How to Be an Ally to Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater Communities

Recognise

Listen up!

Gypsies, Travellers, Roma, Showmen and Boaters are separate and diverse communities with varied heritage, culture, experiences and identities. Grouping everyone together in acronyms or umbrella terms can be problematic because it assumes similarity within and across communities.

Some families maintain a nomadic life and/or live in mobile homes, but many live in housing and a move into housing does not lead to a loss of ethnic identity.

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showmen and Boater members of our communities CAN and DO experience racism. Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Scottish Gypsy/Travellers and Roma are protected from discrimination by the Equality Act (2010).

Mind your language

Avoid using derogatory terms and racial slurs such as P*rkey, Gy*o and T*nker.

Be mindful of language that ‘others’ and reinforces a sense of difference or separation.

Ask people for their preferred terminology and respect their choices.

Take action

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showman and Boater as recognised ethnic and cultural groups.

Don’t just see people through the lens of their ethnicity. Gypsies, Travellers, Roma, Showmen and Boaters have many roles and make lots of different contributions to society.

Question the representations you see on TV and in the headlines!

Believe people’s experiences. Be open to challenge and correct any mistakes for future.

Be an active bystander who is willing to challenge prejudice.

Educate yourself further using the following resources:

This infographic was produced by students, staff and alumni of Northumbria University: Roseann Black, Natalie Forster, Martin Gallagher, Samantha Heeson, Jenna Tudor & Elaine Watt. Read more about our work to increase the representation of GTRSB communities in higher education here: