A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, DARREN DIGHTON:

In 2022, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month celebrated its 14th year and our charity reflected on the theme of ‘What Makes A Home?’. However, the state-sanctioned challenge to the nomadic way of life under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 reminds us all that the work of Friends, Families and Travellers in protecting the right to live a nomadic way of life is now more important than ever, so that wherever we call home remains a right.

Sadly, the war in Ukraine continues as does the wider forced displacement of innocent people across the world, by war and conflict, natural disasters, and poverty. Whilst there is only so much we can collectively do, we were pleased to see FFT provide two paid internships for people from Ukraine’s Roma community.

The dedicated work of our staff at FFT, in service to our diverse Gypsy and Traveller communities has heartfelt recognition from the Trustees. Whether tackling racism on the pitch through Kick It Out with younger members of the communities, preserving the life stories and tales through cultural projects like Crystal’s Vardo, or supporting safe-spaces for LGBTQIA+ members of travelling communities.

The Board of Trustees would like to ensure special thanks is given to two remarkable friends of our communities. FFT’s founder, Steve Staines, sadly passed away last year. Steve provided the cornerstone for what FFT is today, and what we can be for the future. Marya Sadouni-Smith, a warm, kind, open and dedicated support worker at FFT also passed away, with both leaving a legacy of change and are much missed by everyone at FFT.

We would also like to give a special thank you to Neil Ansell, our former Chair, who has been with FFT for over 20 years. I am pleased to be continuing on from Neil’s long-standing commitment to FFT and to bring my own lived experience of Traveller life. I hope to represent even more members of our diverse travelling communities whilst I serve FFT.

DARREN DIGHTON
CHAIR
This year, the cost-of-living crisis amplified the difficulties that Romany Gypsy, Roma, Irish Traveller and nomadic communities face, as evidenced through the energy crisis, which pushed many families into debt, food insecurity and fuel poverty.

Despite many households and businesses across the UK receiving support with rising energy costs since October last year, many Gypsies and Travellers living on sites were not eligible for financial help until April. Even then, people living on roadside camps and itinerant Boaters were still excluded from the grants.

As the PCSC Act received Royal Assent, we organised a Day of Solidarity in support of nomadic communities and we were honoured to see participation across civil society – with social assets appearing on over 630,000 feeds.

Over 2022-23, we sought to effect change by forming vital partnerships with other organisations and groups. We partnered with the National Emergencies Trust to ensure Gypsies and Travellers get the right support in the event of national emergencies, challenged the use of wide injunctions in the Supreme Court, and launched the three-year Oak Project to help increase site provision.

Through our youth work, young Gypsies and Travellers in Sussex led the way in creating change, delivering positive messages to encourage healthier choices, to tackling racism on the football pitch. Our Sussex Service Delivery and National Helpline helped Gypsies and Travellers with over 4300 issues ranging from benefits advice to plot applications to accessing insurance.

While there has been great adversity this year, we have had some great achievements. FFT won the Sheila McKechnie Foundation’s Best Coalition Award for our work as part of the Police Bill Alliance, and we helped reclaim the rights of Gypsies and Travellers by successfully challenging the discriminatory definition of ‘Traveller’ in the courts.

We look forward to another year of working closely together to break down barriers, and we would like to thank our staff, trustees, volunteers and supporters for joining us on this journey.

Our work wouldn’t be possible without you.

SARAH MANN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS HAS DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS, AND OUR DYNAMIC SERVICE DELIVERY TEAM HAS RESPONDED ACCORDINGLY. FFT'S OUTREACH AND CASEWORK TEAMS SUPPORTED FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WITH OVER 4300 ISSUES, FROM POST-READING AND LETTER-WRITING, TO ACCESSING GRANTS AND SECURING ACCOMMODATION.

WE RELEASED A REPORT ON TACKLING SUICIDE INEQUALITIES IN GYPSY AND TRAVELLER COMMUNITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OFFICE FOR HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AND DISPARITIES (OHID) TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS ON HOW TO ENSURE GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS RECEIVE THE RIGHT SUPPORT, AND ARE INCLUDED IN SUICIDE PREVENTION AND PLANNING. TO DATE, THE REPORT HAS BEEN DOWNLOADED OVER 1200 TIMES.

OUR AWARD-WINNING YOUNG HEALTH CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME WAS DELIVERED TO OVER 50 YOUNG PEOPLE IN SUSSEX, QUALIFYING YOUNG GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS TO CASCADE HEALTH MESSAGES TO PEERS AND FAMILIES. GRADUATES HAVE INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING, GAINED A LEVEL 2 QUALIFICATION, AND MADE POSITIVE HEALTH IMPACTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING REDUCING SUN BED USE AND SWAPPING ENERGY DRINKS FOR WATER.

WITH OVER 400,000 ROMA AFFECTED BY THE WAR IN UKRAINE, WE FACILITATED TWO PAID PLACEMENTS OVER SUMMER 2022 FOR PEOPLE ESCAPING THE CONFLICT.

FACILITATED BY OUR SUSSEX OUTREACH TEAM, ENGLAND C TEAM COACH AND EX-WEST HAM PLAYER ANWAR UDDIN MBE VISITED ST MICHAEL'S WAY SITE, ALONG WITH ANTI-DISCRIMINATION CHARITY KICK IT OUT TO PLAY FOOTBALL GAMES AND PRACTICE WITH YOUNG IRISH TRAVELLER CHILDREN.

OUR SEASON'S GIFTINGS CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED IN RESPONSE TO THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS IMPACTING MANY GYPSY AND TRAVELLER FAMILIES ACROSS SUSSEX. THANKS TO EVERYONE'S SUPPORT, MORE THAN 40 FAMILIES RECEIVED TOYS, A FOOD HAMPER, OR A GAS BOTTLE, SPREADING FESTIVE CHEER DURING A DIFFICULT TIME.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NHS ENGLAND, WE DELIVERED A DIGITAL HEALTH INCLUSION PROJECT IN BRIGHTON AND SUPPORTED CLIENTS TO DOWNLOAD AND USE THE NHS DIGITAL APP TO BOOK GP APPOINTMENTS, CHECK MEDICAL RECORDS AND ACCESS HEALTHCARE INFORMATION.
DEFINING CHANGE

We presented evidence of the discriminatory effects of the Government’s planning definition of ‘Traveller’ alongside London Gypsies and Travellers, Southwark Travellers Action Group and the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group. The Court of Appeal ruled in our favour, declaring the definition as discriminatory. We’re grateful for the incredible work of David Wolfe KC, Owen Greenhall and Tim Jones, and Chris Johnson of CLP.

FIGHTING INJUSTICE

We fought the use of anti-Traveller ‘wide injunctions’ at the Supreme Court, which have often been used by councils to stop Gypsies and Travellers from stopping on public land. We are waiting for the judgment.

POLICE ACT 2022

In the wake of the new police powers, we produced materials on what the law means for people living on roadside camps, delivered workshops, and held a Day of Solidarity alongside the Police Bill Alliance, in support of the nomadic way of life.

ENERGY CRISIS

We launched a campaign for people to write to their MPs calling for energy support grants to be extended to people living on roadside camps and itinerant Boaters. 625 letters were sent and as of August 2023, our campaigning led to itinerant Boaters being able to access support.

WHAT MAKES A HOME?

Our theme for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM) 2022 was ‘What Makes a Home?’. Throughout the month, we shared nostalgic and heartfelt stories from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people about what the concept of home meant to them – whether it was a place, feeling or people.

CRYSTAL’S VARDO

This year, our anti-bullying play, Crystal’s Vardo celebrated its tenth anniversary and made the most of being on the road! We performed to over 2,500 young people and adults in schools, museums, libraries and prisons across the country, from Durham, Middlesbrough, Somerset, Wales, Worcester, Essex, London and our hometown in Brighton.
OAK PROJECT

To increase site provision for Gypsies and Travellers across England, we launched The Oak Project, a 3 year partnership including London Gypsies & Travellers, National Policy Advisory Panel on Gypsy and Traveller Housing (NPAP), and the Housing Diversity Network.

RODDICK PROJECT

Our Roddick Project, supported by the Roddick Foundation, takes an asset-based development approach to advice, advocacy and casework, providing assertive outreach in the form of traditional skills workshops, weekly youth clubs and our Young Health Champions programme across West Sussex.

DSI DIGITAL

Funded by NHS Sussex, our ‘Digital Traveller Champions’ project set out to increase digital confidence, skills, and participation in digital health for Gypsies and Travellers in Sussex, through workshops, providing essential items such as SIM cards and young people’s clubs.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

The Baring Foundation-funded project addressed racial injustice experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities with the Criminal Justice System presented by new legislation, as with the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act and the use of ‘wide injunctions’.

PROFESSIONAL MENTORSHIP

Moving for Change commissioned FFT to begin a mentorship programme for a community member to gain new skills, information and knowledge, increase workplace skills, and empower them to take positive actions to uphold their rights and responsibilities.

REPORTS

TO FURTHER TARGET INJUSTICE AT ALL LEVELS, WE CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY RESEARCH.

FIND SOME OF OUR KEY RESEARCH AND REPORTS FROM THE PAST YEAR BELOW:

CLICK TO VIEW ONLINE:

Briefing on Race Hate and prejudice faced by Gypsies and Travellers in England
Friends, Families and Travellers, March 2023

Written evidence for the 2023 Pre-Sessional Working Group Report to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Friends, Families and Travellers, January 2023

Briefing on Health Inequalities experienced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities
Friends, Families and Travellers, October 2022

Tackling Suicide Inequalities in Gypsy and Traveller Communities 2022
Friends, Families and Travellers, September 2022
## Statement of financial activities (Incorporating an income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31st March 2023

### INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM

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### EXPENDITURE ON

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**NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

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**RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS**

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**TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD**

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<td>360,327</td>
<td>2,032</td>
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### IN THE NEWS

We raise awareness of the inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities so that the public are equipped with information that enables them to hold the government to account.

**CLICK ARTICLES ON THE RIGHT TO READ ONLINE**

- **Supreme Court to hear challenge to ‘persons unknown’ injunctions**
  Friends of the Earth

- **Fighting financial exclusion in the Gypsy and Traveller community**
  Financial Times

- **Inside the online forums where anti-Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sentiment thrives**
  Gal-dem

- **‘Landmark’ court judgement rules that ‘Gypsy status’ planning law discriminates**
  Travellers’ Times

- **The world has been redesigned to exclude us**
  Inside Housing

- **Hearing the voices of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community**
  Green World

- **Will The Government’s New Fund To Support Travellers Make A Difference?**
  EachOther

- **Gypsy and Traveller families ‘paying £600 a month for gas’ after being left out in the cold from government support**
  Big Issue

- **‘It’s traumatic’: new travellers’ Dorset home challenged by Martin Clunes**
  The Guardian
Our favourite moment this year was helping reclaim the rights of Gypsies and Travellers living with disabilities or in old age, by successfully defeating the discriminatory planning definition of ‘Traveller’ in the courts.

This incredible victory is a devastating blow to policies and legislation that have long been used to stifle the cultural traditions of Gypsy and Traveller communities.
Contact Details:

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113 Queens Road
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BN1 3XG

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Charity Number: 1112326