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Ethnicity

The Dail ethnicity debate which accrued from the Oireachtas Justice Committee report on ethnicity was held on June 1st. The Department of Justice, Taoiseach, and Minister for Equality were always very clear to point out that

recognition would not create any new or enhanced benefits for Travellers and that it was largely a symbolic gesture. However, recognition does enhance, in some cases, Travellers protection in legislation and should be a guarantee of future legal inclusion. Both reports of Joint Oireachtas Justice committees note '*that steps be taken to implement any necessary legislative change to reflect recognition*'. The current joint committee was very keen that this issue would remain firmly on the political agenda." **ITM and our members should aim to ensure it is kept on local and national agendas also.**

ITM created a space for members on the 18th May to explore two linked themes:

1. What are the current policy or legislative changes that Ethnicity Recognition currently brings
2. What future changes would ITM members like to see now that Traveller ethnicity has been recognised

A second space for further discussion is being convened at the ITM AGM and ties in with year's theme.

- The development of a strategy
- What we can do now and on an ongoing basis

Full copy of the Dail transcript linked

here: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2017-06-01a.436>

ITM Accommodation Update

Dear ITM members,

Please see below Right to Housing Seminar. I'd say this would be really interesting if people have time to go. Bridgie

Dear Colleague,

I, together with the Mercy Law Resource Centre and the Simon Communities in Ireland invite you to our seminar, ***A Right to Housing***.

- · Date: Thursday, **July 13th, 2017**
- Time: **10.00am - 2.00pm**
- Venue: **Emmet Theatre, Trinity Conference Centre, Trinity College Dublin.**

Our housing sector is in crisis with devastating consequences on the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. We must re-write the rules and fundamentally rethink our approach to housing in Ireland.

At the core of that, acting as an anchor, I believe **we need to enshrine a constitutional right in Bunreacht na hÉireann**. In 2014, 84% of members of the Convention on the Constitution voted in favour of enumerating such a right.

This seminar will bring together key stakeholders to outline the importance of a constitutional right to housing and **to map out the next steps** that could be taken, working collectively, to advance the right to housing from a policy, legislative and constitutional perspective.

Speakers confirmed to date are:

- **Kitty Holland**, The Irish Times.
- **Rory Hearne**, NUI Maynooth.
- **Karen McLoughlin**, SIPTU.
- **Niamh Randall**, Simon Communities.
- **Maeve Regan**, Mercy Law Resource Centre.
- **Professor Gerry Whyte**, Trinity College Dublin.

A light networking lunch will be included

To register for this free event please RSVP to

communications@simoncommunity.com by Monday July 10th. For further information please contact [01 671 1606](tel:016711606) or my office on [01 618 3642](tel:016183642). Please also find attached a brief paper on the issue.

Kind regards,

Colette



Senator Colette Kelleher

Independent - Civil Engagement Group

[Upcoming ITM Events](#)

The ITM AGM and Conference will take place on Tuesday 11th July in the Tullamore Court Hotel.

Diary Date : Traveller Research Preview 11.30am July 26th 2017

Preview of findings from the National Traveller Survey for local and national Traveller organisation at:

11.30am on July 26th 2017

in the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

Findings will be regionalised to provinces and greater Dublin area and compared to national findings.

This invite is extended to research participants, research assistants and Traveller organisations.

Please RSVP to Jacinta Brack / Damien Peelo on travellerresearch@gmail.com



Invite

You are kindly invited to a preview of the National Traveller Attitudinal Survey 2017

On Wednesday July 26th 2017 11.30 – 1.30pm in the venue of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), Dublin 7, followed by refreshments.

The research surveyed attitudes of and to the Traveller community and was carried out in 50 locations around Ireland from December 2016 – February 2017.

The focus :

- Life satisfaction
- Health
- Accommodation
- Traveller Culture
- Travellers and the Settled Community
- Education

We now invite you to a preview presentation of the findings segmented to the specific areas of Dublin, Leinster, Munster, Connaught / Ulster and compared with National figures.

The official and public launch of the survey will take place on September 26th 2017 in Dublin.

This invite is extended to research participants, research assistants and Traveller organisations.

Please RSVP to Jacinta Brack / Damien Peelo

on travellerresearch@gmail.com before **Wednesday July 19th**.

Venue location:

Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission, 16-22 Green Street, Dublin 7 Lo-call: 1 890 245545

Inline images 2



[Information Sharing](#)

Department of Justice and Equality Equality Division

Call for proposals – Roma Inclusion

The Department of Justice and Equality invites applications for project proposals that will support integrated approaches to addressing the multidimensional issues faced by Roma communities living in Ireland. Proposed interventions should particularly focus on the thematic areas of Education, Cultural Identity and the Roma Community within the recently launched National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy. Proposals must also promote the inclusion of both the Roma community and relevant national stakeholders in all aspects of development, implementation and evaluation.

Projects must meet the following objectives:

- must be sustainable for the life of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021
- must promote the integration and inclusion of the Roma community in Irish society

- gender equality must be achieved in the management and delivery of the project
- all members of the Roma community in the geographical region must be considered, including LGBTI persons and other minorities

How to apply:

Please submit all queries and completed proposals by email to ntris@justice.ie by 07 July 2017. Proposals will be evaluated with reference to the objectives outlined above. Please note any applications received after this date will be ineligible.

Marie Stanley
Traveller & Roma Inclusion Unit
Equality Division
Dept of Justice & Equality
Bishop's Square
Dublin 2

Phone: 4790276

Establishment of a National Traveller Mental Health Network

Reminder : There are still some places available to attend this discussion group. If you want your local group/organisation represented please reply at your earliest convenience.

Please note that the 2017 Mental Health Operational Plan that is being rolled out aims to employ 9 mental health coordinators specifically for the Traveller community.

This will inform part of our discussion.

The Traveller Counselling Service would like to invite you to a discussion on the establishment of a National Traveller Mental Health Network.

The aim of this network would be to;

- identify the key issues affecting Travellers mental health
- ensure a co-ordinated response to Travellers needs in terms of mental health
- advocate and lobby on issues relating to Travellers mental health
- support local groups in terms of dealing with mental health

However, on the day, other issues may be brought to the discussion that will become part of the remit of this network.

The rationale behind the setting up of this network, is that mental health is a major issue for Travellers – the situation has in fact been described as a mental health crisis within the community. Feedback from our conference in October 2016, tells us that the Traveller community and the local Traveller organisations are struggling to deal with this mental health crisis with many projects struggling to address these issues at both a local and a national level. This difficulty is in part due to the lack of a co-ordinated response from the various organisations that work to address these. The aim of this network is to ensure that a collective and cohesive response to address mental health is in place. We hope that this discussion will generate the start of this process.

This discussion is open to Travellers and Traveller organisations engaged in addressing mental health issues within the Traveller community. There is a limited number of places available for this event due to venue restrictions (50 max).

If you would like to attend this event, please book a place by contacting Beatrice at travcounselling@hotmail.com.

Venue : The Generator, Smithfield

Time : 10.30 – 1.30

Date : Tuesday 4th July

An Cosán

To celebrate the recognition of Traveller ethnicity earlier this year, An Cosán have launched a dedicated scholarship for members of the Traveller community for intake onto our Degree programmes in September 2017.

An Cosán has two Level 7 Degree programmes:

- Applied Addiction Studies and Community Development
- Leadership and Community Development

Further information about the degree programmes please see the attached documents

Each scholarship would contribute €1800 to a student's fees for each of the three years of the degree, amounting to €5,400 (82% of fees) over the three year degree.

The closing date for applications to the degrees is Friday 30th June.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Kind regards,

Caoimhe

Caoimhe Kerins

Education and Training Manager

An Cosán

Kiltalown Village Centre,

Jobstown,

Tallaght,

Dublin 24

t: 01 462 8488

m: 086 703 0149

e: c.kerins@ancosan.com

[Job Opportunities](#)

Please find a link to the advert and job description for the Yellow Flag Development Worker for which ITM is currently recruiting.

<http://www.activelink.ie/content/vacancies/community/31170>

I'd be very grateful if you would circulate to your contacts and anyone you think might like to apply.

Kind regards

Job Advertisement for 2 positions with the National Traveller Women's Forum.

- Community Development Worker
- Finance Manager/Office Administrator

Closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm Wednesday the 12th July 2017.

You can request an application form, from recruitmentntwf@gmail.com (Please do not send a C.V. it will not be considered)

Could you please circulate to your networks.

[Latest News From National Traveller MABS](#)

National Traveller MABS Are Recruiting Two New Positions!!

National Traveller MABS is the leading advocate for the financial inclusion of Travellers in Ireland. As a Traveller specific service, we advocate for the many Travellers in Ireland who cannot access affordable savings and credit and who rely on money lenders. We work to change policy and practice which excludes Travellers from financial services. We also aim to increase financial capability within the Traveller Community.

1. We wish to recruit a Community Education Worker

Full-time permanent position (35 hrs per week)

Please click [here](#) for application form and job description.

2. We also wish to recruit a Development Worker

Full-time permanent position (35 hrs per week)

For application and job description please click [here](#)

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

The 2017 Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme opened on 1 June 2017. Many people will get the allowance automatically.

If you do not receive an automatic payment, you must apply for the allowance. Application forms are available from 16 June 2017. The closing date for applications is 30 September 2017. Automatic payments will be made in the week ending 14 July 2017.

[More Details](#)

Back To School Costs

The school year is nearly at an end and it won't be long until September is with us again and the kids go back to school with all the associated costs. The list can seem endless. Rather than wait for the last frantic weeks of August, it's a good idea to start planning now and to try and spread the cost of going back to school over the summer.

[More Details](#)

Childcare For Children With Disabilities

Extra supports are available for children with disabilities who take part in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme.

Applications for these supports are now being accepted for children entering ECCE in September 2017.

[More Details](#)

Maternity Benefit Payments

The Department of Social Protection is publishing regular updates on the current processing times for Maternity Benefit claims.

[More Details](#)



National Traveller MABS Info!!!

National Traveller MABS is a leading advocate against financial exclusion of Travellers in Ireland. We are also a free and confidential service, you can contact us by:

Phone : 0761 072230

Email: info@ntmabs.ie

Website: <http://www.ntmabs.org>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/National-Traveller-MABS>



[Use the ITM Bulletin to get your message across](#)

All ITM members who wish to circulate positions available and upcoming events etc can simply send information to be circulated to the membership.

Please send details and information to info@itmtrav.ie



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4/5 Eustace Street, Dublin 2

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