

To the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

## Joint submission

Friends, Families and Travellers  
&  
National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups

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*FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND TRAVELLERS (FFT) is a small UK charity working on behalf of all Gypsies, Travellers and Roma regardless of ethnicity, nationality, culture or background. FFT has worked with UK travelling communities for over 20 years, delivering a wide range of projects and programmes relating to health, education, accommodation, criminal justice, racism & discrimination, political representation and other areas.*

*THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GYPSY LIAISON GROUPS (NFGLG) is a national membership body of 20 GRT Organisations (including FFT) covering England, Scotland and Wales. The “Nat Fed” works closely with all the main Gypsy, Traveller and Roma organisations, co-ordinates the quarterly meetings of the Gypsy, Traveller, Roma Liaison Group in the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and administers the national Gypsy and Traveller Consultations and Inquiries Group.*

## Introduction

Our over-arching view is that, whilst there has been some improvement in terms of acknowledgement by wider society that Gypsies, Travellers and Roma (GRT) are amongst the most excluded and discriminated against groups in UK society today, the UK Government has taken no substantive steps to address those inequalities. Indeed we believe that the situation of the travelling communities has worsened rather than improved in recent years. This is supported by research carried out by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) which found Gypsies and Travellers to be one of the most disadvantaged groups in Britain (EHRC, 2016).

## Main policies and strategies targeting the Gypsy/Traveller/Roma population

The UK has not developed a National Roma Integration Strategy (NRIS). This is because at an EU member states meeting it was agreed that member states were not required to produce National Roma Integration Strategies; instead they could have the flexibility to develop policy measures within wider social inclusion policies as an alternative to producing national strategies (Council of the European Union, 2011). In response to a call for an NRIS, the UK government suggested that existing mainstream laws and policies already offered protection to Gypsy, Traveller and Roma populations and that these policies would in themselves promote integration. However, this is often not their experience. Racial discrimination and social exclusion are common experiences in the lives of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma people and many families find themselves living on the margins of society.

The UK government did establish a Ministerial Working Group on preventing and tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers. Rather than produce an Integration

Strategy, the MWG produced “28 commitments from across Government that will help mainstream services work better with Gypsies and Travellers” (DCLG, 2012). Unfortunately, these commitments lacked specific funding, prioritisation or a timetable, i.e. any kind of real action plan. Further, they did not address the needs of East European Roma communities in the UK, except where they coincided with those of ethnic Gypsies and Travellers. Yet migrant Roma populations across the UK seem to be among the most marginalised in decision-making processes and there are few local Roma support groups in operation. The Parliamentary Women and Equalities Committee has established an inquiry to look at the impact of the 28 commitments and what progress has been made in achieving them, the effectiveness of policy-making and implementation for these groups more generally, and how the government can tackle such continuing inequalities

In the UK, the executives of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are responsible for policy measures within their territories, and they have prepared individual documents regarding their policies to promote Gypsy and Traveller and Roma Inclusion. Consequently, there is no overarching national strategy to promote Roma integration in the UK and the devolved governments have taken different approaches to integration. The only clear ‘Roma’ integration strategy to date has come from the Welsh government, which has submitted a framework for action (and not just a gathering of policies and measures already undertaken). Its document, “Travelling to a Better Future - A Gypsy and Traveller Framework for Action and Delivery Plan” (Welsh Government, 2012), focuses on policy areas that impact the lives of Gypsy and Travellers in the areas of accommodation, education, training, health, social care, participation and engagement (but not employment). Yet ironically, their ‘Roma’ integration strategy seems to have neglected to include the Roma.

Prior to the “Brexit” vote, for the 2014-20 period the United Kingdom was to be allocated a total of some €11.6 billion from the European Structural Funds and European Regional Development Funds. However, there appears to have been serious challenges in transferring the intentions into clear, operational and sustainable practices to include benefits for ‘Roma’ communities. It was disheartening to read that the European Commission monitoring report on UK ‘Roma’ Integration (2014) continued to show that a lack of monitoring data meant that any progress on ‘Roma’ integration was (and still is) difficult to identify (European Commission, 2014). While there have been some small local projects working to improve integration, organisations representing the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities are still finding that these major streams of EU funding are yet to ‘trickle down’ into their communities, despite repeated questioning of the government as to what exactly has happened to this money. From the perspective of the community members’ experience, there seems to be little discernible change in the quality of their lives and experiences of social exclusion.

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) recommendations regarding the need for a National Roma Integration Strategy have not been adopted;

*“ECRI strongly recommends that the authorities draw up, in consultation with Gypsy, Traveller and Roma groups, a detailed programme of integration strategies and measures to address the disadvantage suffered by all three of these communities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, including concrete targets, timeframes, and resources, in all areas of daily life, such as education, employment, health care and accommodation, in particular addressing the shortage of caravan sites.” (ECRI, 2016 para 109)*

*“Recalling its general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma, the Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Develop a comprehensive strategy, in consultation with members of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities, to ensure a systematic and coherent approach in addressing the challenges that members of these communities continue to face in the fields of health, education, housing and employment, and ensure its effective implementation by adopting specific action plans, putting in place effective oversight and monitoring mechanisms to track progress, and providing adequate human and financial resources” (CERD, 2016, para 25)*

## Recommendations

- **The UK Government adopts a National Roma Integration Strategy and guarantees the disadvantages faced by GRT groups are addressed in a robust way post-Brexit.**
- **The UK Government ensures that the 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships take urgent measures to ensure that European Structural Fund is reaching GRT communities and that progress against this is routinely monitored and reported to the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government /NFGLG Gypsy, Traveller and Roma Liaison Group.**

## Ethnic Monitoring / Data Collection

The 2011 Census for the first time included a Gypsy/Irish Traveller category – there was no “Roma” category, although this is being considered as an additional category for the 2021 Census. 57,680 respondents identified as being a Gypsy/Traveller. It is believed that this is a significantly undercount, because many Gypsies and Travellers do not identify their ethnicity due fear of racism and discrimination and, in many other official data sets, Gypsies, Travellers and Roma communities are absent from ethnic monitoring data. The Cabinet Office’s Race Disparity Audit revealed the inconsistencies both in categories used (e.g. Education data has a separate category for Irish Traveller, but formerly combined Roma and Romany Gypsy in one category) and the extent of inclusion (data on Gypsies, Travellers and Roma is, at best, partial in health, employment and Criminal Justice System monitoring systems) (Cabinet Office 2017).

The 2011 Census identified the following -

- Gypsy or Irish Travellers had the highest proportion with no qualifications for any ethnic group (60 per cent) – almost three times higher than for England and Wales as a whole (23 per cent).
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller was the ethnic group with the lowest proportion of respondents who were economically active at 47 per cent, compared to 63 per cent for England and Wales as a whole.
- Over half of those who were economically active were employed (51 per cent compared to 75 per cent for the total of England and Wales) and 20 per cent were unemployed (compared to 7 per cent for the whole of England and Wales). Gypsy or Irish Traveller had the highest proportion of self-employed out of the ethnic groups at 26 per cent compared to 14 per cent for England and Wales.
- Elementary occupations (such as sales, service or construction) were the most common type of employment at 22 per cent for Gypsy or Irish Traveller (11 per cent for England and Wales as a whole).
- Just under half of Gypsy or Irish Traveller households had dependent children (45 per cent) – above the average for the whole of England and Wales (29 per cent).
- Gypsy or Irish Travellers were more than twice as likely to live in social housing than the overall population of England and Wales (41 per cent compared to 16 per cent) and less likely to own their accommodation outright (21 per cent compared to 26 per cent).
- Gypsy or Irish Travellers had the lowest proportion of any ethnic group rating their general health as ‘good’ or ‘very good’ at 70 per cent compared to 81 per cent overall of the overall population of England and Wales.

- Gypsy or Irish Traveller ethnic group was among the highest providers of unpaid care in England and Wales at 11 per cent (10 per cent for England and Wales as a whole) and provided the highest proportion of people providing 50 hours or more of unpaid care at 4 per cent (compared to 2 per cent for England and Wales as a whole) (ONS, 2011).

## Recommendations

- **To adopt the Advisory Committee On The Framework Convention For The Protection Of National Minorities recommendation to:**  
*“Collect disaggregated data on Gypsies, Travellers and Roma to help devise policies targeting the socio-economic inequalities that persons belonging to those minorities experience in England; start collecting disaggregated equality data on the situation of persons belonging to national and ethnic minorities to help adopt and implement effective minority protection and equality-promoting policies in Northern Ireland.” (Council of Europe, 2017: 50)*

## Tackling racism and hate crime against Gypsies and Travellers

The Eurobarometer Discrimination Report for 2015 paints the UK in a comparatively favourable light with regard to attitudes toward Roma. For example, the UK was rated third (behind Spain and Sweden) in terms of the percentage of the population (79%) declaring themselves to be being comfortable or indifferent if one of their colleagues at work would be Roma, and second (behind Sweden) when it comes to feeling comfortable if one of one's children was in a romantic relationship with a Roma (65%). While these are encouraging, the issue of the UK interpretation of "Roma", i.e. as excluding Gypsies and Travellers, should be noted. Also, these findings do not reflect the experience of members of the community (European Commission, 2015). There is widespread anti-Gypsyism and stereotyping by the media, local and national politicians and indeed wider society. Negative attitudes are commonplace, although more positive attitudes can emerge when work has been carried out to raise the awareness and increase knowledge of the wider community with regard to Gypsy/Traveller/Roma communities (CEPS, 2017).

The UK has a deservedly good reputation for anti-racism legislation, for example the Race Relations Act 1976 (now incorporated into the Equality Act 2010, which covers all hate crime such as religious and disability discrimination as well as racial abuse). The problem lies in turning legislation into action. Also, there can be a tendency to view anti-racism as not including anti-Gypsyism. As ethnic groups that (even combined) are smaller in number than many of the other ethnic groups in the UK, Gypsies, Roma and Travellers can miss out in the 'numbers game' unless their needs are identified and addressed specifically. Consequently, anti-Gypsyism can, in the UK, accurately be described as "the last acceptable form of racism".

We know from our extensive casework and with other GRT organisations that many GRT experience race hate as part of their daily lives but the true extent of racist incidents is not known as there isn't consistent ethnic monitoring of Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers and Roma in the UK in police forces. This, paired with historic under-reporting for GRT communities (partly relating to community members not believing they will be taken seriously by the police) makes it impossible to evidence the true extent to which Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are the victims of race hate. A recently established independent community-led GRT race hate reporting website has enabled more GRT individuals to report racism (Report Racism GRT, 2018).

Of the GRT reporting race hate to this independent reporting site only 14% had reported to the police, with 29% of those saying 'I did not think the Police or authorities would do

anything' and 19% saying 'The incident is too common an occurrence to report'. Out of those reporting to 'Report Racism Gypsy, Roma, Traveller' 42% were reporting online hate on websites or social media, 18% was verbal abuse, and 24% were reporting a form of discrimination (GATE Herts & Report Racism GRT, 2018).

## Recommendations

- **Strengthen disaggregated data collection across police forces to better understand the scale and severity of race hate crimes and incidents towards GRT.**
- **The UK Government should work more proactively with social media companies such as Facebook and Twitter to develop adequate tools for controlling and limiting the incidence of incitement of racial hatred on social media.**

## Accommodation issues relating to racial tensions and inequality

Not all Gypsies and Travellers live in caravans but for those who do, obtaining a pitch to live on is difficult to access due to the chronic national shortage of Gypsy and Traveller sites in England. 16% of caravans in the July 2017 national caravan count were on unauthorised land largely as a result of this under-provision (DCLG, 2017).

Not having access to an authorised stopping place means Gypsies and Travellers are caught in a constant cycle of evictions. This has a huge impact on Gypsies and Travellers and means families cannot access healthcare, education and other services. These communities are chronically excluded and become even more vulnerable and can be more exposed to racism which can include racist incidents and crimes from local residents who do not want the encampment there, and race hate speech in the on line comments after newspaper articles on encampments.

In 2016 NFGLG and FFT conducted research to ascertain whether the need for more Traveller pitches was being met. We submitted Freedom of Information Act requests to local authorities in the South East, East Midlands and West Midlands which showed that up to 2033 a total of 1745 additional pitches are needed in the South East of England, and in the In the East and West Midlands, that 1675 pitches are needed to 2034. The research showed that only 10 out of 66 local authorities in the South East and only 15 out of 70 in the East and West Midlands were identifying land to meet the need for more Traveller pitches (NFGLG, 2016; Friends, Families & Travellers, 2016). This is a requirement in the Government's *'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites'* report, yet it is being ignored with no sanctions in place (DCLG, 2015).

There has been only been a 2% increase in socially rented pitches between 2010 and 2017 which is an insufficient number to address even natural growth through household formation, let alone a historic lack of pitches for Gypsy and Traveller families (Friends, Families & Travellers, 2017). Official figures produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) on 'new' socially rented pitches are misleading and do not represent an actual net increase in pitches (Friends, Families & Travellers, 2017).

In 2015 the UK Government changed the planning definition of a Gypsy / Traveller in the Department for Communities and Local Government document *Planning Policy for Traveller Sites* (DCLG, 2015). The definition change means that those Gypsies and Travellers who have stopped travelling permanently, which includes for reasons of ill-health, disability or old age, will no longer meet the planning definition and effectively lose the right to live on a Gypsy or

Traveller pitch. This will have the worst effect at a time of life when people most need a secure home or pitch.

This raises various equality issues as the UK Government's policy restricts Gypsy and Traveller access to culturally appropriate accommodation, particularly those who have other protected characteristics, as well as ethnicity. We believe that the UK Government's 2015 change to the planning definition of a Gypsy (to exclude those Gypsies and Travellers who have permanently ceased travelling, including for reasons of ill-health, disability, old age) is not compatible with, for example, the following rights;

- European Convention on Human Rights, Article 8.
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Article 5 (vi) The right to equal participation in cultural activities.
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Article 9, requiring the protection of the right to ensure accessibility to enable disabled people to participate in all aspects of life.

There have been a number of recommendations in international committee reports on site provision that have been ignored. These include;

***“ECRI recommends that the new planning definition in England of Gypsy and Traveller is replaced with the previous one of 2012, that sufficient pitches are provided according to the needs of these communities, and that alternatives to eviction, such as the negotiated stopping policy in the city of Leeds, are promoted and replicated elsewhere.” (ECRI, 2016: para 98)***

***“Recalling its general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma, the Committee recommends that the State party: (b) Ensure the provision of adequate and culturally appropriate accommodation and stopping sites as a matter of priority throughout the State party CERD/C/GBR/CO/21-23 7 and regularly publish the net increase of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers created through the Traveller Pitch Fund.” (CERD, 2016: para 25)***

***“The Committee recalls its previous recommendation (see E/C.12/GBR/CO/5, para. 29) and urges the State party to...(d) Ensure adequate access to culturally appropriate accommodation and stopping sites for the Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities, as appropriate; take steps to avoid all forms of discrimination in the provision of accommodation; and repeal the Unauthorised Encampments (Northern Ireland) Order 2005.” (CESCR, 2016: para 50)***

***“Recommendations for immediate action - Revert to previous legislation in England addressing specifically the provision of permanent and temporary site needs of the Gypsies and Travellers minority, and reinstate a duty for local authorities to provide these sites when the need has been identified in order to ensure adequate availability; reintroduce a compliance duty for local authorities as regards the provision of sites in Scotland; and set up a multi-agency taskforce on***

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*Traveller sites in Northern Ireland to cater to the needs of Irish Travellers” (Council of Europe, 2017).*

The provision of more sites for Gypsies and Travellers is essential to reduce the multiple disadvantages experienced by Gypsies and Travellers and to reduce exposure to race hate on unauthorised encampments.

### Recommendations

- **Adopt the recommendations outlined in the above international committee reports above (ECRI, CERD, CESCR, Council of Europe).**

## Education

In October 2017 the UK Government published the findings of its Race Disparity Audit which shows that Gypsies and Travellers have the lowest educational achievement of any ethnic minority (Cabinet Office, 2017). Key findings of the report are outlined below;

- In reading attainment for children aged 5-7 (key stage 1) Gypsy/Roma were the least likely to meet the higher standard.
- In reading attainment for children aged 7-11 (key stage 2) Gypsy/Roma were the least likely to meet the expected and higher standards, and Irish Traveller children made least progress in reading between key stage 1 and key stage 2.
- Gypsy/Roma are the least likely to achieve A-C in English and Maths GCSE. Only 10% of Gypsy/Roma and 21% of Irish Traveller achieved this, compared to 63% of all pupils.
- Only 9% of Gypsy/Roma boys achieved this, compared to 59% of boys in all ethnic groups.
- Gypsy/Roma boys eligible for Free School Meals were the least likely to achieve (only 7%) of all groups.
- Irish Traveller and Gypsy/Roma students were least likely to achieve 3 grade A A levels, at 0%. The number of students in these groups is extremely small, 17 Gypsy/Roma and 4 Irish Traveller students took A levels in 2015/16, according to the statistics.
- In 2014/15 over 90% of pupils from nearly every ethnic group stayed in education, employment or training, for at least 2 terms after key stage 4, except for Gypsy/Roma and Irish Traveller where the figure was about two thirds. They were the least likely to stay in education but the most likely to go into employment or training (6% of Gypsy/Roma and 9% of Irish Traveller).

The Race Disparity Audit has also highlighted that Gypsy and Traveller pupils experience the highest rate of fixed period and permanent exclusions of any group. This has been highlighted in numerous reports over the years yet the UK Government has done very little to address this huge race related disparity (Roma Support Group, 2017). In 2012 the Children's Commissioner found that 100% of Gypsy/Traveller exclusions it reviewed were overturned on appeal (Children's Commissioner, 2012).

There are many contributing factors to their low educational attainment and high exclusion rates which include;

- Gypsy and Traveller children experience a high amount of racist bullying in schools (Derrington & Kendal, 2004).

- Gypsy and Traveller history and culture needs are not acknowledged and celebrated in schools meaning Gypsy and Traveller pupils do not experience positive inclusion of their culture in school.
- The abolishment of most local authority Traveller Education Services, due to lack of funding. Highly mobile Gypsy and Traveller children are missing out on the opportunity to have an education, as without the knowledge and support of Traveller Education Services families don't know which schools might have space to get their children into in the period when they are in an area, and therefore they are not accessing school.

It needs to be an urgent priority for the government to address Gypsy and Travellers' low educational attainment and high exclusion rates, and the following suggestions may support this;

### Recommendations

- **All Gypsy and Traveller children should receive the Pupil Premium. Services (e.g. British Army) children currently receive this, in recognition of their high mobility. Granting the Pupil premium to all Gypsy and Traveller children would assist as the increased funding would be beneficial for extra support for them.**
- **Reinstate funding for Traveller Education Services.**
- **Zero tolerance of racist bullying of Gypsy and Traveller children with schools specifically referencing Gypsies and Travellers in their anti-bullying policies.**
- **The Gypsy experience of the Holocaust to be part of the school curriculum, and Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month in June to be celebrated.**
- **The Department for Education needs to review how and why schools are excluding Gypsy/Traveller pupils at such high levels and bring forward measures to counteract this.**
- **Effective meaningful engagement from relevant Ministers with the recently re-established Department for Education GRT Stakeholder group.**

## Health

Gypsies and Travellers are a small but significant group who continue to suffer from poor health and lower life expectancy. Studies consistently show differences in life expectancy of over 10% less than the general population, although a recent study stated that the general population were living up to 50% longer than Gypsies and Travellers. Research also shows that the health of Gypsies and Travellers starts to deteriorate markedly when individuals are over 50 (Radcliffe, 2005).

Other health issues such as high infant mortality rates, high maternal mortality rates, low child immunisation levels, mental health issues, substance misuse issues and diabetes are also seen to be prevalent in the Gypsy and Traveller communities (Parry *et al.*, 2004).

A 2016 Traveller Movement report found the following:

- Poorer general health: 66% of the sample reported having bad, very bad or poor health. This figure is significantly higher than findings from the Census (which reported that 70% of respondents had 'good' or 'very good' health)
- Poor health as reflective of poor and inappropriate accommodation: Individuals with the highest rates of self-reported bad, very bad or poor health (both physical and mental) predominantly lived on unauthorised tolerated and roadside sites, local authority sites and in housing.
- Mental health and insecurity: 39% of the sample reported suffering from anxiety or depression. The majority of these respondents were either living in conditions where they felt deeply insecure as a result of their planning status, threat of eviction and/or poor site conditions; or were living in 'bricks and mortar' accommodation which they had accepted reluctantly in the absence of a pitch on a Traveller site.
- Poorer health at a younger age: The majority of respondents rated their health as bad or very bad by the time they were in their mid-late 30's and by their 40's a steep decline had begun (The Traveller Movement, 2016).

Gypsies and Travellers, along with other vulnerable groups, experience a range of health needs, which are exacerbated by social factors. Those with multiple complex needs make chaotic and greater use of health care services than other groups and experience a range of barriers, in particular when accessing primary care services. Gypsies and Travellers often lack trust in health professionals to provide appropriate care and to engage with their community on equitable terms. Gypsies and Travellers can fear hostility and/or prejudice from healthcare providers (Cemlyn *et al.*, 2008).

We also know that Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are much less likely to access specialist services such as End of Life Care. Barriers to health care experienced in a number of ways including;

- Discrimination faced when registering with General Practitioner Surgeries with a mismatch in expectations, 'expensive patients', reluctance of GPs to visit sites, demands for ID and staff with little cultural awareness.
- Poor literacy and lack of 'cultural awareness/competence' amongst service providers. There is significant evidence of missed opportunities for preventive healthcare, particularly among Gypsy and Traveller men, and for effective treatment for pre-existing conditions which contribute to high rates of premature mortality.
- Many Gypsies and Travellers live in poverty which is now recognised as an indicator of poor health outcomes, with thousands of Gypsies and Travellers having no access to daily water and sanitation.
- Ethnic monitoring is based on self –categorisation or self-disclosure and may well result in under-reporting, with many Gypsies and Travellers reluctant to disclose their identity due to fears of prejudice, and a deeply engrained mistrust of authority.
- The lack of effective ethnic monitoring means that we do not have accurate figures, which can mean that health services that are commissioned on the basis of joint strategic needs assessments do not always capture the needs of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers who can remain invisible in local data sets.
- NHS England has been slow to include Gypsies, Roma and Travellers as an ethnic category, with only a few Clinical Commissioning Groupss actually collating the information.
- We also know from experience that this data needs to be disaggregated and that 'Roma' needs to be collected as a separate category. The effect of putting everyone into the same groups means that we miss the nuances between the different and distinct ethnic sets.
- Poor mental health in Gypsy/Traveller men can manifest itself through the Criminal Justice System or through the high levels of suicide that we see within the community.

### Recommendations

- **That NHSE instigates the collection of ethnic monitoring under three separate categories for Romany Gypsies, (Irish) Travellers and Roma.**
- **That NHSE also record accommodation status to highlight how this has an impact on health outcomes.**
- **The government acts to meet the shortfall of Traveller pitches nationally (see recommendations above in accommodation section), so as to reduce health inequalities.**
- **That the government encourage the use negotiated stopping places for the homeless Gypsies and Travellers (such as the successful pilot in Leeds, LeedsGATE, 2017).**
- **That homeless Gypsies and Travellers are provided with porta loos and access to water tankers.**
- **That Health Professionals should all receive cultural awareness training or in the very least gain an understanding of working with Inclusion Health groups.**
- **Health Information should be co-produced with GRT community members and should be provided in an easy read format.**

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- **Promotion of the Royal Society of Public Health Training that teaches GRT communities levels 1 and 2 in ‘Understanding Health Improvement’.** For many community members this is their first ever qualification and has been used by some as a step up into education or employment.
  - **A commitment to continue to fund and lead in the Inclusion Health agenda.** Currently the Inclusion Health agenda in the UK is the main area of policy working with the most vulnerable groups in the country. Work for Inclusion Health is currently funded under the Health and Wellbeing Alliance.
  - **The appointment of an accountable person for Health Inequality and Inclusion Health within every Health and Wellbeing Board within the UK.** They would be able to ensure that statutory services carry out fully inclusive joint strategic needs assessments, which leads to specialist commissioning of outreach services in order to drive down health inequalities.

## Conclusion

For the reasons set out in the report above, the NFGLG and FFT can state that race equality for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the UK is a long way off, and we do not believe that the human rights of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma are adequately protected in the UK. On the contrary, the UK Government has recently introduced policies and legislative changes which are, by their nature, discriminatory against Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers and inhibit their ability to maintain their cultural traditions. A National Roma Integration Strategy in the UK is desperately needed to deliver race equality for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma. A robust, well-resourced NRIS is required to ensure a coherent joined-up approach towards addressing the extreme inequalities experienced by Gypsies, Travellers and Roma. There is little evidence that the UK Government is tackling incitement to racial hatred and hate crime against Gypsies, Travellers and Roma. Such hate crimes and hate incidents are not being effectively monitored and there are no robust statistics available about the extent of this problem. The lack of progress in respect of Housing, Education and Health is evidenced in detail in the main body of this report.

## Suggestions on who to meet during the UN Rapporteur 2018 visit

FFT and the NFGLG would welcome the opportunity to meet the UN Rapporteur and representatives from the following organisations would also be able to share useful information on the inequalities experienced by the GRT communities:

- All-Party Parliamentary Group on Gypsies, Travellers and Roma (Co-Charis Kate Green MP and Baroness Whitaker - [info@travellerslaw.org.uk](mailto:info@travellerslaw.org.uk))
- Gypsy Council - [josephjonesct3@icloud.com](mailto:josephjonesct3@icloud.com)
- GypsyLife - [nathalie@gypsyllife.co.uk](mailto:nathalie@gypsyllife.co.uk)
- Leeds GATE - [info@leedsgate.co.uk](mailto:info@leedsgate.co.uk);
- Leicestershire GATE - [leicestershiregate@yahoo.com](mailto:leicestershiregate@yahoo.com);
- London Gypsies and Travellers - [info@londongandt.org.uk](mailto:info@londongandt.org.uk)
- Report Racism GRT / Herts Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment, [josie@reportracismgrt.com](mailto:josie@reportracismgrt.com) / [sherrie@reportracismgrt.com](mailto:sherrie@reportracismgrt.com).
- Roma Support Group - [info@romasupportgroup.org.uk](mailto:info@romasupportgroup.org.uk)
- Youth Travellers Times / Travellers' Times National Youth Advisory Group (to hear from young GRT) - [travellerstimes@ruralmedia.co.uk](mailto:travellerstimes@ruralmedia.co.uk)

Wales

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- Travelling Ahead Advice and Advocacy Service -  
[travellingahead@trosgynnalplant.org.uk](mailto:travellingahead@trosgynnalplant.org.uk)
  - Romani Cultural & Arts Company  
[isaacblake@romaniarts.co.uk](mailto:isaacblake@romaniarts.co.uk)

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