

National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy

Phase 2

Consultation Document

What would you prioritise? What would you add, change or remove?

Themes

The themes we are suggesting for the Strategy have been revised in the light of the views expressed by stakeholders in Phase 1 of the Consultation process. A total of 36 submissions were received in this Phase and were analysed by the Department of Justice and Equality with the assistance of Pavee Point.

Objectives

The bullet points under each theme set out the broad goals the strategy wants to achieve. Here is a provisional list of possible objectives to be achieved, on which we in the Department want your feedback.

Cultural Identity

1. Traveller culture, identity and heritage is supported and valued by Irish society.
2. Travellers and Roma are supported to preserve and develop their cultural heritage.
3. Programmes around horse ownership should be encouraged to promote intergenerational learning, cultural continuity and positive self-identity for Travellers.

Gender Equality and Inclusion

1. The multiple disadvantages faced by Traveller and Roma women should be addressed.
2. Traveller and Roma women should be supported in key areas including education, employment and economic development.
3. In particular, the incidence of violence against Traveller and Roma women should be tackled.
4. LGBT Travellers and Roma are included, accepted and protected.
5. Traveller and Roma men have opportunities for lifelong education and training.

Education

1. Access, participation and outcomes for Travellers and Roma in education should be on a par with those for the majority community.
2. There should be a positive culture of respect and protection for the cultural identity of Travellers and Roma within the education system.

Employment and the Traveller economy

1. Equal employment and training opportunities for Travellers and Roma.
2. Positive public service recruitment to train and employ Traveller and Roma in public services.
3. Entrepreneurship and self-employment are supported and facilitated.
4. There are clear links and progression routes between education and employment.
5. Travellers and Roma have access to mainstream financial services such as savings and affordable credit options.

Children and Youth

1. Traveller and Roma children should be consulted appropriately in the development of policy, legislation, research and services, in keeping with the objectives of the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision making, 2015-2010.
2. Traveller and Roma families receive appropriate and culturally sensitive supports to enable children to live in a safe and secure environment, in particular vital early and preventative services.
3. Traveller and Roma children and young people have opportunities to participate in non-formal education opportunities that meet their needs.

Health

1. Travellers and Roma should have improved access, opportunities and outcomes in the health care system.
2. Health inequalities experienced by Travellers and Roma should be reduced.
3. Health services should be delivered in a way that is culturally appropriate.
4. The rate of suicide and mental health problems within the Traveller and Roma communities should be tackled.

Anti-Discrimination and Equality

1. Incidences of discrimination are addressed through targeted interventions for Travellers and Roma.
2. Robust measures to address racism and hate speech in the media and public sphere should be adopted.
3. There should be access to redress mechanisms in a timely and accessible manner.
4. Travellers and Roma who come into contact with the criminal justice system are supported throughout their sentence and post release to reintegrate into the community.

Accommodation

1. Adequate provision of accessible, suitable and culturally appropriate accommodation is available for Travellers.
2. Delivery of Traveller accommodation is underpinned by a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure full expenditure of funds allocated for Traveller-specific accommodation.

Traveller and Roma Communities

1. Travellers and Roma are supported to participate in political processes at local and national level.
2. Traveller and Roma organisations are resourced to support and facilitate political engagement and leadership in the Traveller and Roma communities.
3. A strong Traveller and Roma infrastructure, underpinned by community development principles is supported and resourced.
4. Government agencies and Traveller organisations collaborate to protect and support the Traveller community in addressing conflict, feuding and anti-social behaviour.
5. In particular, there should be an effective and sustained programme, in partnership with the Traveller community and all relevant Department and agencies, to bring feuding to an end definitively over a period of time.

Public services

1. Travellers and Roma organisations are consulted on and meaningfully involved in the design and delivery of relevant services and programmes that affect them.
2. Relevant public services staff are trained in anti-racism and cultural awareness and understand their obligations under the section 42 positive duty in the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act.
3. Public services are provided in a way that is non-discriminatory and respectful of Traveller and Roma culture and identity.
4. Data disaggregated by ethnicity is consistently collected by all Government Departments and statutory agencies to support evidence-based policy-making.
5. Collected data is used to monitor and evaluate the impact of existing policies and strategies and to inform the development of any future policies or strategies.