

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

## A Movement for Change



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# Introduction



**2016 was the year when our collective efforts to have our ethnicity recognised brought us so close to success and much of that momentum came from our members. Our collective passion for this issue could be witnessed by all during the debate at our hugely successful AGM in Cork in September and the actions we took.**

The work in 2016 is the last year under the structure of our old strategic plan as a new three-year plan for 2017-2020 was adopted by members at our AGM. I am very proud that we have a clear strategy for the organisation for the future and significant challenge will be to secure resources to carry out an ambitious workplan.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Sara Russell, who worked on our Yellow Flag Programme for two years, and Paula Madden, who was with us since the summer of 2008 and worked on education and drove the development of the Yellow Flag over the last six years. Their contribution to the work of ITM and inclusion has been significant and I wish them all the best in the future. The work of all ITM staff in paid and non-paid roles needs to be recognised in especially challenging times.

I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Central Group for their dedication in managing the organisation and members for their involvement in all our structures and debates.

I finally would like to recognise the work of Bernard Joyce in his first year as Director of the Irish Traveller Movement and on behalf of all ITM members to thank him for his work over the course of 2016.

**Thank you all for your support over the year.**

**Maureen Ward, Chair, ITM.**

# Membership

ITM AGM held in Cork with successful inputs, workshops on ethnicity, accommodation, conflict, anti-racism and a Traveller-only space, panel discussion on challenges facing Traveller groups to build solidarity and discussions on the Community Charter & input from Spring Lane Solidarity Group

Development, adoption and design of ITM Strategic Plan 2017-2020 with 5 core objectives based on vision of outcomes developed by members

Launch of the ITM Conflict Management Website at the ITM AGM with funding secured from SSGT to fund the design of a responsive website

Supporting membership involvement in the 2016 Traveller Pride Awards

Supporting ITM Members in collective spaces, such as the creation of a space for ITM members to look at building inclusive spaces within the Movement to ensure LGBT Travellers are included & working with NTMABS on a space to look at engaging Traveller Men

# Accommodation

- ITM continued to support the work of the NTACC representing the collective Traveller Accommodation position of our members
- Highlighted ITM Members position in the NTACC Conference on the operation of LTACCS
- Re-convened the ITM AGW as a structure of ITM at request of members, coordinated several meetings throughout the year.
- Submission on the review of The Caravan Loan Scheme being carried out by the Housing agency
- The European Committee of Social Rights response in the first ever Traveller Collective Complaint which had significant findings against the State in relation to accommodation and was based on extensive work by the accommodation workers and ITM Legal Unit.
- Submissions to Oireachtas Homelessness Committee to include provisions for Travellers in “Rebuilding Ireland” strategy and representation on National steering committee including the National Fire safety initiative to provide comprehensive audit and protection for Travellers

# CENA Traveller-Led Voluntary Housing Association

Four business meetings held and a dedicated sub-group was set up to focus on key areas of Cena's operations, including the development of Cena's proposed growth plan for 2017-2021

Cena held its 2016 AGM in November, recruiting three new board directors. All board directors contribute on a voluntary basis and bring skills of particular importance to the work and ethos of the organisation

Cena has developed a range of key relationships, including with DOECLG, social housing Providers, Cluid and Oaklee Housing Associations, Irish Council for Social Housing, Traveller organisations and other relevant stakeholders

A number of meetings were held in Offaly and Galway in relation to Cena pilot schemes. Completion of proposal with Offaly County Council setting out a framework to input during Phase 2 work in Tullamore in 2017



# Yellow Flag Intercultural Schools Programme

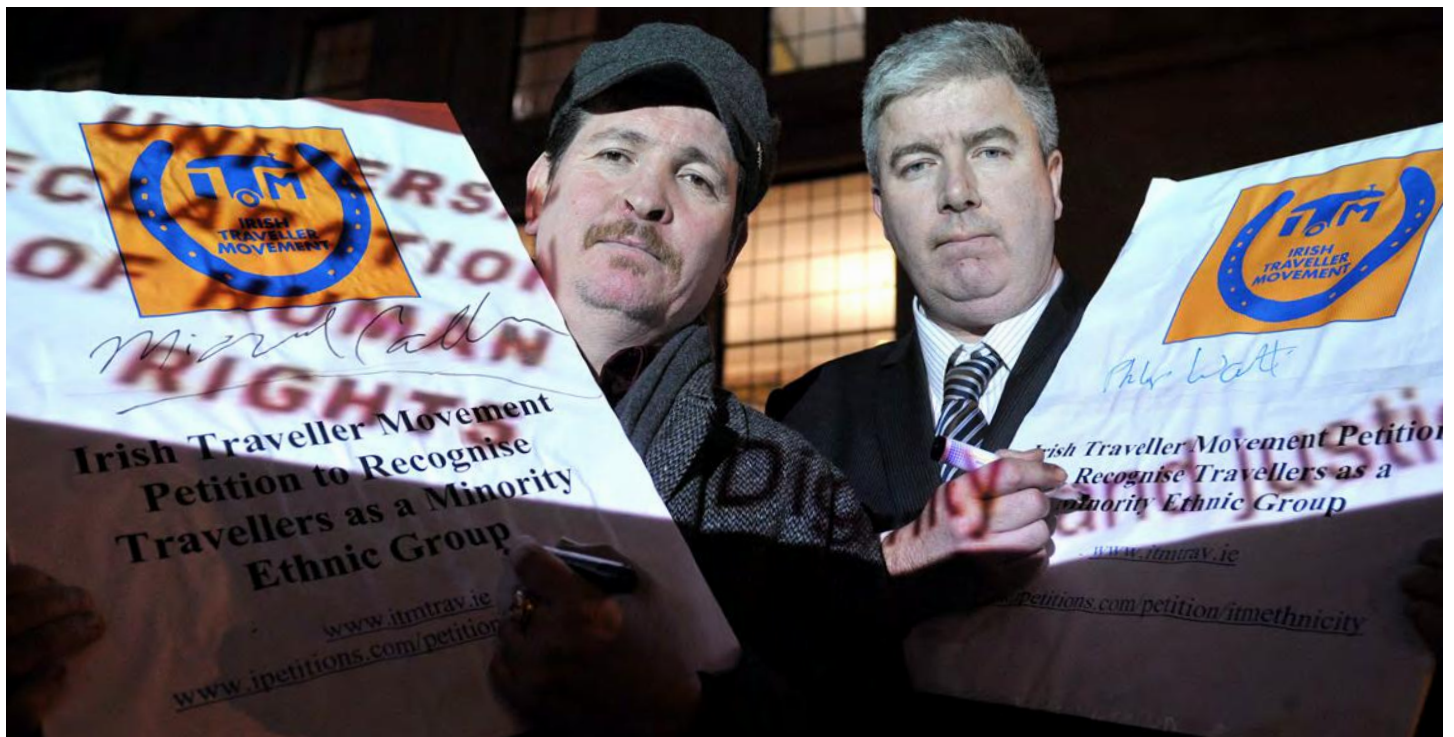
- Funding was secured from the Office of Promotion of Migrant Integration, Community Foundation of Ireland along with small grants from Local authority and Partnership to continue the work of the programme.
- During the first half of the year the 5 schools who had begun the programme in Sept 2015 and 6 further schools that began the programme in Sept 2015 but had decided to complete the programme over 2 academic years were also supported to continue their work on the Steps throughout the year. 10 new schools began the programme in September 2016. This meant that the programme by the end of 2016 was impacting on the lives of over 26,000 children in 68 schools across Ireland.
- The Yellow Flag Awards was held in Liberty Hall in April and honoured 13 schools for the work they completed to achieve their Yellow Flag and 6 schools for their work in renewing their flag from schools in Louth, Cork, Dublin, Meath, Kerry, Wicklow and Kildare. The ceremony was jointly hosted by broadcaster author and former RTE children's Elev8 presenter Diana Bunici and Dil Wickremasinghe, broadcaster, actor, and social activist and Musician and Voice of Ireland coach Bressie and the Ombudsman for Children Niall Muldoon were special guests.
- Sarah Russell, who worked with the programme for over 2 years left in March 2016. Paula Madden returned from maternity leave who continued to manage the programme till the end of the year, when she finished up to move onto a new job. Paula had been with ITM since 2008 and had overseen the programme grow from the original pilot with 4 schools in 2008/2009 to having by the end of 2016 68 schools involved in the programme. We wish Paula every success in her future career.



*Students with Bressie at the Yellow Flag Awards 2016*

# Political Lobbying and Ethnicity Campaign

- ITM's ethnicity campaign in 2016 created greater support for ethnicity TD and Senators. Travellers and local Traveller organisations were supported to lead discussions locally and a cohesive National Traveller organisation position was developed. Cross party support for ethnicity was strengthened and ITM maintained strong links with the Department of Justice and the Minister to advance ethnicity recognition.
- The Taoiseach was lobbied directly by ITM and Travellers personally voiced their desire to have their ethnicity recognised which, linked with European developments, led to the Taoiseach publicly voicing his support for recognition in November.
- Increased number of key political allies who advocated for Travellers in the Dail and Seanad, leading to improved awareness on other Traveller specific issues. By end of 2016 over half of all TDs were publicly supporting Traveller ethnicity, with support from a number of Senators.
- Sustained momentum from ITM Members built continued political pressure. Motion passed at ITM AGM that ethnicity was essential for NTRIS to work led to energised campaigning by ITM members such as on-line petitions, political party motions kept ethnicity as a key political issue.
- ITM continued to lobby at an international level by liaising with the CoE Human Rights Commissioner, the Council of Europe and European Commission, the European Roma Rights centre, the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and European Commission Against Racism



# Promotion of Positive Community Assets

## Traveller Pride Awards

The 7th Traveller Pride Awards were held in June, again in the Pillar Room, the Rotunda. This was the biggest awards ceremony yet, with 300 people attending to celebrate achievements of Travellers from across the country. Winners of the awards were Mikey Kelly (Sport), TJ Hogan (Education), Mary Kate Nevin (Youth), the Community of Spring Lane Halting Site (Community), the Skibbereen Boy's Action Group (Enterprise & Employment), Michael Purcell (Music), the Cavan Traveller Primary Health Care Team (Culture) and Songstories / Pavee Ceoil Traveller Young People's Music (Music). Mikey Kelly won the overall 2016 Traveller Pride Award.

Special guests on the day were Dublin, All Ireland and GAA All Star Jack McCaffrey, RTE's John Murray, former Senator and Children's Rights campaigner Jillian Van Turnhout and Darren Ryan CEO Social Entrepreneurs Ireland. Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality David Stanton TD spoke at the event in relation to progress being made by the State to recognise Traveller's ethnicity.

## Traveller Women in Enterprise event

As part of Traveller Pride Week 2016, ITM in conjunction with the NTWF organised a seminar on Traveller Women in Enterprise. There were inputs from Bridget Kelly (Galway Traveller Movement), Julie Sinnamon, CEO of Enterprise Ireland, Traveller-led Wicklow based Knitwear Company Shuttleknit and Revamp Furniture Recycling from Castleisland, Co Kerry. Norah Casey was MC for the day and discussions looked at removing barriers to Traveller women's participation in enterprise.

## Traveller Men and Education Event

ITM in conjunction with NTMABS organised an event called "Engaging Traveller Men" to look at models of best practice to involve Traveller men in education and other programmes. Inputs on the day came from TJ Hogan (TVG Cork), Patsy Sweeney (GTM), Thomas Murray (An Cosan) with research by Dermot Sreenan (NTMABS) launched as part of the seminar.



Overall winners and last years and Minister of State for Equality David Stanton



Hugh Friel, 2015 winner (left) and Minister David Stanton present Mikey Kelly with the overall 2016 Traveller Pride award



# Management of the Irish Traveller Movement

The ITM's new Central Group for 2016/2017 was elected by the membership at the AGM comprising five Travellers and two non-Travellers as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>
<b>Maureen Ward (Chair)</b>	<b>Offaly Traveller Movement</b>
<b>Oein De Bhairduin (Treasurer)</b>	<b>Clondalkin Travellers Development Group</b>
<b>Paddy Sweeney</b>	<b>Galway Traveller Movement</b>
<b>Chris McDonagh</b>	<b>Bray Travellers Development Group</b>
<b>Mary Connors</b>	<b>Wexford Travellers</b>
<b>Shane O Curry</b>	<b>European Network Against Racism (ENAR) Ireland (co-opted)</b>
<b>Stephen O' Hare</b>	<b>ICCL (co-opted)</b>

# Staff of the Irish Traveller Movement

ITM Staff (Paid and Non-Paid) for the year 2016 was as follows:

Name	Position	Profile
Bernard Joyce	Director	Part time, from February 2016
Bridgie Casey	National Accommodation Officer	Full time
Rose Marie Maughan	National Accommodation Officer	Part Time, returned from maternity leave in February 2016
Paula Madden	Yellow Flag Programme Coordinator	Part-Time, Returned from maternity leave in March 2016
Sara Russel	Yellow Flag Schools' Support Worker	Part time - finished in position March 2016
Jacinta Brack	National Communications Officer	Part-Time
Damien Walshe	Membership Development Worker	Part-Time
Noeleen Reilly	Bookkeeper	Part time, from June 2016
Phil Mullen	Administration	Secondment from BTSG
Declan Peelo	Traveller Pride Week support worker	May-June 2016
Kristen Martin	Student on placement	June - August 2016
Ciaran O Callaigh	Student on placement	August - December 2016
Emma O Riordan	Student on placement	Sept-December 2016

# Income & Expenditure

## IRISH TRAVELLER MOVEMENT LIMITED

### PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT

#### FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2016

INCOME	2016	2015
Core	68,205	51,497
Strategy	12,857	0
Legal	0	0
Membership	0	37,230
Project	63,250	50,000
Accomodation	99,831	101,926
Yellow Flag Programme	136,223	54,454
	<b>380,366</b>	<b>295,107</b>

EXPENDITURE	2016	2015
Core	103,426	105,339
Strategy	9,497	6,447
Legal	20	16
Membership	19	16,054
Project	32,313	45,995
Accomodation	100,783	120,283
Yellow Flag Programme	63,867	79,964
	<b>309,925</b>	<b>374,098</b>

NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR PERIOD	70,441	-78,991
Balance at 01/01/16	41,981	120,972
Balance at 31/12/16	112,422	41,981



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