



For Gypsies,
Travellers and
Roma

The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

By email only

14th August 2023

Dear Greg

As co-chairs of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, we write to you to express our concern, following the leaflet distributed by the Secretary of State for Wales, the Rt Hon David TC Davies MP.

The leaflet contains racist tropes against Gypsy and Traveller communities; it may also be in breach of the Equality Act (2010). The leaflet is titled 'GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE COMING TO YOUR AREA SOON', and the reverse reads: '*Did you know the Labour-controlled County Council wants to create Gypsy and Traveller sites in your area? Would you like to see a traveller [sic] site next to your house?*' Such wording is clearly framed in a negative tone, encouraging and inflaming opposition to the creation of Gypsy and Traveller homes as part of a local community.

To whip up concern and opposition about ethnic minority communities living in any given area is dangerous and unacceptable. It has caused offense and upset to the communities, many of whom face discrimination daily.

We ask if you will meet with us, and a representative of our secretariat organisation, the charity Friends, Families and Travellers, to discuss this recent incident and how we can work to ensure that it will not happen again.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Janet Whitaker

Mary Kelly Foy MP

Co-chairs, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma

[gypsy-traveller.org/appg](https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/appg) All Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma

Co-chairs: Mary Foy MP, Baroness Janet Whitaker | Honorary President: Lord Nick Bourne

Friends, Families & Travellers (Charity Number: 1112326) acts as Secretariat to the APPG for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma.

@APPGGTR | T: 01273 234 777 | E: appg@gypsy-traveller.org