

ANNUAL REPORT **2017**



A YEAR OF RECOGNITION

Index.

- 03 Introduction
- 05 Director Overview
- 06 Accommodation
- 07 Membership
- 08 Yellow Flag Programme
- 09 Political Lobbying and Campaigns
- 12 CENA
- 13 Promotion of Positive Community Assets
- 14 Management of the Irish Traveller Movement
- 14 Staff of the Irish Traveller Movement
- 15 Income and Expenditure 2017

Introduction & Background.

Founded in 1990, the Irish Traveller Movement (ITM) is a national membership organization representing Travellers and Traveller organizations across Ireland. One of its core principles is to challenge the racism that Travellers face in Ireland, promoting integration and equality within Irish society.

ITM works collectively to represent the views of Travellers and Traveller organizations at a national and international level. We develop policies, actions and innovative programmes to bring about change for Travellers in Ireland. We work to challenge the inequalities faced by Travellers by promoting Traveller participation and leadership locally and nationally, by developing and sharing best practice, developing evidence-based research to inform our work and building strategic alliances with all who are committed to a fairer Irish Society

Our Vision.

“An Ireland where Travellers are proud of their identity and with their ethnicity recognised, can achieve their fullest potential to play an active role in Irish society”

Values and Principles

1. We work to achieve equality for Travellers in all aspects of their lives
2. We promote pride in Traveller culture & identity, within the community and to non-Travellers.
3. We will ensure that our members are actively involved in and lead our work
4. We will produce evidence based solutions to address the issues affecting Traveller's lives to positively impact on policies and laws that affect Travellers, especially in the National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy
5. We will develop innovative models to meet Travellers' needs to achieve equality in Irish Society and support existing models to be mainstreamed
6. We will sustain, grow and build a dynamic organisation to carry out all aspects of the Strategic plan (Strategic plan 2017-2020)

Introduction by Chairperson.

2017 was the year when Traveller ethnicity was recognised by the Irish state. This recognition was something many thought we would not achieve within our lifetime. I am proud of the work that the Irish Traveller Movement carried out during the years of campaigning. I hope that the momentum felt within our movement in the lead up to ethnicity will carry us forward into future campaigns and be reflected in our work locally, regionally and nationally.

2017 was also a planning year for ITM and saw the Irish Traveller Movement move into the new three-year strategic plan that gives us a clear direction. The new Strategic plan is ambitious and will seek to build on our work in the areas of Accommodation, Education, Anti-Racism & Interculturalism, Conflict, Membership, Leadership & Capacity Development.

I want also to acknowledge the significant work of our dedicated staff team and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Damien Walshe, our former Membership Officer who was with ITM for 14 years. We wish him all the best in new role and his departure will be a loss to the membership.

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

Finally, on behalf of all ITM members, I would like to welcome back Bernard Joyce as Director of the Irish Traveller Movement.

This was historic year for the community and still a very challenging year for the organisation. I trust that both will create a stronger movement for us to go forward together in.

**Thank you all for your support over the year.
Maureen Ward, Chair, ITM.**

Director's Overview.

2017 was an historical year for all of us when on March 1st, Traveller ethnicity was formally recognised by the Irish state and welcomed by our membership, our community and by civil society groups throughout Ireland. This followed a long campaign beginning at the foundation of the Irish Traveller Movement in 1990 and led by us with the support of local and national Traveller organisations.

We must all now ensure that this has an impact on everyday life of our community and wider society. A new relationship is needed with the wider community, built on respect, understanding, trust and equality.

The Irish Traveller Movement will continue to seek solutions and innovative ways to address the many issues and challenges facing our community today and will advocate at every level. I do feel that we are best placed as a national Traveller representative organisation to bring about the changes with the support of our community and our members. While 2017 was an important and historic year for the Irish Traveller Movement, some will also know it was a very difficult and challenging year for me, on a personal level. Due to a very serious health issue I took some time away from the Irish Traveller Movement in May 2017 and returned in November 2017. I'd personally like to thank both Damien Walshe and Sue Shaw who stepped into the Director position in the interim.

I also want to thank the Central group, my colleagues for their support and commitment over 2017. We are so much more than just an organisation; we are resilient, passionate with self-belief. 2017 is a testament to everyone involved within the Movement. I have felt very humbled and privileged to be part of this movement.

Let's build on the historic achievement of ethnicity recognition in 2017 as a grass roots membership based Traveller organisation that seeks full equality and human rights.

**Bernard Joyce
Director, Irish Traveller Movement**

Accommodation.

Overall Strategic Goal “Culturally appropriate accommodation provided, with families living in resourced accommodation of their choice, including nomadic provision”

ITM continued to work at the national level on the core issue of accommodation. This space is often hard to negotiate and very challenging for all involved and to this end ITM supports the need to continually review and address the issues that are core to a successful Accommodation Programme for Travellers. ITM continue to call for the establishment of a Traveller Accommodation Agency. Throughout 2017 we successfully completed the following areas of work: ITM and other National Reps successfully secured a Review of Traveller Accommodation Act 98.

ITM consultations with members formed our submission to National Review of Caravan Loan Scheme.

ITM consultation with members which fed into to the Independent research of Traveller Specific Accommodation and its funding. We circulated findings from the research to our members.

ITM continued to represent our members on the NTACC and its subgroups throughout the year, supporting them to engage in regional cluster NTACC meetings in Waterford, Dublin and Cork.

ITM coordinated the ITM Accommodation Working Group (AWG) and supported ITM members to review its position on a National Traveller Accommodation Agency.

AWG developed a code of conduct for LTACCs, made amendments to LTACC 2001 guidelines and developed an ITM LTACC SWOT template. The use of this template is crucial to continuing to represent a true and accurate analysis of accommodation at NTACC level and in our dealings with the relevant Ministers.

ITM also presented updated analysis to the AWG. We also reviewed Accommodation campaigns as a means to develop a visible national Traveller Accommodation campaign for 2018.

ITM made submissions on the State's Rebuilding Ireland Strategy and Ireland NPF 2040 throughout the year.



Membership.

Membership Vision: “A stronger, Traveller-led Movement that has a greater sense of a working as a national collective, developing and sharing best practice to bring about equality for Travellers ”

The ITM AGM was held in Tullamore, and was hugely successful. There was an all-Traveller panel discussion on youth leadership, inputs from Catherine Joyce and Brigid Quilligan on the ITM ethnicity campaign and world café workshops on anti-racism, accommodation and next steps for ethnicity. There also was an input from OTM on their horse project and the challenges faced.

We supported ITM Members in collective spaces, such as the development of a community charter, strategies for change post-ethnicity recognition and ensuring Travellers were central to the celebrations in Dáil Éireann on the 1st March.

We built a new ITM website launched in 2017 to reflect the new strategic objectives of the organisation.

We supported membership involvement in the 2017 Traveller Pride Awards. The Membership Worker was two days per week from January 2016 onwards until April 2017, the post was part of Acting Director Role until September 2017.



Yellow Flag Programme.

Irish Traveller Movement was successful in applying for significant grant for Yellow Flag programme. The funding is under Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. (AMIF).The AMIF fund is administered and overseen in Ireland by the EU Funds Unit in the Department of Justice and Equality

Elva O'Callaghan joined the ITM team as Part-time Yellow Flag Co-ordinator in January 2017, initially on a 14-hour week basis which quickly increased to a 21-hour week. An experienced community worker with a track record in the areas of young people, women and Interculturalism, Elva was a welcome addition to the staff team. Once further funding was secured for Yellow Flag, Margaret McDonagh was also recruited as part-time Development Worker in September. Margaret brings her experience as a community/family support worker to her role, in particular her knowledge and insight into schools. Yellow Flag also took on a contract Resource Development Worker to review and redevelop the Yellow Flag's resources for schools - Claire Galligan began work on this substantial project in July and worked with the team to make significant headway on the project

The 7th annual Yellow Flag Awards Ceremony was hosted at the Woodquay Venue in Dublin and awards were presented to 5 schools: Riversdale Community College, Dublin; North Presentation Primary School, Cork; Scoil Ghráinne Community National School; Merlin Woods Primary School, Galway; Good Shepherd National School, Dublin. The ceremony was hosted by broadcaster and Yellow Flag Intercultural Trainer, Dil Wickremasinghe with special guests Catherine Byrne, Minister of State at Department of Justice and Equality and blogger, Sinéad Burke.

New schools were recruited during 2017 to commence their Yellow Flag journey in September. This brings to 78 the total number of primary and post-primary schools who are currently undertaking the Yellow Flag Programme or who already fly their Yellow Flag. Each year we receive more applications for the Yellow Flag than we can take on in any one year - a testimony to the need for and the positive reputation of the Yellow Flag.



As part of the work funded by AMIF, the current Yellow Flag resource toolkit is to be reviewed and redeveloped into a full new suite of resources for schools undertaking their Yellow Flag. The intention is not only to update the resources but to also make them more accessible to teachers and students and make the work of the Yellow Flag staff team more efficient.

Between July and September the resources were fully reviewed by contract worker Claire Galligan, in conjunction with the Yellow Flag team, Yellow Flag Steering Committee, Yellow Flag teachers (including 2 teacher focus groups).

Based on the report generated from the review above, a draft new suite of resources was completed by December which will be piloted by a number of 'new Yellow Flag Schools' during 2018 before being finalised and published.

Political Lobbying and Campaigns.

In 2017 the impact of sustained efforts to galvanise political support in both houses of the Oireachtas culminated in clear and progressive impacts across various strands of campaigning issues.

Specific outcomes were achieved and longer sought visibility gained, for example greater visibility of Travellers in the Dáil, Seanad and at their Committees and a place for Traveller employment within a parliamentary office for 2018 and working on Traveller specific matters.

Working partnerships in the Dáil and Seanad were made and progressed to action and agreed collective strategies for 2018 consolidated on Traveller accommodation, visibility of issues generally and a proposal to pursue a Traveller Oireachtas Group and Private Members Bill.

Campaigning on Ethnicity recognition, while reduced post recognition at the March 2017 juncture, negotiation of funding for celebration event was prioritised and engagement with ITM members on meaningful actions to pursue post recognition. A renewed and targeted strategy was prioritised in the area of Accommodation.

Communications: Media and Event management

ITM's media engagement across Radio, TV and national and regional print continued but a stronger emphasis was placed on internal and stakeholder strategies, including political and civil engagement. There was ongoing negotiation of Traveller interests in broadcast, online and print media and notable focuses included on matters related to accommodation in news. Engagement on content in drama and the arts, TV documentaries, internal and international magazines, print fiction etc. continued.

Political Advocacy and Campaigning Notables 2017

- Visible political communications strategy was developed for Traveller accommodation and key Oireachtas members supporting aims and advocating with Minister for Housing and at Oireachtas Planning Committee.
- Developed legal and expert expertise on review of Part 8 and gained political support among Oireachtas members for a change in delivery of Traveller accommodation model and momentum on Review of Traveller Accommodation Act.
- Traveller inclusion on Seanad Law Reform Submission
- Secured Commencement Orders, Parliamentary Questions and Dail and Seanad debates on Accommodation, Health, Education, findings of National Traveller Survey, Ethnicity and Traveller inclusion under upcoming review of Seanad Public Consultation committee.
- Negotiation and support for Review of Traveller Accommodation Act
- Secured Traveller employment in the Seanad for 2018

Communications: Media and Event management notables

Visibility created through news media on:

- Media secured on Accommodation matters
- Review of Accommodation Report - Dept. of Environment
- Traveller Pride Awards high visibility and Traveller engagement
- Yellow Flag Awards
- Facebook UNICEF mentor initiative - with Traveller visibility
- Ethnicity Oireachtas report launch
- National Traveller survey
- Put in place event management structure including commissioning of agents, coordinated and negotiated funding requirements in preparation for the March 2018 Traveller Ethnicity Celebration.



Ethnicity Campaign

- The beginning of 2017 paved the way for a series of last steps in preparation for the announcement by the State of recognition of Traveller ethnicity. This included a Presentation to Cabinet Committee on Social Policy
- Through political advocacy campaigning hearings were held in Nov 2016 and culminated in the report of the Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality, in January 2017 calling for the State to formally acknowledge, preferably by way of a statement by the Taoiseach to Dáil Éireann, and strongly encouraging an earliest date possible in 2017.
- Announcement by the Taoiseach in the Dáil on March 1st, 2017, of formal State recognition of Traveller ethnicity. Political dialogue with key allies supportive of the campaign continued up to the day of announcement to support the visibility and tone of a coherent message which was overwhelmingly supported in the Dáil and Seanad.
- Public and media discourse was coordinated and well received with Traveller voices to the forefront in all settings
- In June 2017 a Dáil debate on the Report by the Committee on Justice and Equality for State recognition was held and parliamentary members secured by ITM, on matters articulated.
- ITM created opportunities for dialogue with members and two specially convened sessions were held on the "Where to now" for the community post recognition.



CENA Traveller-Led Accommodation.

CENA reached a very important stage of its development - official recognised as the Traveller-led Housing Association. This situation would have been impossible without the support of the Irish Traveller Movement and commitment to enabling our coordinator to carry this work forward. We have developed and agreed in principle a growth plan with the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. Thanks to the hard work of Board members and Jack Keyes, CENA's Consultant. We are very grateful to MCOH architects for working pro-bono over the past 2 years. We welcome the support and encouragement we received from the Department of Housing itself. We are encouraged by the response of local authorities to our first round of introductions on the role of CENA; what it is, and what it can become into the future.

It is in these ongoing discussions with a number of local authorities that we see the potential to develop a plan for the first three years of operation. These ongoing discussions, and expressions of interest, are with the following county councils:

1. Offaly County Council
2. Limerick City and County Council
3. Galway City Council
4. Cork County Council
5. Cork County Council
6. Dublin City Council
7. Waterford City Council

We are in a very strong position in terms of real prospects for sustainable contracts across a range of local authorities around the country. We are also greatly encouraged by the very positive support and promotional work being done via the Department of Environment. The core challenges remain. We have found that the provision of Traveller-specific accommodation faces unique challenges that are not encountered by other housing associations working in different areas (e.g. disability, older persons etc.). This has led to slow progress despite substantial effort by all concerned. Valuable lessons have been learned. The availability of skilled personnel to continue with progress is fundamental to support CENA. It is very clear from the above that CENA is at a critical stage of its development, and certainly around most of these initiatives will only see commencement by the middle of 2018 at the earliest. Immediate and consistent resources and support will be vital to the future of CENA.

Promotion of Positive Community Assets.

The Irish Traveller Movement is coordinator of the Traveller Pride Awards, jointly supported by eight Traveller organisations. The Awards are the flagship annual event for Travellers generating huge positivity within the community and beyond. The ceremony has attracted a diverse range of people from a broad section of Irish society, both settled and Traveller, celebrity and champions who are drawn to this unique celebration where Travellers are rightly championed for the contribution and commitments they have made to local or national initiatives, their leadership qualities, role models for their peers, their commitment to Travellers' rights and broader human rights issues, enterprise projects and excellence in music, arts or sports.

The Traveller Pride Awards is the lead event for annual Traveller Pride Week programme (June 6th) of National and regional events reflected on issues related to Traveller's lives. Winners of the awards were this year:

- Sport - Patrick Mongan - Galway
- Enterprise - Michael Power - Athlone
- Education - Ian McDonagh - Galway
- Youth - Lucht Siul Oga - Dundalk
- Arts / Culture - Hughie Maughan - Ballymun, Dublin
- Community - Thomas Maughan - Cavan
- Music - Lizzy Connors - Carlow.

Other well-known guest presenters and speakers who attended the lively celebration of Travellers and Traveller champions from all walks of life, included boxing World champion Andy Lee, singer / songwriter Eleanor McEvoy, Gavin Duffy, Dragon, Entrepreneur and journalist, Panti Bliss, Ireland's foremost "gender discombobulist" and "accidental activist", and Johnathon McCrea broadcaster and presenter of Newstalk's Futureproof.



Management of the Irish Traveller Movement.

The ITM's new Central Group for 2017/2018 as elected by the membership at the AGM comprising Travellers and Non-Travellers as follows:

- Maureen Ward (Chair), Irish Traveller Movement
- Oein De Bhairduin (Treasurer), Manager, Clondalkin Travellers Training Group;
- Shane O'Curry, Director, ENAR;
- Joanne Corcoran, Galway Traveller Movement;
- Brigid Nevin, Travact;
- Stephen O' Hare, Director, TENI, Secretary
- Brigid Quilligan, Coordinator, Kerry Traveller Project;
- Chris McDonagh, Chairperson, Bray Traveller Development Group.
- Damien Peelo (Co-opted September 2018), Director, Treoir

The role of the Central group is always a core element in overseeing and ensuring ITM deliver on its aims but also in ensuring the sustainability and development of ITM into the future. However, throughout 2017, they and the Staffing sub group were called upon to offer additional support during temporary changes in Directorship. This required more meetings and oversight of the work and this was fully delivered on and ITM are truly appreciative of this over the last year.

Staff of the Irish Traveller Movement ITM (Paid and Non-Paid) for the year 2017 was as follows:

- Bernard Joyce, Director
- Bridgie Casey, National Accommodation Officer (seconded to CENA)
- Rose Marie Maughan, National Accommodation Officer
- Elva O Callaghan, Yellow Flag Programme Coordinator
- Margaret McDonagh, Development Worker
- Jacinta Brack, Communications and Campaigns Coordinator
- Damien Walshe, Membership Development Worker June - September / Interim Director June - September 2017
- Noeleen Reilly, Finance Manager
- Phil Mullen, Administration
- Students on placement:
 - o Lorraine O'Reilly
 - o David Doyle
- Consultant Sue Shaw October - December 2017

Income and Expenditure.

INCOME	2017	2016
Core	108,419	65,565
Strategy	107	3,220
Legal	-	-
Membership	-	-
Project	11,840	65,390
Accommodation	87,758	99,831
Yellow Flag Programme	118,570	136,223
	326,694	370,229
EXPENDITURE		
Core	106,568	103,401
Strategy	4,620	9,497
Legal	-	20
Membership	-	19
Project	21,702	31,503
Accommodation	100,382	100,118
Yellow Flag Programme	53,219	63,867
	286,491	308,425
NET SURPLUS	40,203	61,804



4/5 Eustace Street
Dublin 2, Ireland.
+353 1 679 6577
info@itmtrav.ie

www.itmtrav.ie