



**FRIENDS,
FAMILIES &
TRAVELLERS**

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**PARTICIPATION PACK
FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

**JUNE 20
22 GYPSY, ROMA
and TRAVELLER
HISTORY MONTH**

HAVARI

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#WhatMakesAHome

Thank you for joining the 2022 celebration of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month!

Every June since 2008, people from across the UK have celebrated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM). With celebration, education and efforts to raise awareness of the histories and experiences of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people, GRTHM helps to tackle prejudice, challenge myths and to amplify the voices of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

During Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, we celebrate the unique and diverse histories, cultures and languages of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the UK, and also the considerable and outstanding contributions made by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and communities to wider society.

In this booklet, you'll find brief introductions to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller histories and cultures, but there are plentiful resources already out there which can support your understanding of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller experiences through history and today.

Travellers' Times have produced a short video 'Roads from the Past'¹ which provides a brief overview of the histories of some of the largest Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the UK.

This year our theme for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month is 'What Makes a Home'.

We are asking people across the UK to consider 'What Makes a Home' for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people - and how you can better understand and practice being welcoming to local Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and the generations who came before them often have warm and impressive stories of migration, around the UK, Ireland, across Europe and the world.

The understanding of what makes a home can change with locations, people, historic places and more.

This year, the Government are bringing in new laws within the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which will criminalise the nomadic

way of life. For many Gypsy and Traveller families in England and Ireland, home and nomadism are weaved together.

Nomadism, a way of living which is over 500 years old, bonded families and communities together, through travel, celebration, community care and collaboration with settled people.

The new laws within the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill threatens to crush this traditional way of life.

For Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, we are asking organisations to consider whether your services are open and inclusive to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. This might look different for different people.

If you work at a council

This might mean ensuring there are enough places for Gypsies and Travellers to feel at home in your local area. Whether in terms of spaces for Gypsies and Travellers to stop, or ensuring history is preserved and shared for traditional stopping places through history in your district.

If you are a teacher

This might mean considering whether Gypsy, Roma and Traveller students will feel at home in your classroom - are you making time to focus on the diverse histories, cultures and present realities for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people - perhaps you

include teaching around migration journeys or accommodation types.

If you work in TV or media industries

This might mean considering whether your portrayals of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people provide an authentic representation of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller home life and whether they encourage audiences to be welcoming and accepting to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

If you work for a Government organisation

This might mean considering whether your policy work and service delivery gives honour to the historic rights of Gypsies and Travellers to travel and live in culturally appropriate accommodation.

For individuals

This might mean expanding your own awareness of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller lived experiences - including histories and cultures and making efforts to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people to uphold their rights.

We would love for you to take part in our celebrations this June and we hope that within this resource pack you will find inspiration and information to get involved.

To bring this work together, we received support, knowledge and input from Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showmen and nomadic people across the country - I'd like to send a special thanks to all of our colleagues and friends who contributed.

Warmest wishes
Sarah Mann
Director



**FRIENDS,
FAMILIES &
TRAVELLERS**

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people through history

The rich and diverse histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people are largely absent from classrooms, books and museums. The timeline across these pages gives a small glimpse into the international histories of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

There are many different people and groups who fit under the umbrella term 'Gypsies, Roma and Travellers' used in society. This can include Roma people, Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Scottish Gypsy Travellers, New Travellers, Liveaboard Boaters and Travelling Showpeople.

In the timeline below, we include key dates in history for people of Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma and Scottish Gypsy Traveller ethnicities. We include the events below as a starting point for your further reading and learning.

<p>998AD</p> <p>People with Roma heritage travelled from northwest India as prisoners, slaves and soldiers.</p> <p>Theories suggest 60,000 Roma people were forcibly enlisted to the army of Mahmud of Ghazni and after his death, were expelled from Indian territories and driven to nomadism.¹</p>	<p>1100s</p> <p>Ancient laws in Scotland recognise a community of people called 'tinklers' from their occupation as tinsmiths.</p> <p>They are viewed differently to mainstream society, seen to have their own customs and dialect.²</p>	
	<p>1200s</p> <p>Roma people in the territories of modern day Romania were taken as slaves and forced to work in monasteries, mines and in fields. Slaves were the property of their owners, bought and sold in their hundreds. It was not until 1856 that the Moldavian and Wallachian Assemblies abolished slavery within their principalities.³</p>	<p>1500s</p> <p>Romany Gypsies first recorded in England were incorrectly thought to have travelled from Egypt.</p> <p>In 1530, Henry VIII's 'Egyptians Act' expelled Romany Gypsies in England. In 1554, Queen Mary ruled that being a Gypsy was punishable by death.⁴</p>



1600s

Irish people began to split from the general population around 12 generations ago in the 1600s - 'an lucht siúil' (the walking people) became known for storytelling and sharing songs from city to city.⁵



1650

Last known hanging for the crime of being a Gypsy in Suffolk, England.⁶

1850

Romany people historically travelled with elaborately made 'bender tents'.

From 1850 onwards, Gypsy Wagons are used to travel, with bender tents used alongside.



1940s

Roma and Sinti people, sometimes called the 'forgotten victims' of the Holocaust were deported to concentration camps, subject to mass murder and horrific medical experimentation by Nazi soldiers.

Over 200,000 Roma and Sinti were murdered or died as a result of starvation or disease.⁷

1940s-1960s

General adoption of a mechanised caravan, rather than a horsedrawn wagon.⁸



1963

The Report of the Commission on Itinerancy is the first systematic attempt by the Irish government to settle Travellers in Ireland, aiming to force families off the road, into bricks and mortar accommodation.⁹

1. <https://kopachi.com/articles/a-new-look-at-our-romani-origins-and-diaspora-by-ronald-lee/>
 2. <https://www.iriss.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-06/gt-timeline-A4-web.pdf>
 3. <https://romediafoundation.wordpress.com/2014/04/18/roma-slavery-in-the-romanian-territories-a-catch-22-of-history-and-recognition/#>
 4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2b36fr/revision/2>

5. <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep42187>
 6. <https://www.historytoday.com/reviews/gypsies-england>
 7. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/learn-about-the-holocaust-and-genocides/nazi-persecution/the-porrajmos/>
 8. <https://www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/info-for-parents-students-and-teachers/ethnic-minorities-and-travellers/traveller-wagon-project/history-of-wagons-and-wagon-building/>
 9. <http://www.pavepoint.ie/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/AssimilationPolicies.pdf>



2000

Irish Travellers recognised in British law as an ethnic group, following a legal challenge in court brought by eight individuals refused service at five pubs in London.



Ireland 2020

Eileen Flynn becomes the first Irish Traveller to become a senator in Ireland.



2022

The Policing, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Bill proceeds through the Houses of Commons and Lords with MPs and peers voting to criminalise trespass. The new laws will mean nomadic Gypsy and Traveller people are at risk of having their vehicle (home) confiscated, fines and imprisonment.



2017

Irish Travellers are recognised as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognised as Ireland's only indigenous community.¹³

2004/2007

Following expansions of the European Union, there is an increase in migration of Roma people to the UK from across Europe.

2008

Scottish Gypsy Travellers recognised as an indigenous ethnic minority group in Britain.¹²

1976

Romany Gypsies were recognised in Britain as a distinct ethnic minority group under the 1976 English Race Relations Act.¹⁰



1982

Germany officially recognise the genocide of Roma and Sinti people in the Second World War.¹¹

1990s

Roma communities begin seeking asylum in England through the 1990s.



1. <https://minorityrights.org/minorities/romagypsistravellers/#>
2. <https://www.romarchive.eu/en/roma-civil-rights-movement/sinti-and-roma-federal-republic-germany/>
3. https://bemis.org.uk/docs/gypsy_travellers_in_contemporary_scotland.pdf

4. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/travellers-formally-recognised-as-an-ethnic-minority-1.2994309>
5. <https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2020/01/27/court-of-appeal-upholds-the-right-to-roam-of-romany-and-travellers/>

Photograph of Eileen Flynn: "Creative Commons Seanad Éireann - First Sitting of the 26th Seanad - 29 June 2020" by Houses of the Oireachtas is licensed under CC by 2.0

What makes a home?

We asked Gypsy, Roma, Traveller and nomadic people across the UK to tell us what they think of, when they think of home. We heard that home means family, acceptance, food, historic places, heirlooms, community and much more.

Davie

My name is Davie, I'm a Scottish Traveller. I've lived in houses my whole life and I live in a house now, but seasonally my family have always went on the road and 'moving' into a trailer each year. Sometimes a home can be a piece of land, a layby or a side of the road where that your family has called home for thousands of years. Our house is where we keep our things, but on the road, it feels more natural.

For me, it was more about the place where the trailer was parked, rather than the trailer itself. When we camped in cities, we stopped on industrial estates and the like - because there was nowhere else to go. My dad and cousins would work, and we would move on after a couple of weeks.

I didn't get that feeling of being at home, you felt scared; unsure if people in cars were planning to report us or start a fight. But on camps, being told stories of people who had lived there for hundreds of years, people you haven't met, but you'd met through stories. That's when I

felt truly at home, when you're in those places. When you boil it down, people feel at home when they're in places that have belonging and meaning to them, and when they're surrounded by their own people.



But on camps, being told stories of people who had lived there for hundreds of years, people you haven't met, but you'd met through stories. That's when I felt truly at home, when you're in those places.

For me, cooking on the fire feels like home. Getting bought or inheriting your first cast iron pan is a right of passage. Cooking on the fire is a link to life on the road. It gives a sense of peace and safety.

My grandad and granny would have lived in similar ways to me, but they would have lived in a bow-tent. My granny's people owned wagons periodically, but mostly would have lived in a tent.

Most Travellers then would have lived on the road. Home for my grandparents would have been anywhere they were surrounded by their family. Although, in her day, there still will have been ancestral camps that will have been used for a long time. We have camps here, that some say were stopping places during the Roman times. I can only assume she would have the same feeling that I did, camping in places like that.

There's a big sense of pride when you're shifting with family and loved ones on the road. You're free to be you.

Scottish Traveller

Mania



I don't feel like I've found my home in a particular country yet, feeling home for me would mean acceptance - the place where I feel like I can be myself.



I am a Roma woman, I am 49 years old. I am Eastern European/Balkan Roma. I don't feel like I've found my home in a particular country yet, feeling home for me would mean acceptance - the place where I feel like I can be myself. I was born in Croatia, in a tent.

My mother and father ran away together, because they were from different Roma communities. My family, and I as a baby, were living in a tent at that time, but enforcement authorities were coming and breaking the tent everyday, telling us to leave. We had to run away from the country, without any documents. We arrived in Italy at a camp with lots of Roma people from many of the Balkan states and across the world; Roma people from many subgroups and speaking different languages. We lived in tents with our family, eating food cooked on the fire.

We couldn't go to school because we didn't have paperwork. From there, with other families, we moved to Sweden, Holland, France, Germany, Belgium and more. We would have to move when the authorities forced us away from the country, or when country people (gorja) were violent towards us.

I feel at home when I'm eating barbecue with my family. The smell, the way it carries through the home; it brings back good memories of being together.

My grandfather on my father's side was an amazing man. He married just before the Second World War and his wife had a baby. They were captured by the Black Legion and put in concentration camps with his mother, father, brothers and sister.

All the family were killed apart from my grandfather and his brother. They were experimented on by Nazi soldiers. Home for our family has been difficult, as we have been chased away from so many places. Roma people are so often not accepted.

Chris

I'm an Irish Traveller, born just outside Manchester in England. I'm married with 3 wonderful children and a beautiful wife. I live in bricks and mortar at the moment, but plan on bringing my family travelling again.

I was born in the 80s on a Traveller campsite. I was one of nine children. There were a lot of different families on the camp. They were tough days, but that was my childhood and I'm proud of them. We were travelling for a few years, from place to place, until my mother fell ill, and we had to move into a house because it was better for her health.

When we moved into the house, our neighbours didn't like us, there were petitions, calls to the council and all sorts, but we stayed where we were. I miss the trailers, sites, camps - it's in our blood, it's who we are. There's a sense of belonging when we're roadside with our family, these people mean something to you. It's the community, the closeness - the sense of being part of something bigger than yourself. We class our friends as family because they're as close as.

We'd travel for weddings, events, to see someone who was ill or to pay our respects. To me, home is where my family is. Wherever my family is, that's my home. I grew up with my cousins and my family and when we were younger, we would be camped together - the relationships we had were more than friendships, it's brotherly; as an adult, we live in different places, but there's a longing to see each other and speak about the old times.

Sometimes there would have been four or five generations of family on a camp. My grandmother would have lived in bow tents. I have beautiful memories of her, she came to visit us as often as she could. If I was asked what home for her was, it would have been her children - having her children round her. She also loved all of her grandchildren and enjoyed spending time with us. My uncle still makes the old tents - he teaches young Traveller children to make these tents in back in Ireland, so they can understand the ways we used to live.

Wherever my family is, that's my home.



Romany Gypsy

Abiline

I'm Romany Gypsy. The first place I remember living was on yard in a small tourer, it had a log burner for wood or coal. There was a stream down the side. I remember being scared by thunder and lightning on the yard, one day when I was out without my brother. We were inseparable.

After that, we moved in to a big Showman's trailer which was red and silver on the outside, there was a living space and two bedrooms in it. We lived next to Cordona's funfair.

In the Summertime, I would look after my younger brother, who had a heart condition, helping wash, clean and cook. My older brother would work at the Fair. From when I was about 12, I would work at the bingo.

We would go to the cafes and the shops - everyone got on really well.

It wasn't like now. The Cordona's owned a disco place - one day Leo Sayer sang to me. I didn't have the common savvy then to know it was a big thing. We stayed on a residential outside Aberdeen for a while and then we had to move into a house for my brother's medical issues.

History repeats itself, because I'm doing the same with my daughter now - living in a house to receive medical support. My brother and I were traumatised by the house. What made me feel like home, was not just being in the trailer, say the hobby, with the rain on the roof - but having my people around me. I wasn't scared. When I feel isolated from my people, it gives me anxiety.

That's why we need more sites. Everyone needs to feel, where they are, we belong. I feel safe, in my trailer, on a site. The things that remind me of home are Crown Derby and Welsh blankets. They're passed down through our generations. One of my ancestors, Yankee Joe Verra, he bought the trotting horses here to the UK, from America.

You see Verra's to this day leading horses at Appleby Fair.



That's why we need more sites. Everyone needs to feel, where they are, we belong. I feel safe, in my trailer, on a site.



Tyler

My name is Tyler, I live in South London but am originally from West Oxfordshire. I'm a Showman, up until I was 7 I lived in a huge trailer which we would take to different fun fairs around the country. We'd leave around March and be out until about October.

In the Winter we didn't have a permanent base for ages so we used to spend different Winters in different places, but always in the same trailer. Because Showmen have lorries, we can pull bigger units. The wagons we had were massive, about 40 foot long, and had central heating - it was a decent space. I used to really enjoy it.

Now I live in a flat in Lewisham. Because I didn't have a house I grew up in, and the trailer we had when we were younger probably doesn't exist anymore, there's not a place I can go specifically that feels like home.

But when I think of home, it's more like spaces - that park feels like home because I felt comfortable there. As a Showman, we get to go there year after year, we see cities and places change. There's something about a big fair that you know will be really busy - everyone will be there, people you haven't seen for ages.

With everyone getting ready to set up, and then doing the thing that you're best at - that can feel like home. It's common for Travellers of any description to keep things that remind them of home - I have lots of pictures and books about funfairs in my home. My great aunt Annie Hatwell was one of those people who was incredibly old my entire life. She had a tiny trailer where she made candy floss and toffee apples to sell on a kiosk at the fair. I woke up one morning, really early when no one else was up. She was showing me how to make toffee apples and talking to me.

She would rarely use electric, because she grew up in a time when it wasn't used. She made me a cup of tea in this tiny space. She moved into a house when she was older, to a house with loads of blankets - she was always making cakes. That house has been knocked down now, and where they've built new houses, it's called Hatwell Row.

When I think of home,
it's more like spaces
- that park feels like
home because I felt
comfortable there.



Savannah

I've stayed on the water, because I really do feel that this is my home

I grew up in a flat in Swindon and currently live on the Kennet and Avon canal. My family lived in a flat until I was 10, which is when we moved onto a boat. We lived in a 60ft boat for about a year and a half and then a tiny little wooden boat, all 5 of us. We lived on there for a couple of years - I actually moved out when I was 15 and had a little boat that was towed behind, to give me a bit of privacy.

My mum's grandmother was Romany Gypsy, we had buses and trucks and all sorts when we were kids. We had done a lot of camping and exploring when we were younger. My dad now lives in a truck on the road, my mum lived in a caravan and then a house.

I've stayed on the water, because I really do feel that this is my home. When you pull up somewhere new, it feels so refreshing. Your plans can change in a moment when you see someone you know, you all pull on to the side together, that's it - the kids are playing, the dogs are put out, someone's got a fire pit, someone's wrapping potatoes. It's that moment of joy, seeing someone you've not seen someone you know for a long time.

I remember feeling at home for the first time, with my big shoes, next to my daughters. We've spent the last couple of years planting daffodils everywhere we stop - when we're passing places now, my daughter wonders if the daffodils we see in the hedges are ones that we planted.



Some words and phrases in Romani dialects

Roma, Manouche, Kale, Sinti, Romany Gypsy and people from the Romani diaspora live across the world.

There are more than 10 million people of Romani descent in Europe alone. Romani, Romanes or Romani čhib (Romani tongue) is a rich family of languages with an Indo-Aryan root. It is the only Indo-Aryan language that has been spoken exclusively in Europe since the Middle Ages.

Much of the vocabulary and grammar are related to Sanskrit. The language used by Romani people is a source of great pride, it facilitates connection and communication between the Romani diaspora across the world. Nearly all Romani speakers are multilingual (speak another language) and will use the language of the majority population where they live. It is estimated that there are 4.6 million Romani speakers in Europe.

There are many different dialects of Romani spoken in England alone. The language is historically fluid, adapting with location and between families. There may be differences in words or structure commonly spoken across Europe and there may be a difference in spelling or pronunciation.

HELLO

Galicja (Rumungry)

Lacio Giles

Kalderash

Bahtalo

Lovari

Lasho djesh

English Romaniachal

Kushti divvus

WELCOME

Galicja (Rumungry)

Jal Bahtali / Bahtalo

Kalderash

Mišto avilean

Lovari

Po sastipe

English Romaniachal

'Vel adrey

GOODBYE

Galicja (Rumungry)

Deloreha

Kalderash

Ceau

Lovari

Lasho djesh/devla sa

English Romaniachal

Devlesa

MY HOME IS...

Galicja (Rumungry)

Mindoro kher hino

Kalderash

Moro char si

Lovari

Moro ker si

English Romaniachal

Mandies kher/kenna's

THIS IS MY HOME

Galicja (Rumungry)

Kada hin mindoro kher

Kalderash

Cado si moro char

Lovari

Kado si moro ker

English Romaniachal

Kuvva's mandies kher/kenna

FAMILY

Galicja (Rumungry)

Familja

Kalderash

Familia

Lovari

Nipo/Familia

English Romaniachal

Mandies folki

BEAUTIFUL

Galicja (Rumungry)

Szucar

Kalderash

Sukar

Lovari

Sukar

English Romaniachal

Rinkeni

FOOD

Galicja (Rumungry)

Haben

Kalderash

Haben

Lovari

Habe

English Romaniachal

Hobben

WE COOK

Galicja (Rumungry)

Talas

Kalderash

Amen chiravas

Lovari

Chi ravas

English Romaniachal

Amandies ker hobben

WE PLAY

Galicja (Rumungry)

Baszalas

Kalderash

Amen chelasamen

Lovari

Ame kelasaman

English Romaniachal

Amandies kel

MY HOME HAS...

Galicja (Rumungry)

Dre mindoro kher

Kalderash

Moro char sas

Lovari

Ande moro ker si

English Romaniachal

Adrey mandies kher/
kenna amandies diks

PETS

Galicja (Rumungry)

Macka (cat) Rukono (dog)

Kalderash

Animale chereske

Lovari

Muci/Goukel

English Romaniachal

Jiviners

IN MY HOME

Galicja (Rumungry)

Kie mande khere

Kalderash

Ando moro char

Lovari

Ande moro ker

English Romaniachal

Adrey mandies kher/kenna

WE DANCE

Galicja (Rumungry)

Khelas

Kalderash

Amen chelas

Lovari

Ame kelas

English Romaniachal

Amandies kel

WE SING

Galicja (Rumungry)

Gilalas

Kalderash

Amen ghilabas

Lovari

Ame gilabas

English Romaniachal

Amandies kom gilling



Some words and phrases in Irish Cant

For Irish Traveller or Mincéir people, the language you speak can have different names.

Mincéir Thari (which translates to 'Traveller talk') can be called Shelta, Cant or De Gammon.

It is an ancient indigenous language formed using the Ogham technique, gradually developing towards its present form under the pressure of contact with Irish and Hiberno-English.

The closest living language is old Irish, which was spoken in Ireland pre 1200s. While the language is practiced mainly through the oral tradition, with very little written history of it, the words for 'priest' and 'God' shown in old, pre-Christian documents in Ireland show shared lineation between the languages.

Irish Cant is widely used today and the majority of people who speak it also speak English. There are different dialects of Irish Cant and in Ireland alone, pronunciation and spelling of particular words can differ between regions and families.

We would like to thank Traveller Pride for supporting us with these translations.



Hello

Grält'a

Good morning

Slum hawrum

Good evening

Slum dorahōg

It's good to see you

Tome ta Soonee ya lace

You are looking well

Yoordjeele's soonee-in munya

See you later

Muni got-in to

This is my home

Mwīlša's havari

My home

Mo havari

Family

Tribli

Beautiful

Bura/Buri

To cook

T'ērp

To make

Grati

To sing

Swurk

To dance

Dausa

Some words and phrases in Scottish Cant

Scottish Cant is spoken between Scottish Gypsy Traveller or Nacken people.

While there can be general strains of Cant, localised dialects mean there are infinite evolutions of words and phrases. The language is almost entirely oral and differs between geographical locations or through family and social preferences. The language is constantly evolving.

For Scottish Gypsy Travellers, Scottish Cant is often the first language for children, but will be accompanied by other languages used by parents.

Scottish Cant shares greater commonality with Romanés than with Gaelic languages, revealing the lineage of Scottish Gypsy Travellers from Northern India, with Roma peoples. It is part of the phenomenon of Indic diaspora languages spoken by travelling communities of Indian origin outside India.

There are different dialects of Scottish Cant and in Scotland alone, there can be differences in words commonly spoken across the country and differences in spelling between people.

We would like to thank Davie Donaldson for supporting us with these translations.



Come in

Bing anee

Look at my place

Deek naggins stallins

I stay in a house

Naggins bides an Keir

I stay in a camp/a trailer

An wattle

My home has...

Naggins stallins has

Family

Naggins Hantle

Beautiful

Beenship

Food

Habbin

I have one small dog

Naggins has yaick technie yaffin

I have two big cats

Naggins has dui muckle meowin-chaets

In my home

In naggin's stalin...

We cook

Wor noggins ker habbin

We sing

Wor noggins Chant

We dance

Wor noggins Grib

Inequalities experienced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people

The 2019 Women and Equalities Committee Inquiry ‘Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities’ emphasises that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities face some of the starkest inequalities of any ethnic group and that there has been a persistent failure by both national and local policy-makers to tackle these in any sustained way. Gypsies, Travellers and Roma are among the most disadvantaged people in the country and have poor outcomes in key areas such as health and education.

Did you know? Gypsies and Travellers are:

6x more likely to die by suicide than the general population.

20x more likely to experience the death of a child, as a mother.

Significantly more likely to have a long term illness, health problem or disability.

More likely to experience chest pain, arthritis and respiratory problems.

Information on the health outcomes of Roma communities in the UK are harder to come by. However, between 2005 and 2012, voluntary sector organisation Roma Support Group reported that:

60 % of their Roma beneficiaries had poor physical health including cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, hepatitis B, cardiovascular and respiratory ailments and multiple sclerosis.

43 % of their Roma beneficiaries were suffering from mental health problems including depression, personality disorders, learning disabilities, suicidal tendencies, self-abuse, and dependency/ misuse of drugs.

Find out more about health inequalities experienced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in our booklet “How to tackle health inequalities in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities: A guide for health and care services²”.

Young Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people can face unique and too often, difficult challenges in school and educational settings.

The Race Disparity Audit found that when compared to other ethnic groups, pupils from Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller backgrounds had the lowest attainment and progress and were the least likely to stay in education after the age of 16¹.

A study by the Children’s Commissioner in 2012 found Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children were four times more likely to be permanently excluded than the school population as a whole².

In 2017, The Traveller Movement found 70% (138 out of 199 interviews) of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people had experienced discrimination in some form of education³.

In 2019, Friends, Families and Travellers asked Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people about the biggest challenges they faced in school; 86% of pupils reported the biggest challenge to be bullying followed by racism at 72%⁴.

In 2020, we asked Gypsy, Roma and Traveller students to share the biggest challenges they face when going to school:

“I love my school but my school don’t have any books about Travellers or Gypsies”

“I found it hard to tell my friends and peers of how I live as it often was met with slight hostility or discomfort. The parents of my peers were the worst as they used derogatory language about how my family lives.”

We asked ‘If you could change anything about schools to make them better for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, what would it be?’

“Make them better at educating the whole school about the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community to increase awareness and combat prejudice”

“Teach more about being kind to each other no matter where you come from or what you live in.”

“For some reason it’s so acceptable to be discriminatory and racist against Romani/Travellers. The teachers don’t even care, in fact they were the worst sometimes. It shouldn’t be like this.”

Help Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils to feel safe and welcome in your school.

1. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/686071/Revised_RDA_report_March_2018.pdf
2. <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/They-never-give-up-on-you-final-report.pdf>
3. <https://wp-main.travellermovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/The-Last-Acceptable-Form-of-Racism-2017.pdf>
4. https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/GRT%20report%20-%20FINAL_0.pdf

7 ways you can mark Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

1. Review whether there is enough space for Gypsies and Travellers to stop in your area

Although nomadism has been present in the UK for centuries, there is still a shortage of places for Gypsies and Travellers to stop across the UK. In keeping with the #WhatMakesAHome theme of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month this year, review your local provision for Gypsies and Travellers and make sure there are adequate places where Gypsy and Traveller people in your area can stop or call home.

The Government's new Traveller Site Fund¹ is open for applications to make new sites, improve existing Gypsy and Traveller sites, build new transit sites and provide temporary stopping places.

You can call on your local leaders to apply for the fund until 13th June, so act quickly using the instructions on the Moving for Change website² or finding their contact details on writetothem.com

2. Hold a celebration day

Work with local Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and organisations to hold a celebration day.

Invite people from local Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to share stories or to enjoy food or arts traditional to their culture.

3. Organise a viewing of Crystal's Vardo

If your team works with young people or families, you can purchase the educational play, Crystal's Vardo³ from Friends, Families and Travellers this June. Crystal's Vardo is a play about a young Romany Gypsy girl who travels through time in her Grandad's vardo, unravelling the history of her ancestors. It is perfect for children and adults alike.

Accompanying Crystal's Vardo, we've developed teaching materials⁴ which include information on the cultures and histories of Gypsies and Travellers, as well as activities for children.

4. Learn about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history and communities in your area

Learn about Gypsy and Traveller history in your area by taking a look at local archives or looking for local names at the Romany and Traveller Family History Society⁵. You could create a map of traditional stopping places in your area, with the help of online materials and by speaking to local Gypsy and Traveller families to discover the unique histories of Gypsies and Travellers where you live.

Teach your local communities about the Romany and Traveller people who have called your local area home over the years.

5. Set up a staff network for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in your sector or organisation

With at least 1 in 200 people in the UK from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities it is likely that some of your staff, volunteers or pupils are from a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller background.

During Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, consider setting up a staff group, following the example of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Police Association⁶ and the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Social Workers Association⁷.

6. Light up civic buildings for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month in your local area

Light up council buildings and encourage local historic, arts and civic buildings to shine a light this June and celebrate Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month.

Your council building, local museum, church or library can help to build awareness of the month by lighting their buildings overnight.

7. Provide training to members of your staff team on how they can provide inclusive services to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

A range of organisations across the UK offer training on cultural awareness of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and how to provide inclusive services to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Find voluntary sector organisations working in your area using the Friends, Families and Travellers Services Directory⁸ or make a booking with our training team⁹.

1. <https://www.movingforchange.org.uk/news/new-traveller-site-fund/>
2. <https://www.movingforchange.org.uk/news/new-traveller-site-fund/>
3. <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/our-flagship-projects/theatre-for-change>
4. https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FFT_Teaching-Materials-2020_v12.pdf
5. <http://rtfhs.org.uk/>
6. <https://grtpa.co.uk/>
7. <https://www.basw.co.uk/media/news/2020/jul/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-social-work-association>
8. <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/services-directory/>
9. <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/training-packages/>

Celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media

This June, we would be delighted to see people across the country harness the positive power of social media to raise the profile of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month and to celebrate the contributions people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have made to your local area.

For the month of June, you can share your Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month activities on social media using these hashtags. You can also find other Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month projects, activities and events around the country and get involved.

Use these hashtags to shout about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

#WhatMakesAHome

#GRTHM

#GRTHM22



What can I do right now?

Copy and paste the messages below to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!



Post 1

This June, I'm celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month. Are you?

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people have diverse and rich histories and cultures in the UK.

This year the theme for **#GRTHM** is **#WhatMakesAHome?**

Get involved here: <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/heritage/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-history-month-2022/>

Post 2

Through education and celebration **#GRTHM** challenges prejudice and shares the rich and diverse Gypsy, Roma and Traveller histories.

This year we're asking **#WhatMakesAHome?**

Roads, water, fairgrounds, family. Home comes in many shapes and sizes.

Get involved: <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/heritage/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-history-month-2022/>

Share your GRTHM card

Take a picture of you or your team holding our GRTHM photo card. Let people know why you're celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month and how you work to make your local area welcoming to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.



Download the photo card at www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm or request a copy to be sent to you

Don't forget to tag us

Twitter @GypsyTravellers
Facebook /FriendsFamiliesandTravellers
Instagram @FriendsFamiliesandTravellers

Quotes from 'Bullied, Not Believed and Blamed' an Anti-Bullying Alliance and Friends, Families and Travellers report:

“Sometimes they think we’re one but you’ve got Romany Traveller, Irish Traveller, Mixed English. There’s like loads of different ones but they just throw us all in together.”



“They should tell people all the contributions Gypsies and Travellers have made in history.”

“Don’t teach nothing about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history or culture. Makes you feel like no one understands.”



“You don’t see any representation of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller in schools. We are invisible.”

With thanks to all who made contributions to this work

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studionovello.co.uk

www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm

#WhatMakesAHome

Friends, Families and Travellers: Working towards equality

We work to end racism and discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

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Follow us on Twitter @GypsyTravellers

Follow us on Instagram @FriendsFamiliesandTravellers

SUPPORT OUR WORK

**JUNE 20
22 GYPSY, ROMA
and TRAVELLER
HISTORY MONTH**