

Ireland's Traveller and Roma Coalition – 4th Universal Periodic Review of Ireland

Pre-session Fact Sheet, August 2026

Who are Irish Travellers and Roma? Irish Travellers are a distinct minority ethnic group, formally acknowledged by the Irish State in 2017, with a shared history, culture and language. Roma are among the groups most affected by racism and discrimination in Europe. There are over 36,000 Irish Travellers and an estimated 16,049 Roma in Ireland. Travellers and Roma experience similar and longstanding forms of racism and discrimination, contributing to lower life expectancy, poorer health, education and employment outcomes, and inadequate accommodation.

Summary of key issues: Since the last UPR, we have welcomed broad legislative and policy commitments to advance Traveller and Roma rights, but there remains persistent and ongoing challenges with implementation. While Travellers and Roma are not the only minority ethnic groups experiencing racism and discrimination in Ireland, the inequalities they experience are distinctive, intergenerational and intersecting - including for Traveller and Roma women. Stronger implementation, accountability, equality monitoring and meaningful participation are essential to deliver measurable improvements and fulfil Ireland's human rights obligations.

Core request to UN Member States: Please ask the Irish State how existing Traveller and Roma commitments will be implemented, resourced, monitored and translated into measurable outcomes, with the meaningful participation by autonomous and resourced Traveller civil society organisations and groups working with Roma.

Priority Issue & Key Concern	Suggested Question to Irish State	Recommended Action
Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability & Participation Ireland has adopted important Traveller- and Roma-specific strategies, but implementation remains slow with insufficient targets, timelines, dedicated resources, coordination and oversight. The absence of consistent Ethnic Equality Monitoring limits the State's ability to assess progress, and Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma remain under-resourced and too often limited to consultation rather than shared decision-making.	What measures will Ireland take to ensure the full and coordinated implementation of Traveller and Roma policy commitments and human rights compliant ethnic equality monitoring across all relevant departments and agencies? How will Ireland ensure the meaningful and adequately resourced participation of Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma in the design, implementation and oversight of all relevant policies and actions?	Fully implement and resource the Second National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2024–2028 (NTRIS II) and related plans with clear targets, timelines and transparent reporting. Ensure Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma are adequately resourced to participate in meaningful implementation and oversight. Implement the National Equality Data Strategy 2026–2031 (NEDS) in line with human rights standards as a tool to monitor outcomes and inform action.
Anti-Traveller & Anti-Roma Racism Anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism remain pervasive across public services, employment, education, healthcare, accommodation and public discourse.	How will Ireland fully implement the National Action Plan Against Racism 2023–2027 (NAPAR), strengthen its anti-racism framework beyond 2027, and ensure hate crime and hate speech protections are effectively enforced?	Fully implement and resource NAPAR with measurable targets, independent oversight and meaningful participation by affected communities. Develop a strengthened framework beyond 2027, continuing to explicitly name anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism, and strengthen enforcement, reporting, training and victim supports in relation to hate crime and hate speech.
Key Intersecting Concerns		
Health Travellers and Roma experience significant health inequalities shaped by racism, poverty, inadequate accommodation and barriers to services. Traveller mental health remains at crisis point, while Roma face barriers to primary healthcare.	What timelines, budgets, targets and accountability mechanisms will Ireland put in place to implement the National Traveller Health Action Plan 2022–2027 (NTHAP), and the forthcoming Traveller Mental Health Action Plan and the Roma Health Action Plan?	Fully resource and implement the NTHAP. Develop and implement the Traveller Mental Health Action Plan and Roma Health Action Plan in partnership with Traveller organisations and groups working with Roma, addressing racism, access barriers and social determinants of health.

Accommodation & Housing Travellers face overcrowding, homelessness, unsafe conditions and a shortage of culturally appropriate accommodation. Roma face overcrowding, homelessness and legal and administrative barriers to housing supports. The Housing and Residential Tenancies (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2026, passed all stages of the Parliament without adequate scrutiny, extends residence conditions to social and emergency housing, risking exclusion of minority ethnic and migrant communities.	What immediate action will Ireland take to meet current and projected Traveller accommodation need and remove barriers affecting Roma access to housing and homelessness supports? Considering the number of calls by Irish civil society organisations, will Ireland conduct a full human rights and equality impact assessment of the Housing and Residential Tenancies (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2026 before enacting it?	Introduce clear targets, timelines and reporting for the delivery of culturally appropriate Traveller accommodation, and remove disproportionate administrative and eligibility barriers affecting Roma access to housing supports and emergency accommodation. Halt the extension of legal and habitual residence conditions to emergency homelessness accommodation under the Housing and Residential Tenancies (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2026 pending a full human rights and equality impact assessment.
Traveller & Roma Women, Children & Families Traveller and Roma women face intersecting discrimination, unaddressed in national women's equality and gender-based violence strategies. Many Roma families lack the documentation required under the Habitual Residence Condition (state policy), resulting in exclusion from social protection.	Will Ireland introduce Traveller and Roma-specific targets in national women's strategies, and ensure the Habitual Residence Condition is applied without excluding Roma families due to documentation, language or literacy barriers?	Include Traveller and Roma-specific targets and funding in national women's and gender-based violence strategies. Apply the Habitual Residence Condition in line with human rights obligations, ensuring practical access to social protection.
Education Travellers and Roma continue to experience systemic racism, discrimination, exclusion and bullying, resulting in persistent inequalities across all levels of education.	How will Ireland fully implement the National Traveller and Roma Education Strategy 2024–2030 (TRES), the National Access Plan: A Strategic Action Plan for Equity of Access, Participation and Success in Higher Education 2022–2028 (NAP), and the SOLAS Further Education and Training Strategy 2026–2030 (FET) to deliver measurable improvements for Travellers and Roma?	Ensure measurable improvements in access, participation and educational outcomes for Travellers and Roma by fully resourcing and implementing the National Traveller and Roma Education Strategy 2024–2030 (TRES) with clear targets, timelines, budgets and disaggregated monitoring, and by embedding explicit Traveller and Roma actions, targets and accountability within higher and further education strategies.
Employment, Training & Enterprise Travellers and Roma experience high unemployment and discrimination in recruitment, workplaces, training, apprenticeships and enterprise. A comprehensive employment plan remains outstanding.	When will Ireland deliver the committed Traveller and Roma Training, Employment and Enterprise Plan, and embed Traveller and Roma inclusion within mainstream employment and training strategies?	Develop and implement the Traveller and Roma Training, Employment and Enterprise Plan with clear targets, timelines and gender-sensitive indicators, and embed Traveller and Roma inclusion across employment, apprenticeship, enterprise and further education and training strategies.
Political Participation Travellers and Roma remain virtually absent from decision-making and political life with no effective State measures to address this.	What measures will Ireland take to improve Traveller and Roma representation in public and political institutions at national and local level?	Introduce special measures, including political representation quotas, at national and local level to improve Traveller and Roma participation in public and political life.
Access to Justice & Detention Travellers are significantly overrepresented in the prison population, often for non-violent, poverty-related offences, driven by structural racism and inadequate diversion measures.	What steps will Ireland take to address Traveller overrepresentation in prison, including Traveller women, and expand community-based alternatives and diversion programmes to custody?	Address the drivers of overrepresentation of Travellers in prison, expand community-based alternatives, and strengthen early intervention and pre- and post-release supports that acknowledge systemic and intergenerational inequality experienced by Travellers.

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