

GRTHM:
Onwards
with
Hope



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**FRIENDS,
FAMILIES &
TRAVELLERS**

Digital Engagement Pack

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Introduction

Welcome to our Digital Engagement Pack for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2026!

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

The rich and diverse histories, traditions and cultures of Irish Traveller, Romany Gypsy, Roma, New Traveller, Boater and Showmen 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!

From all of us at Friends, Families and Travellers...

We hope you have a brilliant Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2026!



Before we get started...

It's important when teaching or learning about Romany Gypsy, Roma, Irish Traveller, Showmen, Liveaboard Boater and New Traveller people, to emphasise the distinct histories, cultures and heritages of these communities. Just like all communities, there are things that are shared and things that are not–no one group is the same as another!

If you'd like to learn more, head over to gypsy-traveller.org or get in touch!

[Click here for the full timeline](#)

GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER HISTORY MONTH

GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER PEOPLE, CULTURES, AND TRADITIONS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

998AD People with Roma heritage travelled from northwest India to the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

1100s Ancient laws in medieval Europe gave a 'necessity of people' called 'Itinerant' and their descendants the right to travel.

1200s Roma people in the territories of western Europe were often seen as 'Itinerant' and their descendants the right to travel.

1500s In 1505, Henry VIII's 'Statute in that behalf made' was the first law to restrict the movement of Roma people.

1600s Many people began to settle in rural areas, often in the north of England, where they were often seen as 'Itinerant' and their descendants the right to travel.

1700s Irish Travellers were recognized as a distinct ethnic group in 1700.

1800s The first Gypsy Traveller was recognized as a distinct ethnic group in 1800.

1900s Following implementation of the Gypsy and Traveller Act 1968, the first Gypsy Traveller was recognized as a distinct ethnic group in 1900.

2000 The Romany and Traveller Communities Act 2000 was passed, recognizing Roma and Travellers as distinct ethnic groups.

2004 - 2007 The High Court ruled that Local Authorities are no longer able to force Roma to leave the UK, recognizing that 'the Roma are a distinct ethnic group'.

2008 Gypsy Travellers were recognized as a distinct ethnic group in 2008.

2017 Irish Travellers were recognized as a distinct ethnic group in 2017.

2020 The High Court ruled that Local Authorities are no longer able to force Roma to leave the UK, recognizing that 'the Roma are a distinct ethnic group'.

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Recent history

Take a look below at some of the more **recent landmark changes, achievements** and **events** for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities **across the UK**.

2023

Supreme Court rules 'Anti-Traveller' wide injunctions have a negative impact on Gypsies' and Travellers' ability to pursue a nomadic way of life.



2024

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.

2024

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.



May 2024

High Court declares parts of Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSCA) in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

December 2024

Planning definition of 'Traveller' reverts to more-inclusive pre-2015 definition, which better reflects accommodation needs of many Gypsies and Travellers.

March 2025

The UN's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights calls for repeal of PCSCA's eviction powers against roadside camps.

May 2025

NHS England takes a major step by recommending that health bodies across the UK include Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller people in patient data, aligning records with the 2021 census.

March 2026

Government's amendment to Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (PCSCA) to revert 12-month area ban change back to the original (pre-PCSCA) 3 months accepted.



6 ways you can join in with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month online



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 [Services Directory](#) which lists a wide range of organisations, from [Roma Drom UK](#), to [Gypsy Life](#).

Celebrate on social media

Recognising Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media is a wonderful way to help ensure Romany Gypsy, Roma, Irish Traveller, and travelling communities feel welcome and supported.

By taking part, you will also 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 **#OnwardsWithHope** and **#GRTHM26** hashtags!

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

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

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 ensure services are more inclusive and accessible, here are some resources you can watch and [share](#).





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 normalise the 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 [our website](#), [Travellers' Times](#) or [subscribe 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 [Kushti Bok's annual commemoration Roma Holocaust Day on 2 August](#), or taking up our [training](#), 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 [draconian legislation](#), and sometimes it's about working with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people to create a [clear pathway to possible long term change](#).

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.

You can always post your support of current campaigns as a school, class, or organisation on social media too – don't forget to tag us!

Celebrating *Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month* on social media

This June, get talking about **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month** on social media. We've made it as easy as possible by including template images and text (below) you can use!

Let us know what you get up to by using these hashtags:

#GRTHM26 #OnwardsWithHope

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

EXAMPLE POST:

Feel free to come up with your own – don't forget to use the hashtags and tag us!



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

This #GRTHM26, 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/>

Find image at: <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/GRTHM26.webp>



@GypsyTravellers



/FriendsFamiliesandTravellers



@FriendsFamiliesandTravellers





**FRIENDS,
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TRAVELLERS**

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#GRTHM26 #OnwardsWithHope

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:

Address

Friends, Families and Travellers
Community Base
113 Queens Road
Brighton
BN1 3XG

Telephone 01273 234 777

Email fft@gypsy-traveller.org

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