GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER HISTORY MONTH 2024

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- 4 A timeline of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller histories.
- 5 Celebrate using our social media templates.
- 6 Ways you can join in with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month online.



Welcome to our Digital Engagement Pack for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2024!

This pack is designed to help you mark and celebrate Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM) from wherever you are.

The rich and diverse histories, traditions and cultures of Irish Traveller, Romany Gypsy, Roma, New Traveller, Boater and Showman communities deserve to be celebrated far and wide, and this pack offers guidance on how you can take part, and the tools you need to get started.

We can't wait to see what you do this June!

We hope you have a brilliant Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2024!



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Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people through history

If you have tried to learn more about the diversity and histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, you wouldn't be alone in finding that there's just not much out there.

Follow our timeline through the decades to find out what we do know.

Click here for the full timeline



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People with Roma heritage travelled from northwest India as prisoners, slaves and soldiers.

Theories suggest 60,000 Roma people were forcibly enlisted to the army of Mahmud of Ghazni and after his death, were expelled from latter to retrieve and driven to remark the first territories.

Ancient laws in Scotland recognis a community of people called 'tinklers' from their occupation

They are viewed differently to mainstream society, seen to have their own customs and dialect.² 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, bough and sold in their hundreds. It was not until 1856 that the Moldovian and Wallachian Assemblies abolished slavery within their principalities.3

Romany Gypsies first recorded in England were incorrectly thought to have travelled from Egypt.

In 1530, Henry VIII's 'Egyptians Act' expelled Romany Gypsies in England. In 1554, Queen Mary ruled that being a Gypsy was runishable by death

998AD

11005

1200

15009

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.

dor died as a result of starvation or disease.



travelled with elaborately made 'bender tents'.

are used to travel, with bender tents used alongside.



the crime of being a Gypsy in Suffolk, England. the general population around 12 generations ago in the 1600s -'an lucht siùil' (the walking people) became known for storytelling and sharing songs from city to city.

19405

1850

16

1600

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



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

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



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

196

2000

2004 - 2007

200

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act becomes law. Th new law means nomadic Gypsy and Traveller people are at risk of havin The High Court rules that Local Authorities are no longer able to issue blanket bans on Gypsies and Travellers stopping on parcels of land, recognising that 'the Gypsy and Traveller community have an enshrined freedom not to stay in one place but to



Eileen Flynn becomes the first Irish Traveller to Irish Travellers are recognised as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognised as Ireland's only indigenous community.¹³

202

2020

2020

2047

The planning definition of 'Traveller', which states anyone not travelling for more than 12 months, even if due to old age or ill-health, is not considered a 'Traveller', is declared 'discriminatory' by the Court of Appeal, in a case supported by Friends, Families and

2021 Census has for the first time ever included 'Roma' as an ethnic category with the official population declared a over 100,000 people.

Population increases are also seen for Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller people. injunctions have a negative impact on Gypsies' and Travellers' ability to pursue a nomadic way of life, but reljected an appeal lodged by FFT, London Gypsies and Travellers (LGT) and Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group (DGLG), against the granting of wide injunctions against 'Persons Unknown'. New powers brought in by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 challenged at the High Court by Wendy Smith, a Romany Gypsy, with FFT and Liberty acting as Interveners.



The Equality and Human Rights Commission finds Pontins Holiday Park acted 'unlawfully' against Irish Travellers, following an investigation into the holiday park's blacklist of Irish-sounding names.

2022

2022

202

2024

2024

Celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media

Simply use the template text and images we've provided below, or create your own and inspire others to celebrate, reflect and take part.

We'd love to know how you mark GRTHM – let us know by using these hashtags:

#GRTHMFamilies #GRTHM24

We'll be sharing lots about GRTHM across June on our social channels. Follow us to keep updated!

Example posts:

Click on each image to download:



If you're from a Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma or nomadic background, we want you to know that you're always welcome here.

This #GRTHM24, we're taking the time to learn about the colourful histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities – come along!

https://www.gypsy-traveller. org/grthm/



We're celebrating #GRTHM24 this June by taking the time to explore what family means to us – why not take part?

https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm/

- - @GypsyTravellers
- •
- /FriendsFamiliesandTravellers
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6 ways your organisation or sector can celebrate GRTHM

This Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, help create a fairer and just future for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities by taking the steps below or coming up with some of your own!

Engage with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller organisations on social media

There are countless organisations up and down the country tackling the root causes of inequalities and working with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people directly to help secure a bright future, free of discrimination. Keep up to date and offer support by engaging with them on social media!

If you don't know where to start, take a look at our <u>Services Directory</u> which lists a wide range of organisations, from <u>Connecting</u>
Roma to One Voice 4 Travellers.

2

Celebrate on social media

Show your support to Romany Gypsy, Roma, Irish Traveller, Boater, Showman and New Traveller people this June by sharing the significance of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month with your followers.

By taking part, you will help raise awareness and forge solidarity with people and organisations you might not have come across otherwise.

You can come up with your own social media posts or use the text and image templates we've provided on page 5 – don't forget to tag us and use the #GRTHMFamilies and #GRTHM24 hashtags!



Encourage learning about the barriers Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people face

Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma and nomadic communities face <u>some of the highest levels</u> <u>of racially motivated abuse, social and economic deprivation, and poor access to health and employment.</u>

But, there are many organisations and individuals working to increase understanding, raise awareness, and make the world a better place.

Whether it's taking a stand against discrimination, or working to undo the stigma around mental health, here are some resources you can watch and share.



4

Share the latest news about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to your followers

There is widespread prejudice and discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people, but by sharing news, information and new developments, you help bring to light the experiences and daily realities of people from these communities. It's a slow process, but a necessary one.

If you're unsure of what the latest news is, check out <u>our website</u>, <u>Travellers' Times</u> or <u>subscribe</u> to our newsletter.



Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month doesn't have to end in June

There are lots of events, workshops, commemorations and remembrance days throughout the year, which you can be a part of.

Whether it's sharing details of <u>Kushti Bok's</u> annual commemoration Roma Holocaust <u>Day on 2 August</u>, or taking up our <u>training</u>, there is always plenty to shout about!



Help us break down barriers

At Friends, Families and Travellers, we campaign for change at a local and national level. Sometimes, it's about standing against <u>draconian legislation</u>, and sometimes it's about effecting <u>long</u> term change through education.

But we always need more people to stand for what's right, so do your part and encourage your online community to become campaigners for the rights of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

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FRIENDS, FAMILIES & TRAVELLERS

#GRTHM24 #GRTHMFamilies

Friends, Families and Travellers works to end racism and discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

Contact Details:

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