



PAVEE POINT

TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre Updates: May 2026

Dear colleagues,

We hope you are well and enjoying these sunny days.

Recent weeks at Pavee Point have been marked by important engagements across research, policy, and on the ground work. From hosting 'The Unheard 12 Million' exhibition and participating in EU Traveller and Roma Week 2026 in Brussels, to the launch of new research on Traveller substance use, this period has highlighted the importance of visibility, evidence gathering, and collective action in advancing Traveller and Roma rights.

Our policy and advocacy work has continued across areas including health, accommodation, education, employment, and violence against women, alongside ongoing efforts to support inclusion through initiatives such as the Civil Service Traveller and Roma Placement Programme, and anti-racism training for Government bodies, education and HSE staff.

Here are some highlights from our work in recent weeks.

Research

Launch of 'Traveller Substance Use in Ireland: A National Study'



Jennifer Murnane O'Connor at the launch of 'Traveller Substance Use in Ireland: A National Study'

'Traveller Substance Use in Ireland: A National Study' , a new piece of national research, was launched by Minister State for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor in April. The research was commissioned by the Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit and Pavee Point and undertaken by Trinity College Dublin. The research reveals the extent to which the social determinants of health have influenced substance use among Travellers. Described as an 'epidemic of seismic proportions' the report outlines key issues and recommendations for addressing Traveller substance use. The research is timely given the development of the successor National Drugs Strategy and associated Action Plan due to be published by the summer. We look forward to seeing Traveller specific actions and the inclusion of Traveller organisations represented on the monitoring structures.

Read about the report and the launch [here](#).

[Read our submission on the Draft National Drugs Strategy](#)

Marking EU Traveller & Roma Week 2026

Roma Week at the European Parliament



As part of [EU Roma Week](#), Pavee Point recently presented at a European Parliament event co-organised by the European Roma Grassroots Organisation Network and the Council of Europe. Discussing the 2024–2025 [Roma Index \(RIPE\)](#) report, we emphasized the importance of solidarity; linking to the global in order to protect the rights of Travellers, Roma and other marginalised groups. This is at a time where we are seeing the weakening of human rights protections across the globe and the instrumentalisation of rights and equality.

Our presentation advocated for an intersectional approach across EU, Council of Europe, and UN mechanisms. We further highlighted the need of an autonomous civil society, resourced and recognised by Member States and international bodies as critical partners in monitoring policy implementation and impact.

Pavee Point Hosts Commissioner for Human Rights, CoE Exhibition



As part of EU Traveller/Roma week and International Traveller and Roma Day, we were delighted to host the [‘The Unheard 12 Million’](#) photography exhibition by Michael O’ Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The exhibition features the lived reality for Travellers and Roma throughout Europe, including Ireland. The exhibition, and associated book, is now touring Europe.

[Read about the visit of ‘The Unheard 12 Million’ here](#)

Opre Roma! event in Longford



To mark International Traveller and Roma Day 2026, Pavee Point attended a gathering and celebration that took place at the Longford Arms Hotel on April 8th, organised by Longford Community Resources CLG. Events like International Traveller & Roma Day, and 'Opre Roma!' month, are vital as a way of celebrating identity and reminding us all of the importance of equality, inclusion, respect and solidarity.

[Read more here.](#)

National and EU Policy Developments

'This is beyond a humanitarian crisis' - Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing



Pavee Point, alongside the National Traveller Women's Forum, the Irish Traveller Movement and Ballyfermot Traveller Action Project, addressed the [Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#) on the question of Traveller accommodation. The session addressed Traveller Accommodation Plans and recommendations of the Expert Group on Traveller Accommodation. Read our opening statement [here](#)

'Structures of Engagement for Survivors of Violence Against Women'

We are pleased that our recommendations to ensure the vital role and expertise of the community sector, including Traveller organisations, were included in the recent report, 'Structures of Engagement for Survivors of Violence Against Women' This is critical to ensuring collective analysis and supporting collective outcomes for all survivors, including Travellers, Roma and other marginalised and minority ethnic groups. [Read the report here](#)

Minister Dara Calleary announces the introduction of Domestic Violence Travel Supplement

Pavee Point welcomes the announcement by Minister Dara Calleary that, from May 5th, travel expenses will be covered for those experiencing domestic abuse, initially for three months and extendable where needed. Supports will be delivered through community welfare services, including refuges.

While the current measure is not a panacea in addressing DSGBV, it represents an important step in providing vital support to women, including Traveller, Roma, and other marginalised and migrant women who face significant additional barriers. [Read more here](#).

Positive Action in the Civil Service: Traveller and Roma Placement Programme



(Picture) A check-in on April 27th, with participants in the Civil Service Traveller and Roma Placement Programme

Pavee Point and Involve are the [national contact points](#) for the Civil Service Traveller and Roma Placement Programme and we were delighted to participate in a gathering of participants alongside the National Traveller Women's Forum and the Irish Traveller Movement. The Programme is a commitment in the NTRIS, and aims to increase the participation and inclusion of Travellers and Roma in Irish Civil Service. We look forward to continuing to support this important initiative.

Universal Periodic Review

The United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a peer review mechanism through which UN Member States assess each country's human rights record and make recommendations for improvement. Ireland will be reviewed at the 53rd session of the UPR Working Group in November this year.

Pavee Point has engaged in each UPR cycle, recognising it as a key mechanism for independent scrutiny and accountability on Ireland's human rights performance. For this cycle, a Coalition of Traveller and Roma organisations have submitted an alternative report and is preparing for further engagement with the process.

[Read the Coalition's submission here.](#)

National Traveller and Roma Strategy

Pavee Point continues to be represented on the National Traveller and Roma Strategy (NTRIS II) Steering Group and attended the second annual meeting of the NTRIS Forum on March 26th in Dublin, joining stakeholders from across Traveller and Roma organisations and the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

The Forum was a space to review progress on the implementation of the NTRIS II at local level, while also looking ahead to the development of new actions under the next NTRIS II Action Plan for 2027–2028. Discussions reflected both the advances made and the ongoing challenges in delivering meaningful change.

The first Annual NTRIS II Report 2025 can be accessed [here](#).

National Research - Travellers and Disability

Pavee Point was delighted to be awarded funding from the National Disability Authority to undertake important national research on Travellers & disability. The research will commence this year and will focus on barriers, facilitators, and recommendations for policy and service provision as related to Travellers and disability. We look forward to providing updates and publication of the research once complete.

Health Updates

National Traveller Health Action Plan

Pavee Point continues to be represented on the National Traveller Health Implementation Group (NTHIG) along with other Traveller organisations. We welcome the establishment of a National Traveller Health Unit by the HSE which will provide additional resources to support the work of the NTHIG. We look forward to working in partnership with the Unit, as the National Traveller Health Specialist Support Agency, in driving implementation of the NTHAP nationally and regionally along with local Traveller organisations/PHCTPs. We also look forward to working with the HSE and Department of Health to ensure recommendations of the recent PHCTP review are implemented, including pay rates for Traveller Health Workers, workforce planning and training.

International Conference on Integrated Care, 2026, Birmingham



The 26th International Conference on Integrated Care, held in Birmingham in April, focused on the theme 'Integrated Care for All: Promoting Health and Wellbeing Through Diversity'. The conference highlighted how integrated health and social care can better serve minority or marginalised groups.

Mary Brigid Collins, Coordinator of the Primary Health Care Project, participated in the panel discussion, 'How can Lived Experience Challenge Policy and Shape Strategy?' She highlighted the need to ensure a community development approach and collective analysis of key issues impacting on Travellers, Roma and other marginalised groups.

Stall, Pause and Use your Nuck

Social Determinants of Health

April 2026

80% of a person's health outcomes are influenced by factors outside of the healthcare system. These are known as the social determinants of health and include factors such as racism, discrimination, accommodation, education and employment.

7/10 health service providers themselves agreed that anti-Traveller racism and discrimination occur within health services.

39% of Travellers in Ireland experience discrimination when accessing healthcare services.

63% of Travellers live in overcrowded conditions.

42% of Travellers in Ireland live in housing deprivation.

50% of Traveller reported difficulty reading instructions on their medications.

TRAVELLERS AND ROMA AGAINST RACISM

What can you do to provide more inclusive, accessible and culturally appropriate services, for everyone, including Travellers?

www.pavepoint.ie

Traveller Ethnicity

February 2026

Travellers have been **part of Irish society for centuries**, long before the Irish Famine.

In the Equal Status Act "Traveller community" is defined as: "The community of people who are commonly called Travellers and who are identified (both by themselves and others) as people with a **shared history, culture and traditions including, historically, a nomadic way of life on the island of Ireland.**"

Ethnicity is a term used to refer to a group of people who identify with each other because of a shared and distinctive culture, ancestry, language, religion, or nationality. **Ethnicity should always be identified by the individual** and it should not be assumed by others.

For decades, Traveller organisations campaigned for formal recognition of Travellers as an ethnic minority group — a vital step in **addressing racism and discrimination** and ensuring that Travellers were acknowledged as a distinct ethnic community within their own country.

In 2017, Taoiseach Enda Kenny made a statement in Dail Éireann formally recognising Irish Travellers as an ethnic minority group. While this marked a **significant milestone, ongoing inequality, racism and discrimination** mean that substantial challenges remain.

Health services are for everyone and it's important we treat all service users, including Travellers and Roma with dignity and respect.

www.pavepoint.ie

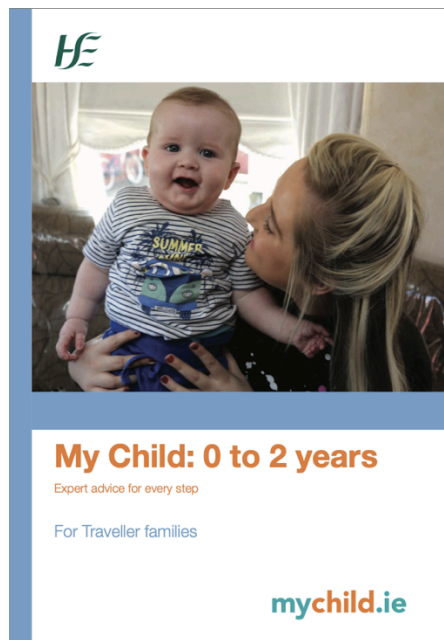
The Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit Maternal & Child Health Subgroup have developed a series of infographics entitled 'Stall, Pause and Use your Nuck' (Stop, pause and use your head' in Cant) promoting Traveller inclusion in health services. We encourage all services, beyond maternity units to use these resources and will be rolling out further ones into the coming months.

Access the first two infographics

here: ['Stall, Pause and Use your Nuck' 1](#)

and here: ['Stall, Pause and Use your Nuck' 2](#)

Traveller-specific My Child Book launched



The first national Traveller-specific 'My Child: 0 to 2 years' resource was launched in March. This resource was developed through a partnership between Pavee Point and the HSE National Healthy Childhood Programme.

The resource, adapted by Traveller women for Traveller women, aims to support Traveller families through the initial stages of parenthood - from newborn to 2 years old. Along with the input and expertise of Traveller Primary Health Care Projects, the book also includes contributions from health providers. [Download 'My Child: 0 to 2 years' here.](#)

Keeping your baby safe: What Traveller parents can do

Traveller Health Unit

Keeping your baby safe: What Traveller parents can do.

What to Expect
It's normal for babies to feel the following things after vaccines:

- Tired** (Icon: Zzz in a thought bubble)
- Sore** (Icon: Baby with lightning bolts on the back)
- High Temperature** (Icon: Thermometer)
- Cranky** (Icon: Sad face)

If you're worried, always speak with your nurse, doctor, or pharmacist.

Immunisation.ie

[Download 'Keeping your baby safe: What Traveller parents can do' here.](#)

World Maternal Mental Health Day, Wednesday May 6th

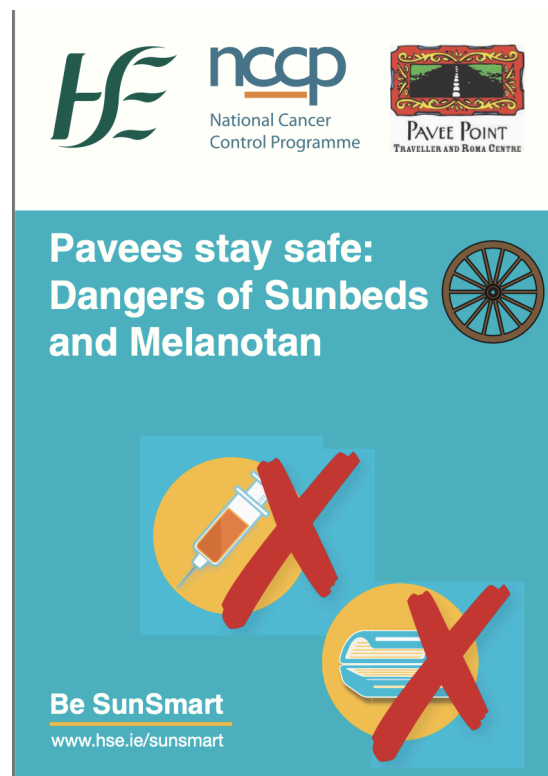


Traveller and Roma women and infants continue to experience significantly poorer perinatal health outcomes, alongside other minority ethnic groups, when compared to the general population. Traveller women in particular have a higher risk of frequent mental distress and

suicide. We marked World Maternal Mental Health Day on the 6th of May to highlight that all women can experience poor mental health during and after pregnancy; there are supports available without judgement and if in need reach out.

[More information available here.](#)

Sunbed Use



The HSE National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) and Pavee Point are working in partnership to highlight dangers of sunbeds and Melanotan, with a new SunSmart resource launched. Pavees stay safe: Dangers of Sunbeds and Melanotan aims to raise awareness of the serious health risks associated with sunbed use and the unregulated tanning product Melanotan.

The leaflet is being distributed through HSE and Traveller organisations/PHCTPs, including Pavee Point, supporting ongoing efforts under the [National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2023-2026](#) to reduce skin cancer risk across Ireland.

The leaflet is available for download here: [Be SunSmart](#)
[Listen to Pavee Point Primary Health Care Coordinator, Mary Brigid Collins, speak on Newstalk Radio about the new resource.](#) (Interview 18mins into clip)

Traveller & Roma Men Take On Croagh Patrick to mark International Traveller and Roma Day



As part of our ongoing work with Traveller men to 'talk and hike,' Pavee Point, along with the Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit, brought together Travellers, Roma, and non-Travellers/Roma for International Traveller and Roma Day. This was a powerful day of solidarity and a celebration of culture, identity and heritage. It also provided an opportunity to discuss key health issues. There are more events planned in the coming months, including a pilgrimage hike through the Camino. So stay tuned. [Read more about the event here](#)

Traveller Mental Health Specialist group

The Traveller Mental Health Specialist Group was established by Minister Butler to support the development of a Traveller Mental Health Action Plan. The group will commence a consultation process shortly to draft the Plan. More information to come.

Traveller and Roma Education Updates

Mid-term Progress Review of the National Access Plan: A Strategic Action Plan for Equity of Access, Participation and Success in Higher Education 2022-2028



Pavee Point engaged in the Mid-Term Progress Review of the National Access Plan: A Strategic Action Plan for Equity of Access, Participation and Success in Higher Education 2022-2028, which assesses progress in improving access to higher education for priority groups, including Traveller and Roma students. While some positive progress has been recorded, particularly for

Traveller participation, gaps remain. This review provides an important opportunity to strengthen commitments and ensure more equitable access to higher education moving forward.

Consultation on Roma Education

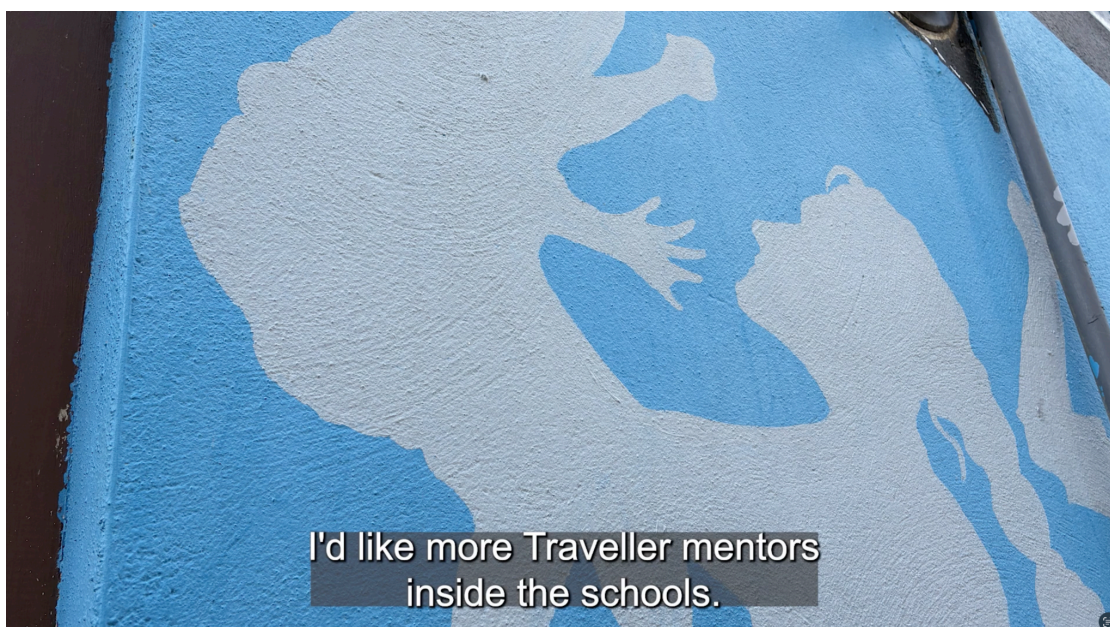
Pavee Point and the Department of Education recently held a consultation with groups working with Roma to support the development of the next Traveller and Roma Education Strategy Action Plan (2026–2028), with a specific focus on the inclusion of Roma specific actions.

A second consultation was also held with Traveller and Roma children and young people, in partnership with Donegal Travellers Project.

A consultation report will be prepared and used to inform the Action Plan which is due by the end of the summer.

[Read about the consultation here.](#)

Still Not Welcome - The Voices of Young Travellers



Watch ['Still Not Welcome - The Voices of Young Travellers'](#), a short film with a moving and powerful message.

The film, produced by The Traveller Visibility Group and The Southern Traveller Health Network, in collaboration with Cork Community Media Hub, highlights the experiences of young Travellers at school and the impact on mental and physical health.

Arts, Heritage and Culture

Bealtaine Festival and the Older Traveller Award



(Picture) President Catherine Connolly, Caoimhe McCabe, Pavee Point Arts, Culture and Heritage Coordinator and Nancy Collins, Traveller Community Health Worker, at the launch of Bealtaine Festival for arts and ageing. The launch was hosted by President Connolly at Áras an Uachtaráin. [Read more here.](#)

The Bealtaine Festival is Ireland's national celebration of the arts and ageing, encouraging audiences to embrace later life as a time of vitality, energy and reinvention. According to the [Department of Health](#), Traveller "ageing" begins at 40+ which is significantly lower than the general population due to disproportionate levels of mortality and morbidity. Although there are some [positive shifts](#) in overall Traveller life expectancy.

Keep an eye on our social media over the next few weeks for news of this year's Pavee Point / Bealtaine Festival 'Older Traveller Artist Award'.

Traveller Wellbeing Through Creativity

The Traveller Wellbeing Through Creativity Programme has received a very strong level of interest! Funding will be announced on March 20th. We are seeing some very exciting ideas emerge in these applications so keep an eye on our social media feeds for updates on the projects that go forward.

Important Dates/ Opportunities

Launch of Traveller An Post Stamps, Thursday May 14th

The first ever stamps honouring Irish Traveller history and culture will be issued by An Post on May 14. The issue is titled "Irish Traveller History and Culture" and will feature two separate stamps. A special celebration event will be held at the GPO, Dublin.

Traveller Pride Week, May 14th - 21st



TRAVELLER PRIDE WEEK
CELEBRATE • INSPIRE • EMPOWER

OUR HISTORY.
OUR PRIDE.
OUR FUTURE.

THEME 2026
**LOOKING BACK,
MOVING FORWARD:**
BEING AN INDIVIDUAL WHILE
CELEBRATING OUR COLLECTIVE HISTORY.

18TH – 29TH MAY
A week of events celebrating Traveller culture, identity,
and community across the country.

LAUNCH EVENT
TRAVELLER PRIDE AWARDS
Honouring outstanding achievements
and kicking off a week of celebration.
21ST MAY

EVENTS NATIONWIDE
Community events, workshops, arts, music, sport, and more
happening across Ireland

COMMUNITY | WORKSHOPS & LEARNING | ARTS, MUSIC & CULTURE | SPORT | EVENTS FOR ALL AGES

HOST YOUR OWN EVENT
Grants of up to **€3,000** available to support local events!

APPLICATION FORM AVAILABLE VIA:
travellerprideweek@gmail.com

Let's come together
to celebrate Traveller
pride, resilience, and
excellence.

PROUD PAST. STRONG PRESENT. BRIGHT FUTURE.

Traveller Pride Week 2026 will be launched at the unveiling of the new Traveller stamps by An Post on 14th May.

***** Save the Date!*** The National Traveller Awards will take place the following Thursday, May 21st, at the Pillar Room, the Rotunda** and will be live streamed on social media with our MC Martin Beanz Warde. A wide range of local events, open to the public, will take place around the country the following week. All info at www.travellerprideweek.org.

Annual Traveller and Roma Men's Health Day, Tuesday June 16th



Pavee Point will hold its Annual Traveller and Roma Men's Health Day on Tuesday 16th of June in the Phoenix Park. This event is organised by Pavee Point along with the Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit and Network and aims to address Traveller and Roma health inequalities. It's a day to bring together services, Travellers, Roma, Traveller orgs and groups working with Roma.

There will be lots of activities and free health checks on the day. All are welcome and anyone can take part. However, for those interested in participating in the John O'Connell Memorial Football Tournament, registration is required.

Team spaces for the football tournament are filling up fast so if you're interested in putting a team into the competition, get in contact with john.collins@pavee.ie or michael.collins@pavee.ie or 01 8780255.

Keep an eye on our social media and websites for more details closer to the date.

Saturday 9th of May, Darkness Into Light



Darkness Into Light 2026, the annual 5km walk supporting Pieta's suicide and self-harm prevention services, takes place on Saturday, May 9th, at 4:15 a.m. Register on the [official website](#) to join a walk, or participate through "your own way" initiatives to help raise funds.

Travellers experience a suicide rate that is 6 times higher than the general population.

Not yet with the ashes this ragged thing / Ni a gye a sloha a turpog
inox

A special launch event is due to take place on Thursday 14th May at 12 pm with Dublin Book Festival for a new poem by Oein DeBhairduin, Not yet with the ashes this ragged thing / Ni a gye a sloha a turpog inox.

This poem was written in response to Oein's experience of rereading the Commission on Itinerancy Report (1963)

[See here for full details and booking](#)

Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign National Demonstration in May

On May 16th Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign will host a National Demonstration in Dublin, themed 'End 78 Years of Ongoing Nakba'.

RCSI Traveller and Roma Access Scholarship

The RCSI Traveller and Roma Communities Access Scholarship aims to increase participation in undergraduate programs (including Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy).

The scholarship is open to applicants eligible for the HEAR program, and the deadline for application is July 1st. [Find the full details here](#)

Pavee Point seek Policy and Research Officer

We are looking to recruit a Policy and Research Officer.

This is a new role and an exciting opportunity for a candidate with a strong interest in equality, human rights and social justice. The Policy & Research Officer will work closely with management and programme teams to lead and support Pavee Point's policy, research and advocacy work.

Closing date- 28th May 2026 (by 5pm). [Read more details here](#)