

Nesil Caliskan MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Devolution, Faith and Communities)

By email: 19th May 2026

Re: Invitation to speak at Roma and Traveller Strategy launch on 2nd July

Dear Nesil,

We write as Chair and Co-chair of the APPG for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma to warmly welcome you to your new position as Minister for Devolution, Faith and Communities. We are delighted that you have taken up this post and are very much looking forward to working with you in this new capacity.

As a member of this APPG, we know you will already be aware of the stark and longstanding inequalities experienced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities across a range of areas, including accommodation, education, health, and employment, as well as the prejudice that continues to affect communities' daily lives. We are therefore particularly encouraged that this brief now sits within your ministerial responsibilities.

As you will know, the need for a clear and bold national approach remains urgent. Although [MHCLG announced](#) in 2019 that it would lead a cross-departmental strategy to tackle Gypsy, Roma and Traveller inequalities, this was never delivered. Since then, both the [Council of Europe](#) and the [European Commission against Racism and Intolerance](#) have called for the UK to adopt a national strategy to address the longstanding inequalities experienced by these communities.

We are hopeful that, under your leadership, there is now an opportunity to make meaningful progress on these issues. We would be very glad to meet with you to discuss the current picture and the steps government can take to deliver the coordinated response that is so badly needed.

We would also like to warmly invite you to speak at our event on **Thursday 2nd July, 1-3pm** to launch the new Council of Europe Roma and Traveller Strategy at



For Gypsies,
Travellers and
Roma

Parliament. I, Janet Whitaker, would very much welcome your attendance and participation, and I would also be very happy to brief you on the general issues in advance if that would be helpful. This would be a fantastic opportunity to show your support for the communities and help us to bring needed attention to this important piece of work.

We look forward to working with you and to the opportunity to engage further.

Yours sincerely

Mary Kelly Foy MP, Chair and Baroness Janet Whitaker, Co-chair
All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma