A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, NEIL ANSELL

These are unprecedented times. Gypsies and Travellers are particularly vulnerable to the current pandemic, and our staff are having to work from home. Nonetheless, they are working as hard as they can to try to make sure that the community is able to stay as safe as possible.

Even before this crisis, we were having to deal with the implications of the current Government’s manifesto promise to criminalise trespass, a change which would render a travelling lifestyle almost impossible. The work of FFT has never been more urgent, and the trustee board is ever grateful to our team for their unwavering commitment.

OUR TEAM

TRUSTEES DURING 2019/20
Neil Ansell
Chair
Dominique Corbett
Treasurer
Judy Pointing
Marc Willers
Justine Compton
Tony Thomson
Rob Torkington
Heidi-Victoria Ireland
From Sep 2019
Dominic Leveridge
Until Sep 2019
Sarah Mann
Company Secretary

STAFF
Abbie Kirkby
Angela Barnett
Avril Fuller
Billie Dolling
Emma Bray
Emma Nuttall
Ivy Manning
Josie Garrett
Lucy Hetherington
Martha Ostick
Marya Sadouni
Maxine Lambert
Michelle Gavin
Rosie Fox
Sam Worrall
Sami McLaren
Samson Rattigan
Sarah Mann
Sarah Sweeney
Suzanna King
Tommy Buck
Ngawang Dhargyal
Victoria Gilmore
Zoe Matthews

VOLUNTEERS
Angel Smith
Bev Wells

HONORARY PRESIDENT
Baroness Janet Whitaker

CRYSTAL’S VARDÓ CAST AND CREW
Jasmine Atkins-Smart
Kai King-Lewes
Kavanagh-Rose Rattigan
Lucy Mepsted
Maisie Lumsden
Mark Lingham (Zee)
Michael Manning
Shannon Nolan
Stewart James Barham
DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The past year has been filled with David and Goliath sized challenges for us as an organisation – from the Home Office’s plans to give police more powers to evict Travellers and the global COVID-19 pandemic which left many roadside Gypsies and Travellers struggling to access water and sanitation.

This has required us to use all our power and influence to get the right support and protections in for Gypsy and Traveller people. Luckily, we have not been alone. This year, more than any other, we have seen Gypsy and Traveller people stand up and have their voices heard and we have witnessed an outpouring of solidarity from others. Over 17,000 people have supported us in our campaigns and countless more people in their own ways.

The heart of our work will continue to be a practical advocacy and legal support service to all Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities across the UK, pushing to get a fair deal and protect the nomadic way of life. In the midst of these challenges, we have been able to support over 1300 families with issues ranging from health to homelessness, education to financial inclusion and discrimination to employment.

In order to be effective in our mission, we have taken the decision to refine our organisation’s work over the coming years to four key areas which include accommodation, health, education and discrimination. We invite you to read our new Vision for Change which sets our strategic priorities over the next three years. We know that we will not be able to achieve our vision without your support and ask that as you read this document that you consider what your role can be in achieving real change.

In celebration of our 25 years as FFT, we were fortunate enough to host our very first FFT Awards in March. The evening saw organisations and individuals come together to celebrate the contributions made by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community members to our society. It was truly inspiring and we were honoured to hear all of the inspirational stories of the shortlistees and winners.

We have been overwhelmed by the amount of solidarity and support which we have received this past year. I cannot thank our funders, trustees, staff members, volunteer team, partners and supporters enough for making our work possible.

Sarah Mann, Director
MEETING NEEDS
Our outreach and casework team helped people with over 2300 issues ranging from health to homelessness, education to financial inclusion and discrimination to employment.

"TOMMY HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP TO ME. HE ALWAYS CALLS BACK WHEN HE SAYS HE WILL AND GETS THINGS DONE AS QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE." - Bevis

BETTER HEALTH
Our health improvement project in East and West Sussex was a runner up in the illustrious Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH) Health and Wellbeing Awards. This year, we developed a bespoke Youth Champions programme and trained two other Gypsy and Traveller organisations to become certified RSPH training centres.

COVID-19 SUPPORT
Our helpline and outreach workers helped individuals and families access facilities and sanitation, provided shielding advice and support to those with no permanent stopping place, and negotiated with local authorities to allow people to stay during lockdown.

"I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY A MASSIVE THANK YOU FOR ALL THE ONGOING SUPPORT THAT FFT HAS GIVEN ME THROUGH THESE TERRIBLE TIMES... EVEN THROUGH THESE DIFFICULT TIMES FFT ARE STILL PLAYING THEIR PART BY HELPING OTHERS." - Lulu

ROYAL HONOURS
As part of the 2020 New Year’s Honours List, our very own Samson Rattigan was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to Young People and Families from the Gypsy and Traveller communities in Sussex.

"I AM GRATITUDE FOR ALL THE SUPPORT ROSIE HAS GIVEN ME, I DON’T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO WITHOUT HER HELP, SHE’S BEEN AMAZING. FFT IS MORE HELPFUL THAN OTHER ADVICE ORGANISATIONS I HAD APPROACHED BEFORE, WHICH DIDN’T OFFER THE SAME KIND OF SUPPORT AND HELP. THANK YOU SO MUCH." - Dean

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS
This year, we kicked off a project linking community trainers to Gypsies and Travellers across West Sussex to teach traditional skills. So far we’ve had wreath-making, scroll painting and rag rug weaving sessions, with participants even selling some of their creations!

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UNFAIR LAWS

On 5 November 2019, the Government launched a consultation to strengthen police powers against roadside Travellers. We supported over 10,000 people to respond to the consultation – we await the results in Autumn 2020.

DISPATCHES

In April 2020, we led a campaign of complaints over Channel 4’s broadcast of ‘Dispatches: The Truth About Traveller Crime’, which put Traveller communities on trial by press. This led to over 7000 complaints and an Ofcom investigation of Channel 4 – a decision is due soon.

CHALLENGING POLITICIANS

To help tackle anti-Gypsyism in British politics, we built a tool that enables individuals and community members to complain about a politician’s language, whether they’re a councillor, a member of the House of Lords, or a member of parliament.

MPs PLEDGE SUPPORT

We launched our campaign to get politicians to show their support for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities by signing our pledge card. Our website has a list of all MPs who have already signed, along with steps on how to encourage your MP to take part.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

As COVID-19 protective measures took place, we worked with policymakers and local authorities to get Gypsy and Traveller needs considered in the pandemic response. With others, our impact in the real world saw us tackle evictions and working with councils to get water and sanitation provision in place.

TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS AND INSTITUTIONS

In April 2020, we led a campaign of complaints over Channel 4’s broadcast of ‘Dispatches: The Truth About Traveller Crime’, which put Traveller communities on trial by press. This led to over 7000 complaints and an Ofcom investigation of Channel 4 – a decision is due soon.
We carry out evidence-based policy research and develop reports to target injustice at all levels. Here are some of our key research projects and reports we have developed or contributed to this past year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REPORT</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunbed use and skin care in Gypsy and Traveller communities</td>
<td>Samson Rattigan</td>
<td>June 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiences of Gypsies and Travellers in primary care: GP services</td>
<td>Sarah Sweeney and Rosie Stanbury</td>
<td>July 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police oppose criminalising unauthorised encampments and call for more sites</td>
<td>Billie Dolling, Victoria Gilmore and Abbie Kirkby</td>
<td>November 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Submission to the Committee for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
<td>Friends, Families and Travellers, the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups, Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment and Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment</td>
<td>January 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgotten Victims: 55% of British people surveyed unaware that over 500,000 Roma and Sinti people were killed in the Holocaust</td>
<td>Sarah Sweeney and Billie Dolling</td>
<td>February 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year we held the first ever Friends, Families and Travellers Awards. The evening was a beautiful celebration of the impressive and inspiring achievements of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller individuals and communities. It was extremely difficult to pick the winners and it involved lots of debate, but we got there.

The winners were:

**THE WINNERS WERE:**

- **INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG PERSON AWARD**
  - Maggie and Jade Smith

- **ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE AWARD**
  - Lorraine Golding

- **SPORTING EXCELLENCE AWARD**
  - Johnboy Smith

- **EDUCATION AWARD**
  - Billie-Jo Sines

- **INSPIRING PROJECT AWARD**
  - Traveller Pride

- **COURAGE AWARD**
  - Jade Doherty

- **ALEXANDER AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**
  - Betty Smith-Billington
## Statement of Financial Activities

**For the year ended 31 March 2020**

### Income and Endowments From:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Unrestricted funds</th>
<th>Restricted funds</th>
<th>Total funds 2020</th>
<th>Total funds 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations and legacies</td>
<td>£344,784</td>
<td>£276,057</td>
<td>£620,841</td>
<td>£447,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable activities</td>
<td>£92,473</td>
<td>£10,460</td>
<td>£102,933</td>
<td>£90,538</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees, subscriptions and publication sales</td>
<td>£193</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>£193</td>
<td>£504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**TOTAL INCOME**

|                  | £437,450            | £286,517         | £723,967         | £538,212         |

### Expenditure On

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Unrestricted funds</th>
<th>Restricted funds</th>
<th>Total funds 2020</th>
<th>Total funds 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charitable activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Costs</td>
<td>£33,414</td>
<td>£1,999</td>
<td>£35,413</td>
<td>£22,929</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects Costs</td>
<td>£84,567</td>
<td>£9,333</td>
<td>£93,900</td>
<td>£48,806</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Costs</td>
<td>£313,977</td>
<td>£233,392</td>
<td>£547,369</td>
<td>£482,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>£8,487</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>£8,487</td>
<td>£2,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Costs</td>
<td>£26,253</td>
<td>£3,016</td>
<td>£29,269</td>
<td>£25,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management charges</td>
<td>(£40,118)</td>
<td>(£40,118)</td>
<td>(£40,118)</td>
<td>(£40,118)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

|                  | £426,580            | £287,858         | £714,438         | £578,364         |

### Net Income/(Expenditure)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Unrestricted funds</th>
<th>Restricted funds</th>
<th>Total funds 2020</th>
<th>Total funds 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfers between funds</td>
<td>£10,870</td>
<td>(£1,341)</td>
<td>£9,529</td>
<td>(£40,152)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net movement in funds</td>
<td>£2,708</td>
<td>(£2,708)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£13,578</td>
<td>(£4,049)</td>
<td>£9,529</td>
<td>(£40,152)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reconciliation of Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Unrestricted funds</th>
<th>Restricted funds</th>
<th>Total funds 2020</th>
<th>Total funds 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total funds brought forward</td>
<td>£159,391</td>
<td>£7,713</td>
<td>£167,104</td>
<td>£207,256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD**

|                  | £172,969            | £3,664           | £176,633         | £167,104         |

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## IN THE NEWS

### BBC NEWS

Coronavirus: Travellers 'struggling without water and power'

### THE GUARDIAN

Revealed: police oppose Traveller and Gypsy camp crackdown

### THE INDEPENDENT

(Letters): Discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities has been ignored in parliament – we deserve protection too

### OPENDEMOCRACY

"A disaster waiting to happen" - Traveller communities buckling from the impact of the pandemic

### THE i

Thousands of Gypsy families could be left without a safe place to go as Government consults over criminalising stopping places

### METRO

Channel 4’s ‘dehumanising’ Truth About Traveller Crime hit with more than 800 Ofcom complaints

### CORNWALL LIVE

Police could arrest travellers and seize caravans under new laws

### THE ARGUS

Tory plans to make trespass illegal 'are discriminatory'
We work to end racism and discrimination against all Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

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Fax 01273 234 778
fft@gypsy-traveller.org
www.gypsy-traveller.org

Like us on Facebook
/FriendsFamiliesandTravelers
Follow us on Twitter
@GypsyTravellers
Follow us on Instagram
/FriendsFamiliesandTravelers

OUR FAVOURITE MOMENT
At the FFT Awards, Betty Smith-Billington, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award accepted her award with a beautiful rendition of Patsy Cline’s ‘Crazy’. Betty followed in the footsteps of Tyson Fury who only a few weeks earlier entertained crowds in the US by singing ‘American Pie’ after beating Deontay Wilder for the WBC Heavyweight Championship.