point, consisted of surveys with 415 Travellers and 106 Roma across the country. The data collection was undertaken by peer-researchers in local Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma, reflecting a participative approach. The research was significant undertaking and the intention that the data will provides the State (and more broadly the European Commission) with a baseline for monitoring progress and driving a coordinated response with a resolved commitment to implementation of NTRIS and other key government policies.

The research will collect comparable data in the 10 EU countries (Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain) and three accession countries (Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia). Research covers several topics including health, education, accommodation, employment and discrimination and racism.



FINAL UPDATE ON IRELAND'S REVIEW UNDER INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (ICESCR)

The 4th Review of Ireland's progress in implementing the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) took place in February in Geneva. A number of important issues included in Pavee Point's submission were raised by the Committee including health, accommodation, education and poverty.



Civil society representatives with Rapporteur on Ireland Serey Nonthasoot.



NGOs attend a screen of the review at the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

17TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE DIALOGUE WITH ROMA AND TRAVELLER CIVIL SOCIETY 'TEACHING ROMA AND TRAVELLER HISTORY'

Pavee Point were represented at the 17th Meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with other Traveller and Roma organisations from across Europe. The meeting focused on 'Teaching Roma and Traveller History,' and included a strong emphasis on Roma Holocaust Remembrance, Recognition and Education.

The event included contributions from Elise Cornu, Head of Division of National Minorities and Minority Languages, Council of Europe, Arthur CHAPMAN, Professor of History Education, Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment, University College London, UK and Jean Philippe Restoueix, History Education Division, Council of Europe. Much of the discussion centred around the absence of Roma and Traveller history in school curricula throughout Europe and the importance of teaching history.

PAVEE POINT WELCOMES COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Pavee Point was delighted to host Michael O'Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe, during his visit to Dublin in October 2024.

"The Commissioner has championed Travellers and Roma rights throughout his career, long before taking up his post at the Council of Europe. So, we are very pleased that one of his key priorities now is to further improve the rights of our communities,"
said Martin Collins, Co-Director.



Commissioner for Human Rights, Michael O'Flaherty, at a meeting at Pavee Point, Photo: Candice Imbert

Mr O'Flaherty became Commissioner in January 2024. He travelled to Dublin this week as part of the Council's work to improve the human rights situation of Roma and Travellers, which is one of the priorities of his 6-year mandate, along with developing a Human Rights Action Plan.

During his visit to Pavee Point, the Commissioner met with Traveller organisations to discuss current concerns. He was particularly interested in hearing the experiences of Traveller and Roma women and young people. Issues raised at the meeting included the need for implementation and resourcing of existing policies, including the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS II) and the Traveller and Roma Education Strategy (TRES); the need for ethnic data and resourcing of independent and autonomous Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma.

In the afternoon he visited halting sites and Traveller accommodation schemes across Dublin to see the living conditions and meet people living there. The Commissioner is compiling information from his visits into memoranda due to be published in 2025.

GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

Pavee Point is registered with the Charities Regulator and complies with Section 848A of the Taxes Consolidation Act. During 2022 a number of organisational policies and procedures were updated. Pavee Point is fully compliant with SORP, and continues to ensure that all current legislation as required by the Charities Regulator is in place. Pavee Point also completed all required lobbying returns via www.lobbying.ie.

The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the organisation and its compliance with strategic objectives and reporting arrangements. Each Pavee Point Programme is required to provide annual reports to funders and to comply with strict funding criteria including service level agreements and steering committees represented of funders and external expertise where appropriate.



Financial Statement

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
DUBLIN TRAVELLERS EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Dublin Travellers Education and Development Group Company Limited By Guarantee for the year ended 31 December 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, effective 1 January 2019.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2024, and of its surplus for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014, having regard to the Charities SORP; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standards for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT - continued

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors Report thereon. Our opinion of the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance or conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken on the course of our audit, we report that:

- . in our opinion, the information given in the Directors Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- . in our opinion, the Directors Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we consider necessary for the purpose of our audit. In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to the going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT - continued

Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurances about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA's (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of user taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf. This description forms part of our auditors report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

FRANCIS KEANE

for and on behalf of

KCA

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

STATUTORY AUDITORS

27 May 2025

18A Redleaf Business Park

Turvey Avenue

Donabate

Co. Dublin

**DUBLIN TRAVELLERS EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

| | | Restricted Funds | Unrestricted Funds | Total Funds | Total Funds |
|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Note | 2024 € | 2024 € | 2024 € | 2023 € |
| Income | | | | | |
| Donations and Gifts | 4 | - | 14,481 | 14,481 | 4,294 |
| Charitable Activities | 4 | 3,275,952 | 62,800 | 3,338,752 | 2,787,235 |
| Other trading activities | 4 | - | 90 | 90 | 477 |
| Other income | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| Total Income Resources | | 3,275,952 | 77,371 | 3,353,323 | 2,792,006 |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Charitable Activities | 5 | 2,868,592 | 47,125 | 2,915,717 | 2,491,139 |
| Total Expenditure | | 2,868,592 | 47,125 | 2,915,717 | 2,491,139 |
| Net income | | 407,360 | 30,246 | 437,606 | 300,867 |
| Transfer between funds | | - | - | - | - |
| Net Movements in Funds | | 407,360 | 30,246 | 437,606 | 300,867 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 815,713 | 606,168 | 1,421,881 | 1,121,014 |
| Fund balances carried forward | | 1,223,073 | 636,414 | 1,859,487 | 1,421,881 |

**DUBLIN TRAVELLERS EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

| | Note | 2024 € | 2023 € |
|--|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>ASSETS EMPLOYED:</u> | | | |
| FIXED ASSETS | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | 9 | <u>66,351</u> | <u>88,843</u> |
| | | <u>66,351</u> | <u>88,843</u> |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Debtors | 10 | 33,404 | 45,144 |
| Bank | 11 | <u>2,049,990</u> | <u>1,792,839</u> |
| | | <u>2,083,394</u> | <u>1,837,983</u> |
| CREDITORS (amounts falling due within one year) | 12 | <u>(290,258)</u> | <u>(504,945)</u> |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>1,793,136</u> | <u>1,333,038</u> |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | | <u><u>1,859,487</u></u> | <u><u>1,421,881</u></u> |
| <u>FINANCED BY:</u> | | | |
| RETAINED SURPLUS | | 1,859,487 | 1,421,881 |
| | | <u><u>1,859,487</u></u> | <u><u>1,421,881</u></u> |

Directors

Mairin Kenny

Date: 27 May 2025

Anastasia Crickley

**DUBLIN TRAVELLERS EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

| | 2024 € | 2023 € |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | |
| Surplus for the financial year | 437,606 | 300,867 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Depreciation | 20,352 | 19,254 |
| Loss/(profit) on disposal of fixed assets | 2,140 | (22,319) |
| Movement in debtors | 11,740 | 3,447 |
| Movement in creditors | (214,687) | (134,139) |
| Net cash generated from operating activities | <u>257,151</u> | <u>167,110</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Purchase of tangible assets | - | (59,733) |
| Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets | - | 33,500 |
| Net cash outflow from investing activities | <u>-</u> | <u>(26,233)</u> |
| Change in cash and cash equivalent | <u>257,151</u> | <u>140,877</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalent at the beginning of the year | <u>1,792,839</u> | <u>1,651,962</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year | <u>2,049,990</u> | <u>1,792,839</u> |
| | <u>257,151</u> | <u>140,877</u> |



PAVEE POINT
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

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