



PAVEE POINT

TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

Updates: July 3rd 2026

We hope you are well and enjoying some sunshine between the showers! With the warmer weather and [disproportionate rates of cancer amongst Travellers](#), please take good care in the sun and [stay Sun Smart](#).

The last few weeks have been particularly busy. We marked the annual Traveller and Roma Men's Health Day, Ireland took on the Presidency of the Council of the EU with the launch of its Presidency Programme, and we saw the publication of several important reports.

It's set to be a busy summer, with the Pre-session of Ireland taking place in August ahead of the 4th Universal Periodic Review of Ireland by UN Member States, Annual Roma Holocaust Memorial Day on 2 August, and preparations already under way for the European Platform for Traveller/Roma Inclusion in Dublin in November. We'll keep you updated on these as the summer progresses.

Recent Highlights

Report on Traveller Health and Mental Health released by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Key Issues Affecting the Traveller Community



Pavee Point welcomes the publication of the [Report on Traveller Health and Mental Health](#) by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Key Issues Affecting the Traveller Community. This is the first of a series of reports expected to be compiled by the Committee based on its findings. Committee Chair George Lawlor described the findings as stark evidence of “systemic neglect” and a “pervasive lack of hope,” reflecting a pattern of racism, discrimination and neglect that has left Travellers feeling abandoned. In the [Examiner this week](#), Mick Clifford also comments on the report and on the need for political will and courage in tackling key issues, writing, “there is precious little interest in examining why a group within society is forced to exist in quiet desperation.”

The report recommendations call for urgent action, including strengthening accountability, improving ethnic equality monitoring, and providing sustainable, ring-fenced investment in Traveller health. We are pleased to see the Committee endorse recommendations from Pavee Point's '[Beyond the Poverty Trap](#)' report, including sustained funding for Primary Health Care for Traveller Projects.

We are glad to see that Tánaiste Simon Harris has acknowledged the report as ‘a valuable piece of work’ highlighting the inequalities and the impact of anti-Traveller racism discrimination on health status. The Tánaiste has committed to the Government’s consideration of its findings, and to further engagement from the Minister for Health, which is to be welcomed.

Read the full report [here](#) and our statement [here](#).

Annual National Traveller & Roma Men's Health Day



We were delighted that over 300 Traveller and Roma men from across Ireland came together with health and other services for the 12th annual National Traveller and Roma Men's Health Day. Taking place as part of Men's Health Week, the event combined sport with health promotion, health checks and information on cancer prevention, mental wellbeing, and smoking cessation available throughout the day.

Huge congratulations to the Mayo Traveller Movement Football Team, who brought home the John O'Connell Cup with a hard-fought 3-0 win over Roscommon Travellers in the day's football tournament.

See our coverage of the day [here](#) and [here](#).

Watch Virgin Media News's coverage of the event [here](#).

Pavee Point participates in Annual Pride Event



Pavee Point has always taken part in Dublin Pride, standing in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, including LGBTQ+ Travellers and Roma. This year was no different as we held a [gathering in Pavee Point](#) and [marched in the parade](#), alongside other Traveller organisations and the broader community sector.

Fingal County Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage appear before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Key Issues Affecting the Traveller Community



On July 2nd, representatives of Fingal County Council and the Department of Housing appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Key Issues Affecting the Traveller Community to respond to [ongoing concerns raised by Pavee Point](#), the Committee and Traveller residents of Dunsink Lane regarding the future of Traveller-specific accommodation in the area.

Dunsink is currently home to more than 100 Travellers across three sites for over 55 years and is in need of urgent upgrade and refurbishment. Fingal County Council launched the first phase of its public consultation on the [Draft Urban Area Plan](#) which includes the re-designation of over 1000 acres in the area to create a new urban quarter. A consultation process has been initiated by the council which is to be welcomed.

Council representatives responded to the Committee on their plans to meet with residents and include the accommodation needs of local Traveller families in the proposed development.

Watch the committee meeting [here](#).

Policy & Legislative Developments

[Ireland Takes on the EU Presidency](#)

On July 1st, Ireland assumed the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the eighth time, a role it will hold until December 2026. The Presidency will focus on three key priorities: competitiveness, values and security.

The Irish Presidency provides an opportunity to reinforce the EU's commitment to an inclusive union underpinned by the EU's founding values: respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including Travellers, Roma and other minority and marginalised groups. This is particularly important

given the rise in the far-right aimed at sowing division across the EU, including Ireland.

We are pleased that the [Presidency Policy Programme commits](#) explicitly to tackling racism and advocating for the rights of Travellers and Roma (along with other marginalised groups). This includes commitments to the effective implementation of the EU Roma Strategic Framework (Ireland's NTRIS II) and the EU Anti-Racism Strategy 2026-2030.

See [here](#) for a full programme of national and local [events](#), including [high-level meetings](#).

Concerns Over Housing Bill



Pavee Point, alongside [other organisations](#), has raised serious concerns about the Housing and Residential Tenancies (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2026. The proposed legislation would introduce new legal and habitual residence conditions for access to social housing and could also be extended to emergency accommodation which would have a devastating impact on already marginalised or migrant communities, including Travellers and Roma. We are very concerned that the Bill is progressing through the Oireachtas with limited opportunity for proper scrutiny, consultation, and assessment of its human rights and equality impacts.

Read our joint press release on the Bill [here](#).

Updates on Drugs Strategy and Policy

Recent developments mark important progress towards a more health-led approach to drug policy. The Department of Health has published its [consultation report on the successor to the National Drugs Strategy](#), with 87% of respondents supporting a health-led approach and calling for the direct participation and involvement of the community sector. [The Final Report of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Drugs Use](#) also recommends the decriminalisation of drug possession for personal use and a health-led, human rights-based and culturally appropriate support system for those most marginalised, including Travellers.

"This evidence shows that a largely criminal justice-focused approach has not worked well enough. It has not reduced harm, it has not supported people early enough, and in some cases, it has added to stigma and exclusion.

That is why this report is clear in its direction: Ireland must move to a health-led approach. This is about recognising drug use and addiction as a public health issue. It is about protecting young people, reducing risk and preventing harm, while making sure people can access the help they need when they need it.

"Our report calls for a comprehensive health-led response that prioritises prevention, harm reduction and recovery. Prevention to stop problems starting, harm reduction to save lives and reduce risk, and recovery to support people to rebuild their lives. It also recognises that addiction is often linked to wider issues – poverty, trauma, mental health and housing – and that these must be addressed together."

From comments made by Deputy chairperson, Senator Mary Fitzpatrick, at the launch of the Final Report of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Drugs Use

The two reports were published the same week as stakeholder engagement events were held by the Minister and the DoH to review regional governance structures for the Strategy. Pavee Point contributed to this forum and we look forward to all recommendations being taken on board in the final Strategy. This is important given the significant contributions and participation of the community sector, including Traveller organisations.

Access our research report on [‘Traveller Substance Use in Ireland: A National Study \(2026\)’](#).

Shaping Future Action on Violence Against Women

Pavee Point recently took part in two consultations to inform action on DSGBV. The first focused on a Shadow Report to GREVIO, the independent expert body that monitors implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention). The second informed the development of the Fourth National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (2027–2031), led by the Department of Justice and Cuan.

GREVIO's evaluation of Ireland has been postponed until autumn 2027. The community sector will be invited to contribute shadow reports. We will share information and our submission once finalised.

Traveller and Roma Education Strategy (TRES) 2024-2030

The TRES 2024–2030 Oversight Group met in June to progress the second TRES Action Plan (2026–2028), which is due to be published later this summer. A key message from the consultations is the need for targets, timelines and reinforced resourcing to address key educational differentials for Travellers and Roma.

You can read our submission on priorities for the second TRES Action Plan (2026–2028) [here](#).

Pre-Budget Forum 2027

Pavee Point recently attended the Pre-Budget 2027 Forum, organised by the Department of Social Protection. In our Pre-Budget 2027 submission we call on the Government to deliver on its commitments to Traveller and Roma equality through sustained, ring-fenced investment in health, education, employment, accommodation and other priorities set out in national policy frameworks. Read more about our key asks for budget 2027 [here](#).

New Publications & Reports

A number of important reports have been published in recent weeks, highlighting key issues affecting Travellers and Roma and providing recommendations to improve health, equality and social inclusion.

'Beyond Gender Quotas – Addressing the Political Exclusion of Traveller Women in Ireland' New report by the National Traveller Women's Forum.



Pavee Point welcomes the publication of '[Beyond Gender Quotas – Addressing the Political Exclusion of Traveller Women in Ireland](#)', an important piece of research by the National Traveller Women's Forum. The report notes that while 'Traveller women are deeply engaged in community leadership, advocacy and civil society,' structural and intersectional barriers to political representation remain a key issue.

The research explores these barriers and highlights the need for practical support including financial assistance, childcare, and stronger engagement from political parties to enable Traveller women to enter politics.

Recent publications of note include:

- [Final Report of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Drugs Use](#)
- [Report on Traveller Health and Mental Health](#)
- Children's Rights Alliance [Child Poverty Monitor 2026](#).
- Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children and Equality, [Report on Child Poverty and Deprivation](#).

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Traveller Mental Health Action Plan - Have Your Say

There is still time to have your say on the development of the Traveller Mental Health Action Plan. The Department of Health, together with the Traveller Mental Health Specialist Group, is inviting feedback through an [online survey](#) until the end of July 2026.

€1000 Traveller Older Artist Award

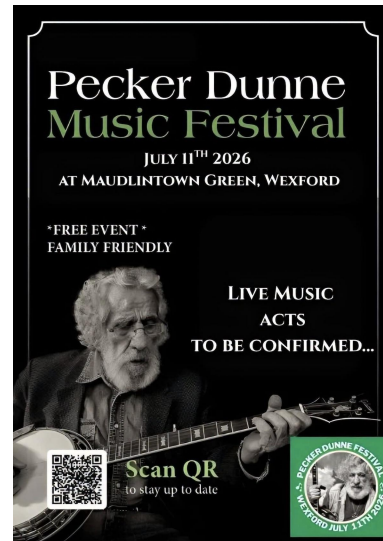
Applications are still open for the €1,000 Older Traveller Artist Award, which celebrates and supports the creativity of older Travellers. The deadline for applications is **12 noon on Thursday, July 23rd**.

*NOTE: There is a **new Whatsapp number** for applications: **089 444 2891**. If you have already sent a video or voice note application by Whatsapp, please forward it to this new number.*

Guidelines are available [here](#) and the application form is available [here](#).

Pecker Dunne Festival

The 2026 Pecker Dunne Festival takes place on **July 11th** on Maudlintown Green, celebrating Traveller culture, music and heritage in honour of the late Traveller musician and singer Pecker Dunne. The line-up includes Stephen "The Pecker" Dunne, Na Buachaillí, The Craic Pots, The Dublin Rovers, and many more. For more details, see the Festival's [Facebook](#) and [Tiktok](#) pages.



Save the Date: Misleór Festival, September 24–27 2026



The Misleór Festival returns from **September 24–27th**, 2026, celebrating Traveller culture, identity and creativity through film, music, performance, storytelling and the arts.

The festival is now seeking short film submissions ahead of the July 31st deadline. Submissions, and any artist suggestions or feedback for the 2026 programme, can be sent to misleorfestival@gmail.com.

The Long Grazing Acre

The Long Grazing Acre celebrates the incredible story of Irish Travellers' impact on traditional Irish music. This year, from Friday July 10th to Sunday July 12th Paddy Keenan invites friends from around Ireland for a weekend of music, songs, talks, skillsharing, and demonstrations of Traveller camping, bow tent making and tin smithing hosted by Common Knowledge at their centre near Kilfenora, North Clare. The weekend will also include an evening concert and sessions. Tickets available [here](#)

