

....seeking to end racism and discrimination against Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, whatever their ethnicity, nationality, culture or background, whether settled or mobile, and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.



**Friends Families and Travellers**

Newsletter Summer 2015

Registered Charity Number 111 2326

## **Travellers Win Damages from JD Wetherspoon in Discrimination Case**

A landmark legal victory has been won by a group of Travellers in a case of illegal racist discrimination.

**A**fter the Traveller Movement's conference in North London in November 2011, a group of delegates from the conference tried to get into the Wetherspoon's Coronet pub on the Holloway Road but were barred from entering by door staff. The mixed group of Travellers and non-Travellers, including a police officer, a lawyer and a Catholic priest, were eventually allowed in to speak to the manager but only when the police officer showed proof of his identity and on condition that he took responsibility for the group.

Seeing this as a clear case of racist treatment, the Traveller Movement took the case to court under the Equality Act 2010. Now, four years later, the High Court has ruled that JD Wetherspoon was guilty of discrimination. The judge, John Hand QC, stated that the pub's refusal to serve the group was based on the racist stereotype that Gypsies and Travellers "cause trouble wherever they go".

The eight claimants have been awarded £3,000 each in compensation. Marc Willers QC, a barrister at Garden Court Chambers and a FFT trustee,

represented the successful claimants. Martin Howe, the solicitor who brought the claim, has described the ruling as "a ground-breaking victory" Yvonne MacNamara, head of the Traveller Movement, said: "Justice has finally been done."

### **LESS THAN TWO WEEKS LATER...**

**The Wetherspoon's Tivoli pub in Cambridge had to pay compensation of £3,500 each to three more people who were barred because they were Irish Travellers.**

**The pub chain has apologised and pledged to learn from its mistakes.**

### **HOWE & CO SOLICITORS**

#### **Suffered Discrimination?**

- Have you been refused service or entry to a bar, club, restaurant or hotel?
- Was it because you are a Traveller or a Gypsy?

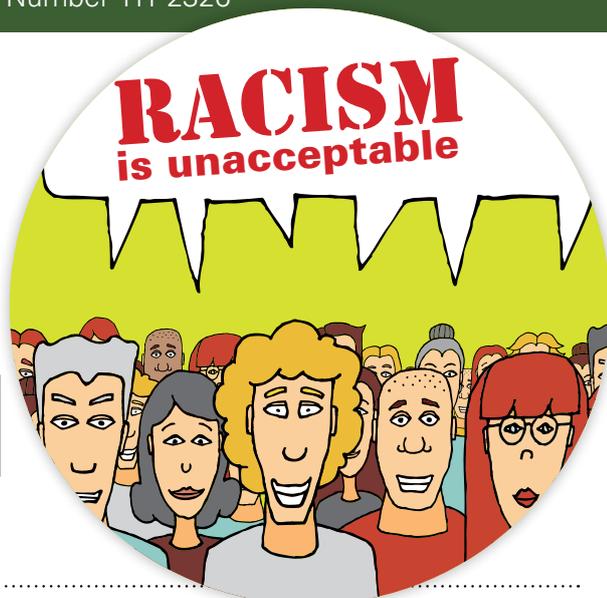
#### **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACCEPT THIS**

Howe & Co Solicitors can help you to take action, get an apology and seek financial damages.

Contact us as soon as possible:

Telephone **02088404688**

Email **partners@howe.co.uk**



## Baroness Susan Williams of Trafford appointed Minister with Responsibility for Gypsy and Traveller Issues

In the new Government, Baroness Susan Williams is the Minister for Race Equality and is responsible for representing Gypsies and Travellers.

Sadly, Members of Parliament have already started their traditional pastime of Gypsy-bashing, with a meeting arranged in Westminster Hall entitled 'the effect of Gypsies and Travellers on local communities' (substitute the name of any other ethnicity instead of 'Gypsies and Travellers' and the title would be quite unthinkable).

FFT, together with a group of other Gypsy and Traveller organisations and activists, has written to Baroness Williams seeking an early meeting to discuss what we can do to support her in her new role, and hopefully achieve a more thoughtful approach towards addressing the inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers than that displayed by some of her parliamentary colleagues.

We look forward to hearing her response!

## Anti-Racism Education Manuals Available Now

The Council of Europe's Roma Youth Action Plan has produced two education resource packs for people working with 16 to 30 year olds.

**Mirrors** is a manual for educating young people on combating anti-Gypsy prejudice.

**Right to Remember** is a resource on the genocide of Roma in the Holocaust and shows where such prejudice can lead. In both of them the focus is on East European Roma rather than English Romany Gypsies or Irish Travellers, but will be useful for anyone who wants to learn more.

**You can find them here:**

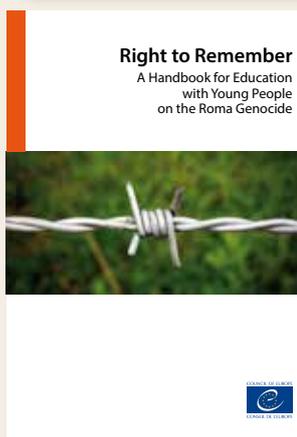
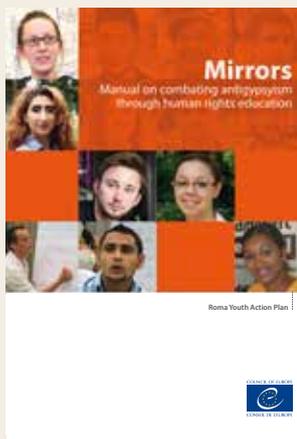
<http://enter.coe.int/roma/Roma-Youth-Action-Plan/Resources>

**Show Racism the Red Card**

[www.srtrc.org/](http://www.srtrc.org/)

a campaign that challenges racism through football, also has a resource pack on Gypsies, Roma and Travellers that you can download here:

<http://www.srtrc.org/resources/publications?publication=478>



## Phone and Admin Volunteer Needed

**We are currently looking for a new volunteer to assist with answering the phone and doing some admin tasks.**

We are advertising the opportunity on our website / social media where there is a brief description of the role and an application form - [www.gypsy-traveller.org/support-us/volunteering/](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/support-us/volunteering/).

## INTERNS

**We are currently recruiting two paid interns from the Travelling community who will be based at our office in Brighton.**

The interns will identify their own needs and aspirations and develop their skills and experience, while developing FFT's work to improve young people's voices both within and outside the organisation.

More details can be found in the application pack which can be downloaded from the website [www.gypsy-traveller.org/internships-at-fft/](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/internships-at-fft/) or sent out to you.

Please phone **01273 234777** for an application pack or to find out more. The deadline for applications is Tuesday 30th June and interviews will be at the FFT office in Brighton on Thursday 9th July.



Lunchtime Zumba sessions run by FFT were well attended and enjoyed by Traveller women clients and staff.



Young people learn traditional skills at a Bushcraft session run by FFT.

**fft**  
BOOK  
REVIEW



## Romany Rye

by Nelson Jack Boswell

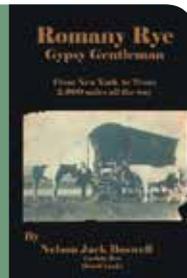
**The first Romany Rye (Gypsy Gentleman) was written in 1857 by George Borrow, who was fascinated by Gypsies and spent a lot of time with them. It's a very interesting book and well worth reading, but written very much 'from the outside' as the author was not a Gypsy himself. Now, in this new Romany Rye, we have a picture of that life through the eyes of a man whose ancestors lived it.**

It's the story of the Boswell family, one of the most famous English Gypsy families, who emigrate to America in the 1860s as many Romanies did. Written as a novel but based on fact, it includes family photos which are a nice touch and help bring it to life. From Blackpool to Scotland to New York to Texas, from present to past, we are drawn into the colourful life of Adam Boswell, his family and the characters they meet along the way including Wild West gunfighters, Mafia bosses, evangelists and even the Queen.

The author's pride in and knowledge of his history shines through, with a wealth of detail on horse-trading, dog-breeding, boxing, fortune-telling, customs and traditions enriched by the use of many Anglo-Romani words which are usefully explained in English.

Most books about Gypsies are written by outsiders; this one is unusual and valuable for its view from the inside. At nearly 300 detailed pages and two years in the writing, the author can be proud of his achievement.

For anyone interested in learning more about English Romany culture and history I recommend **Stone Cradle** by **Louise Doughty**. It's set around the same time and the author has a Romany background herself.



## REGISTERING WITH A GP

### Letter from Jeremy Hunt

Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health, has written to FFT to confirm that you do not need a permanent address to register with a GP. Everyone has the right to access free NHS healthcare, including registering with a GP, whether or not you are a Traveller.

You do not legally have to give identification or an address. Some GPs have a policy of asking for identification or an address before you can register with them, but they should not turn you away if you cannot provide them.

The only way they can refuse to register you is if they have been told by NHS England that they can stop accepting new patients or if they have other "reasonable grounds." They also need to ask the same questions to everyone who wants to register, or it is discrimination. If you have no address, the GP surgery can use its own address or you can use another one, such as the address of a hostel.





## Friends Families and Travellers

**Friends, Families & Travellers** is a nationally recognised voluntary organisation which serves the whole spectrum of the Traveller community, both traditional and new, settled or on the road. **FFT** runs a national helpline covering evictions, harassment, planning, employment, benefits, education, health, civilrights, discrimination and legal representation. **FFT** is also active in community support, research, monitoring, mediation and policy development at local and national levels.

**Join us by signing up at**  
[www.gypsy-traveller.org/about-fft/join-us/](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/about-fft/join-us/)  
**or fill out the form below.**

I would like to join **Friends Families and Travellers**.  
I understand that this will enable me to vote at  
the Annual General Meeting, attend Management  
Committee Meetings and receive copies of the newsletter.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

POSTCODE .....

SIGNATURE .....

EMAIL ADDRESS .....

I do not wish to join FFT but wish to make a donation   
Please state if you wish to remain anonymous.

I do not wish to join FFT, but would like to receive newsletters

Please make any cheques payable to FFT and return to  
**FFT, Community Base, 113 Queens Rd, Brighton BN1 3XG**

All membership information held by FFT is confidential and will not  
be available to others without your consent

Like us on Facebook



### National Contacts

For more contacts please  
phone or visit  
[www.gypsy-traveller.org/contacts.htm](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/contacts.htm)

**Community Law  
Partnership Traveller Advice  
Team** 0121 685 8677

**Family Rights Group**  
0808 801 0366

**Advisory Service for  
Squatters** 0203 216 0099

**Traveller Movement**  
0207 607 2002  
[www.travellermovement.org.uk](http://www.travellermovement.org.uk)

**Travellers Aid Trust**  
01554 891 876

**Gypsy Council**  
07963 56 59 52  
[info@gypsy-association.com](mailto:info@gypsy-association.com)

**UK Association of Gypsy  
Women** 01325 788 281

**Shelter homelessness**  
helpline 0808 800 4444

**Pavee Point**  
00 353 1 878 0255

**Children's Society**  
Head Office 0207 841 4400

**Groundswell** 03000 039 600  
[info@groundswell.org.uk](mailto:info@groundswell.org.uk)

**National Association of  
Boat Owners**  
07989 441 674

**Equality and Human  
Rights Commission:**  
Equality Advisory and  
Support Service has  
replaced the EHRC Helpline.  
The new number is  
0808 800 0082  
[www.equalityadvisoryservice.com](http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com)

**Education Otherwise  
helpline**  
0845 478 6345

**Travellers' School Charity**  
07786 466 107

**Roma Support Group**  
07949 089 778  
or 0207 511 8245

**FFT Community Base 113 Queens Road Brighton East Sussex BN1 3XG**  
Telephone **01273 234 777** Fax **01273 234 778**  
[fft@gypsy-traveller.org](mailto:fft@gypsy-traveller.org) [www.gypsy-traveller.org](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org)