



PAVEE POINT

TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

August 2026 Updates

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We hope you have enjoyed the summer and had an opportunity to take a well-deserved break. In this update we share some of the main developments and information from the past few weeks.

Recent Highlights

Roma Genocide Memorial Day, 2 August



Allow me to say to all the young people listening to my story;
I ask you to learn about your history. I hope you will build a world without racism.
- Mr Dumitru Miclescu, Roma Holocaust survivor (1934 - 2026)

On 2 August, Pavee Point marked Roma Genocide Memorial Day, remembering the more than 500,000 Roma murdered by the Nazi regime and its collaborators during the Holocaust. The day commemorates the night of 2-3 August 1944, when over 3,000 Roma men, women and children were murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

This year, we paid tribute to Dumitru Miclescu, a survivor of the Roma genocide who passed away. In one of his final addresses to the United Nations, he spoke of the lifelong impact of persecution, displacement and discrimination, and urged young people to learn from history and build a future free from racism.

As we remember the victims of O Porajmos ("the Devouring"), we are reminded that anti-Roma racism did not end with the Holocaust. Pavee Point remains deeply concerned by the rise in anti-Roma sentiment in Ireland and across Europe. Roma Genocide Memorial Day is a powerful reminder of the importance of challenging racism, protecting human rights and ensuring that Roma voices are heard and respected.

Read our full statement [here](#).

Project Exchange with Mayo Traveller Movement



In July, our Primary Health Care for Travellers Project (PHCTP) visited Mayo Traveller Movement for a valuable opportunity to share learning on delivery of Primary Health Care for Travellers, to exchange ideas on outreach approaches, and to reflect together on the opportunities and challenges of this work.

Exchanges like this highlight the strength of the PHCTP network and the importance of connecting with projects across the country to share experiences, build relationships and support each other in delivering community-based health initiatives. Our team also took the opportunity to visit Knock and Tobernalt Holy Well, taking time to remember those who have passed away and to reflect on the importance of looking after our own mental health and wellbeing.

Policy & Advocacy

Preparations for Ireland's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Pre-session



Ahead of the fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Ireland on 10 November 2026, a Coalition of 11 Traveller and Roma organisations has been preparing for Ireland's UPR Pre-session, taking place on 25 August.

Coordinated by Pavee Point, the Coalition is engaging directly with diplomatic missions representing UN Member States to highlight key human rights concerns ahead of Ireland's review. The Coalition is seeking to inform the questions and recommendations that UN Member States will put to the Irish State during the review.

Through the UPR, the Coalition is calling on the Irish State to:

- Fully implement and resource the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS II), with clear targets, timelines and transparent public reporting, and ensure Traveller and Roma organisations are properly resourced to take part in its implementation and oversight
- Implement the National Equality Data Strategy 2026–2031, so that ethnicity data is systematically collected across public services and progress on Traveller and Roma inclusion measures can be monitored
- Fully resource and deliver on the range of Traveller and Roma-specific strategies, action plans and measures – spanning health, accommodation, education, employment, political participation and gender-based violence – with clear targets and meaningful participation of Traveller and Roma organisations in their design and monitoring

Read the [Coalition's full submission](#) and a [Pre-session Factsheet](#).

Housing and Residential Tenancies (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2026



Pavee Point is deeply concerned following the enactment of this Act, passed without a human rights and equality impact assessment despite repeated warnings from homelessness and human rights organisations.

The Act extends the [habitual residence condition](#) to emergency accommodation, a measure we are particularly concerned will disproportionately affect Travellers, Roma and other marginalised groups and individuals, including those fleeing domestic violence or trafficking. The condition has already caused documented discrimination in access to social protection, and extending it risks excluding some of the most vulnerable people from homeless services.

The legislation also comes against the backdrop of the State's longstanding failure to provide adequate Traveller accommodation, risking further compounding existing inequalities and increasing homelessness and rough sleeping among Travellers and Roma.

Pavee Point will monitor the Act's implementation and impact, and continues to call for a full human rights and equality impact assessment, along with transparent publication of data on refusals of emergency accommodation and levels of rough sleeping.

See here for our [Statement on the Housing and Residential Tenancies \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Bill 2026](#).

Updates from the National Traveller Health Implementation Group (NTHIG)

Pavee Point continues to be represented on the National Traveller Health Implementation Group (NTHIG) and welcomes progress in delivering key commitments under the National Traveller Health Action Plan (NTHAP) 2022–2027.

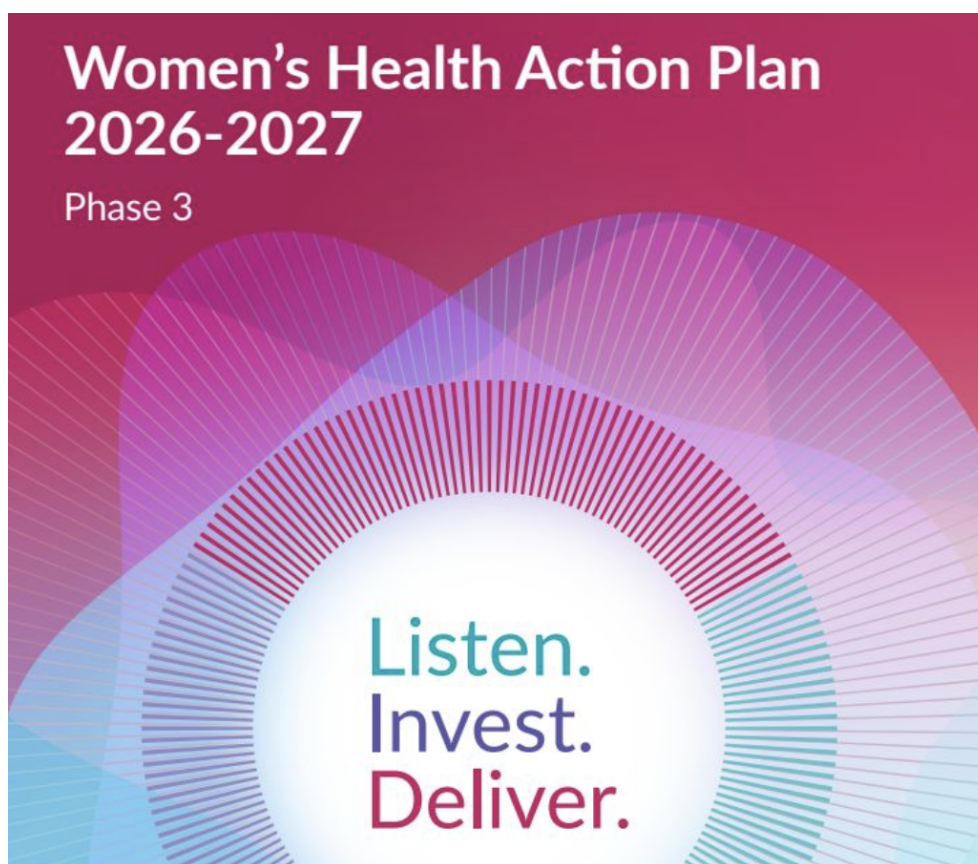
We are particularly pleased to see meaningful progress in the following areas:

- the development of standardised training and job descriptions for workers in Primary Health Care for Traveller Projects (PHCTPs), and work to develop and roll out a nationally endorsed Traveller Cultural Awareness and Anti-Racism Training (TCAART) programme across health services;
- the development of a national Traveller health data hub to strengthen the monitoring of Traveller health outcomes and support evidence-based healthcare planning; and
- progress on ethnic equality monitoring across health services, enabling inequalities experienced by Travellers, Roma and other minority ethnic groups to be more effectively identified and addressed.

We also welcome the establishment of a National Traveller Health Unit and the Department of Health's commitment to developing a successor to the current Action Plan.

Sustaining this progress will require continued investment in Budget 2027, including sustainable resourcing of the PHCTPs. This is key to implementing the recommendations of [Pavee Point's Beyond the Poverty Trap report](#), as endorsed by the [Joint Committee on Key Issues Affecting the Traveller Community in their recently released report on Traveller health](#).

Women's Health Action Plan 2026-27



The third phase of the [Women's Health Action Plan 2026-2027](#) has been published. Pavee Point, together with the National Traveller Women's Forum, actively contributed to the consultation process, highlighting the barriers Traveller and Roma women face in accessing healthcare, experiences of racism and discrimination, and the impact of wider inequalities. We also highlighted the important role of Traveller Primary Health Care Projects, and reiterated the need for investment in Traveller and Roma health infrastructure to bring about real and sustainable change.

While we welcome the Plan's recognition of diversity, only two of its nine actions refer specifically to Traveller and Roma women, and neither provides a sufficiently targeted response. The Plan also makes no explicit reference to racism and discrimination.

We continue to actively engage with the Department of Health to press for the incorporation of our recommendations into the detailed implementation of the Plan as it evolves.

Read more [here](#).

Census 2027



For over 30 years, Pavee Point has worked with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) to ensure Travellers and Roma are accurately counted and represented in the National Census - data that provides vital evidence to understand inequalities, inform policy development, and support the allocation of targeted funding and services.

Census 2027 will introduce a hybrid model, with people encouraged to complete the census online. While paper forms will remain available, we are concerned that the move to online completion could create barriers for Travellers, Roma and other marginalised communities. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the CSO to address these challenges and to maximise Traveller and Roma participation.

A [public consultation on Census 2027 Data Outputs](#) is open until 18 September 2026. Have your say via [the online survey](#) or make a submission by email or post.

New Publications, Reports & Resources

Sunbeds Public Consultation Report

The Department of Health's recently published [Sunbeds Public Consultation Report](#) sets out the findings of its consultation on a potential ban on commercial sunbed use. The consultation included engagement with Traveller organisations through the National Traveller Health Network, which highlighted the importance of Traveller-specific measures, including support for Primary Health Care for Traveller Projects (PHCTPs), providing targeted information, and implementing ethnic equality monitoring.

While health professionals strongly supported a ban, 84% of respondents were current or former sunbed users or business operators, so findings may not reflect the wider population. 68% felt a ban would be 'a step too far', while raising awareness of risks (76%) was the most supported alternative measure.

Sunbed use significantly increases the risk of skin cancers, including melanoma. UV radiation from sunbeds is a Group 1 carcinogen, alongside tobacco smoke and asbestos. Pavee Point continues to work with the HSE National Cancer Control Programme on accessible, inclusive cancer-prevention measures.

See [here](#) for our Pavees stay safe: Dangers of Sunbeds and Melanoma resource.

FLAC's Traveller Legal Service and Roma Legal Clinic Support Access to Justice

FLAC's 2025 Annual Report highlights the continued discrimination experienced by Travellers and Roma, and the importance of dedicated legal supports in challenging discrimination and protecting rights.

In 2025, FLAC supported 107 complaints under the equality legislation, securing €91,850 in compensation for clients. Its Independent Law Centre provided legal representation to 234 people, mainly in cases relating to discrimination and housing/homelessness.

The Traveller Legal Service supported 149 Traveller clients, with accommodation and discrimination making up the majority of cases, while the Roma Legal Clinic provided representation to 52 Roma clients, primarily in discrimination, housing and social welfare cases. FLAC's housing work also helped families experiencing homelessness access accommodation, including a Traveller family who had been living roadside in poor conditions for five years.

The report highlights the continued importance of access to legal support in challenging discrimination and protecting the rights of Travellers and Roma.

Read the [2025 FLAC Annual Report](#).

Traveller and Roma Leaving Certificate Participation

New [Department of Education figures](#) show Traveller and Roma students remaining in school up to Leaving Certificate at higher rates in 2023/24. However, these figures should be interpreted with caution, as small cohort sizes mean yearly changes can be misleading.

The percentage of Travellers sitting the Leaving Certificate increased from 26.5% to 28.9%, while the percentage of Roma students doing so increased from 58.9% to 63%. However, because of the smaller cohort size, the actual number of Roma students progressing to Leaving Certificate fell from 89 to 82. Travellers from this cohort remaining in school until Junior Cycle also hit a record high, up from 78.3% the previous year to 92.5%. However, this reflects the fact that this cohort didn't sit formal written Junior Certificate exams during the COVID-19 pandemic, receiving a Junior Cycle Certificate of Completion instead.

What concerns us most is that Travellers and Roma continue to have the lowest school retention rates of any ethnic groups measured and progress remains far too slow. There is an urgent, continued need for the [Traveller and Roma Education Strategy](#) to be fully funded and implemented, with stronger oversight to ensure its actions are delivered and better data collection to accurately track its progress.

Important Deadlines

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance Deadline, 30 September

Applications for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance close on 30 September. Payments are €160 per child aged 2–11 and €285 per child aged 12–22. Apply online at [MyWelfare.ie](#) or find more information [here](#).

Special Education Registration by 1 September

If your child needs a Special Class or Special School place for September 2027, you need to notify the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) online by 1 September 2026. Any supporting documents can be provided later (by September 15th).

Completing this form is not the same as applying to a school. Families still need to apply directly to their school(s) of choice, but you will need a Letter of Eligibility from the NCSE to make that application. If you need help with the application, your local Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) can support you. More info [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Save the Date: 19th European Platform for Traveller & Roma Inclusion Pre-Platform Event

The European Platform for Traveller and Roma Inclusion is an annual event that brings together EU institutions, Member States and Traveller and Roma civil society organisations to discuss progress, challenges and priorities for Traveller and Roma equality, inclusion and participation across Europe. This year, as part of Ireland's EU Presidency, the 19th Platform will take place in Dublin on 5 November.

Ahead of this, Pavee Point will host a pre-platform event bringing together Traveller and Roma organisations, stakeholders and partners to connect, exchange views and discuss key issues ahead of the main Platform meeting. The 2026 Platform will focus on education and employment, providing an

important opportunity to discuss progress, challenges and priorities for Traveller and Roma inclusion.

Date: Wednesday, 4 November 2026

Venue: Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, 46 Charles Street Great, Dublin 1, D01 XC63

Further details, including the event time and registration information, will follow.

Culture Night 2026 at Pavee Point, 18 September



Pavee Point's Culture Night 2026 will celebrate Traveller culture, heritage and storytelling through a mix of traditional and contemporary experiences. The evening will feature a virtual reality exhibition by Cork Traveller Women's Network, bringing Traveller traditions to life, alongside storytelling from Scottish Traveller storyteller Jess Smith, sharing tales passed down through generations.

Visitors can also explore exhibitions, films and information stands throughout the evening.

Venue: Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, D01XC63

4pm-8.30pm

Open to all over 18.

Annual Traveller Activism and Resilience Day: A Celebration of Nan Joyce, 7 August

2ND ANNUAL MEMORIAL EVENT

Join us for a day honouring
Nan Joyce's life and
celebrating her legacy.

7 AUG

**SEAN O'CASEY
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

CHILD-FRIENDLY EVENT

 An Róise Léinn, Mícheannais
 agus Comhábairt
 Department of Education,
 Disability and Equality

Involvement

MINERS' WIDEN
 Training 1985 to 2000

Friday, 7 August.



We're excited to see 'Across the Fence,' a new play by Traveller writer and actor Thomas Collins, premiere at Smock Alley Theatre as part of the Dublin Fringe Festival. The play tells the story of Jimmy, a Traveller man, and Aoife, a settled woman, whose relationship develops through small conversations, silences and quiet moments.

Venue: Smock Alley Theatre, Boys School

For tickets and more information, visit the [Dublin Fringe Festival](#).

Misleór Festival of Nomadic Cultures: Galway, 24-27 September



Misleór, organised by Galway Traveller Movement, returns to Galway from 24-27 September with a vibrant programme celebrating the cultures of Irish Travellers, Roma and Sámi communities. The festival features music, arts, storytelling, discussion and cultural events that celebrate nomadic heritage and promote intercultural exchange.

Find out more at www.misleor.ie.

Current Vacancies

Traveller Brighter Beginning Traveller Childhood Health Co-ordinator

Join a new Traveller Child Health Programme delivering the Traveller Brighter Beginnings initiative across Dublin and the North East. Working with a regional

team of Child Health Development Workers, the successful candidate will support the implementation of the National Traveller Health Action Plan to improve health outcomes for Traveller children. The post is based with Cavan Traveller Movement.

To Apply: Complete the [Application Form](#) and email to: hr@pavee.ie by 13th August 2026 (5pm).

Full details can be found in this [Job Description – TBB Child Health Coordinator \(CTM\)](#). For further information, please contact Chrissie O'Sullivan: chrissiectm@gmail.com or Kate Chambers: phc@pavee.ie.

Traveller Child Health Development Workers (19.5 hours/2 posts)

Join the Traveller Brighter Beginnings initiative as a Traveller Child Health Development Worker and help improve health outcomes for Traveller children and families across the Cavan/Monaghan area.

Two part-time positions (19.5 hours per week) are available based with Cavan Traveller Movement.

To Apply: Complete the [Application Form](#) and email to: hr@pavee.ie by 13th August 2026 (5pm).

Full details can be found in this [Job Description - Traveller Child Health Development Worker](#). For further information, please contact Chrissie O'Sullivan: chrissiectm@gmail.com or Kate Chambers: phc@pavee.ie