

Young Travellers Speak Out

Transcript of Video – November 1999

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Save the Children

MOVING VOICES Young Travellers Speak Out

Transcription of video - voices identified as undernoted:

G (Y) - Girl (Young) 1, 2, 3 etc

G (T) - Girl (Teenage) 1, 2,3

B (Y) – Boy (Young) 1, 2, 3 etc

B (T) – Boy (Teenage) 1,2, 3

INTRODUCTION (Narrator – Teenage Traveller)

This is a short film made about young Travellers in a modern day life. Usually no-one asks young Travellers so this video is about what we think.

The young Travellers portrayed in this film are from different parts of the country so here's what we have got to say.

DAILY LIFE

G (T 1) – You get up, you pull the beds up, you gee the bairns a wash. You make the breakfast and you clean up.

B (T 1) - I play, I make dens, play tig, chasing with the bikes, play policemen/robbers. Things like that.

G (Y 1) - I get up in the morning, I wash my face and hands and I get my breakfast and I go outside and play. When I come back in I get my dinner.

G (Y 2) – I wash the dishes, I dae the chores, I tidy up the bunks.

TRAILER LIFE

B (Y 1) – It's quite good fun living in a caravan.

G (T 1) - Don't know. It's just the freedom, you get living in a trailer.

G (T 2) – When you are in a caravan you can speak to Travellers, like you can tell them anything and like other people you just can't 'cos, I don't know....it disnae feel right to me anyway.

G (T 3) – There's hardly anybody ...hardly any Travellers in Scotland compared to England. In England there's millions of them. In Birmingham it was just packed, there were loads and loads and loads of different people. And then that's how it used to keep me occupied because you were never bored. You could always....if you got bored chatting to one person you could go to the next person. You always had loads and loads and tons and tons of company.

G (Y 2) - It's like a...a hoose but...it's just a trailer.

G (T 4) – It's like ..there's more room to play, there's more people to play with and you can play hide and seek and that more better.

G (T 1) - ...it's a big field, shops, eh....it's clean and it's peaceful. There's ...peace and quiet. When you go to your bed at night there's nae worries like arguments or people coming down stoning the trailers and that. Peaceful.

G (Y 2) - Any time you want you can go out to play - you canny dae that in a hoose.

G (T 2) - The good things about living in a caravan is that you don't get to go to school, but the bad things is that you don't get to go to school as well, because you need to get a job when you are older and you need to be educated. If you are not educated then you don't get a job

B (Y 2) – It's difficult livin' in a hoose, (lots of giggles).

G (T 3) - See in the winter time the hoose is mare comfortable than the trailers because you have to keep going outside to the toilet and you've got to come back in. Sometimes you need to go outside to get water for the dishes.... **G (T5)**especially at night time and all when you are in your jammies... **G (T 3)** and you need to go to the toilet and you need to go and get a bath too and it's freezing and frosty. Brrrr.. Every winter you used to get the flu and everything... was in the shed you know when we were in Larkhall...**G (T5)** Uh huh.

G (T 6) - We've been fourteen months on this site and the people said that they were coming to put a new chalet up for Margaret, because she is in a wheelchair and they are supposed to put ramps and everything up. But they've no done nothing and as soon as the gate disappeared, it wasnae 4 or 5 days and the gate was back up again. But they couldn't find the money to put a ...like a ramp and everything up for Margaret for her wheelchair and you know.In this site Margaret is never going to learn to do things for herself because she can't get into...she can't get into the chalets and that. She can't go in because they've done the doors the wrong way and things like that, she can't push it open when she is in the wheelchair.

There was supposed to be a ramp and everything going up but nothing, they've never done nothing. I mean that's what like this Council is, they're prejudiced against Travellers.

Narrator - The good things I like about staying on the Council sites – you have your own shower, you have your own toilet, kitchen and your own plot which has got loads of space on it.

B (T1) – Loads of things that you need, like playparks, we dinny get nane o' that, playparks, shows, nothin. Like a' the little toons an that, they a' have things like that – we dinny . And we get left oot a lot, don't we? Left oot a lot and you cannae make a mess. You have to pick up your rubbish every day. Like we do it anyway but...I would say in half of the schemes you dinny have to dae that. You see them and you see rubble everywhere, crisp packets, just rubbish outside.

Narrator – We used to stay over there, next to the plot of old Bella..... but my Dad didnae like the pylons and... well the 'long boys'. The pylons are really bad.

PREJUDICE

B (T 2) - When I have children I don't think it will be very easy to travel about because of getting moved on and that.

B (Y 3) –You have go to find a hidey bit now, into a wood that's where we usually go, so that people can't see us you know from the road because then they put complaints inand that's why we don't want people to see us because they put complaints in to the Police.

G (T 1) – The bad things are like coming down roarin', flingin' stones, giving cheek, calling us Gypsies.

B (T 1) – When I was at school I was doing something else and they dinnae really like Travellers. They dinnae really like them. A man kicked me in Castle....? A man kicked me in C...., that's what he done.

G (T 2) – Because I am a Traveller they used to call me Gypsy and mink and things like that. The only reason they call me it is because I used to stay in a caravan and I am not any different from any other people. I am just the same.

B (T 3) - See some of them they used to see like call us Gypsies and we used to always like.. we used to always start like fightin' and that.... But I dinnae really want to fight but I just wanted to make

pals, but they just kept on calling us Gypsies. You could make pals in Edinburgh because they don't know we are Gypsies and that.

G (T 6) - The people along the road are alright towards Travellers, some of them, but others are not. They don't like Travellers. They always put complaints in and everything and we have to get moved. The Police come down and move us..."we've had too many complaints" and everything you know.

G (Y 3) - They say you are a tinky and you stink and stuff like that. Call you a Gypsy and stuff like that - they just don't like Travelling People.

LEARNING

G (T 3) - It was a good school but, it just wasnae for me because there was naebody else there with me, like nae other Travellers there with me.

B (T 1) - Didnae really like it. It was just maestly aboutworkin' - I dinnae like workin', like school work, writing.

I can read and write but that's all you need to know, you ken.

G (T 6) - Most of the Travelling People they don't put their children to school you know, because we learn....we just learn off our ourselves and everything you know what I mean. Likefrom pearl fishing, berries, daffodils, everything we have learned from our Mum and Dad because they've been doing them from since they've been children like us you know.

Narrator - I don't really like school. I used to get bullied at school.

G (T 1) - I just didnae like it ...at school. I went to Primary. I was in Primary 1 to Primary 6, just in the winter times.

G (T 3) - Sometimes it could be a wee bit aggravating, but all schools are aggravating aren't they?

B (Y 1) - I like school quite a lot because it teaches you a lot of things.

B (Y 2) - I like doing the work, I like playing.

B (Y 3) - I drew things and painted.

G (Y 3) - I like doing sums, I like reading.

G (Y 2) - I like painting, I like making stuff and I like drawing.

G (Y 3) - I don't like doinghomework.....dinnae like the dinners in school.

G (T 2) - I started going to school and I caught up after not being at school for first and second year. When I caught up I started getting bullied by lots of girls. My Head Guidance Teacher wasn't really paying attention to what was happening and I think that was because I was a Traveller too. A girl actually pushed me, and I've got a scar on my hand., she actually paid more attention to it because the blood was actually running from my hand and this brought it all to a stop.

B (Y 1) - Just stick in and then,...and you'll...then maybe you might be the best one in a class.

POLICE

G (T 2) - It's a lot harder now being a Traveller than when it was in, like my Granny and Grandad's time, because in my Granny and Grandad's time you could stay anywhere. You could just pull in at any side of the road but now you've got to be on a camp or if you pull into the side of the road you just get the Police on to you, and the Council and everything like that.

B (T 1) - The Policemen harass you all the time - they're not very nice at a'.

My Dad came back from the pub the other night and he was lying down in his bed and they run after him and says..."Oh what is he doin' in here?" My Mam says he is just lyin' down. an' they woke my Dad up, tortured him, things like that.

They come early in the morning, tell you to move. Chapped the door. Last year they actually chapped our door and put a dent this size (demonstrated size by joining two hands in a circle).

G (T 1) – And you get some nice ones that will just say, "Oh this is my job you've just got to go."

They've come down too many times, but you get used to them comin' down and just moving you on. And they'll check out the trailer, they'll check out the van, they'll like look for stolen things and it's just harassment. It makes you feel as if they think you are...a thief and ...you steal everything. That's how it makes you feel.

MOVING ON

B (T 1) - And we could've shifted at that time o' night very very late on it was.

You have to pack away the things away, gas bottles, generators and things like that, a load of torture you know.

G (T 1) – The bad times is when it's a muddy field and you are getting tortured to move on.

B (Y 3) – If you don't move they'll keep coming back.

G (T 1) – Sometimes maybe twice a week, sometimes most every three weeks, two weeks, a month, depends again on what kind of ground we are on.

I pack the stuff in the back of the van, like the stuff we've got out there. You pack things down in the trailer and ...you hook on.

It takes about an hour. Sometimes if you are in a hurry it will take about half-an-hour (giggles).

B (T 1) – Hope we dinny get moved from this place, hope we dinny like. I really like this camp you know. Hope we dinny.

G (Y 2) – I'm ME and I'm proud of it.

B (T 3) - I'm ME and I'm proud of it.

G (Y 1) - I'm ME and I'm proud of it.

B (Y 1) - I'm ME and I'm proud of it.

G (Y 3) - I'm ME and I'm proud of it.

B (T 1) – I'm ME and I am proud of what I AM.

This film has only been made because of the commitment and generosity of all those involved.

END OF VIDEO.