Nothing about us without us

Sherrie Smith, Project manager
GATE is Hertfordshire's only Gypsy & Traveller community organisation.

- GATE was established in July 2010 by Josie O'Driscoll and Herts county council Gypsy section and others.
- Gate provides an advocacy service and empowers the community in many ways
- Gate provides training, education, liaison & outreach support
- Gate ensures the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community have a voice in Herts, across the UK and Europe.
- GATE set up Report Racism GRT in 2016 the only dedicated hate crime reporting service for GRT.
GATE Herts.... Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment.

We provide advocacy, outreach, and training for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community's across Hertfordshire.

GATE Herts set up and run the UK's first dedicated hate crime reporting page for GRT. WWW.ReportRacismGRT.com

0800 81 01 800

#EnoughisEnough           #ReportRacismGRT
The Oldest Show On The Road.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YADpVyuzCbs

Centred on a poem written and performed by Damian Le Bas. This unflinching short film won the Royal Television Society’s 2016 Diversity Award.

The Oldest Show On The Road explores the media’s skewed representation of Traveller communities here and around the globe.
Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.....
The Equality Act 2010 says you mustn’t be discriminated against because of your race.

Discrimination which is against the Equality Act and the race act is unlawful.

The law says that Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are protected against race discrimination because they’re ethnic groups under the Equality Act and Race discrimination act.

If you’re a Romany Gypsy or Irish Traveller, you’re still protected against discrimination even if you’ve moved into settled accommodation.
Activity
• Nazis begin to draw up a list of UK Gypsies, they are rounded up and kept in caravan camps on farms.

1714

• British Gypsies are shipped to the Caribbean as slaves.

1554

• England passes the Egyptians Act. Being a Gypsy is punishable by death, as is being found in “the fellowship or company of Egyptians”. This is the only time that fraternizing with an ethnic community has been punishable by death.

1939-45

• British Gypsies are shipped to the Caribbean as slaves.

1714

• First world Romani congress held in London

1971

• Romany Gypsies are first recognised under the Mandla criteria CRE v Dutton

1989

• England - Irish Travellers recognised as an Ethnic Minority under Race Relations Act1

2000
How did we get to where we are now?
There is an excess of miscarriages, stillbirths and neonatal deaths. Higher rates of maternal death and shortly after pregnancy. Women will die 12 years younger, Men 10
22% of GRT have asthma against 5% of the wider population
34% reported chest pain against 22%
Travellers 3 x more likely have chronic cough, bronchitis even after smoking is taking into consideration.
3 x more likely die of suicide
3 x more likely to be anxious
2 x more likely to be depressed

Health for Gypsies and Travellers
Health outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers.

- The report by Parry et al (2004) entitled The health status of Gypsies and Travellers in England, shows that both men and women often experience chronic ill health, frequently suffering from more than one condition: that carers experience a high level of stress and that secrecy about depression keeps it hidden and increases the burden on both the individual and the family as they try to manage.

- Many Gypsies and Travellers face high levels of bereavement, which is also a precipitating factor of depression. Poor psychological health is often in the context of multiple difficulties, such as discrimination, racism, and harassment as well as frequent evictions and the instability caused by this.

- Alcohol consumption is often a coping strategy and drug use among Traveller young people is widely reported and feared by the elders.

- Complex procedures and reluctance for registering with antenatal, prenatal, GP and community health are, meals on wheels etc.
Palliative and end of life care

My experience of end of life care as a family member

Mokkady Cleanliness and family rituals

Washing and laying out of the bereaved.
NEGOTIATED STOPPING
I'm not here to be controlled!
#violenceagainstwomen

https://vimeo.com/189023459
bed

Domestic violence

“never going to beat you”
Bullying at school & work

During an ongoing campaign of bullying at work, a woman reported that a relative of one of her work colleagues saw her in a GP surgery and taunted her

“\text{You and your sisters are going to all get the sack”}.\n
\textbf{Harassment at work:}

Two young Roma students reported how a group of 12 young people surrounded them singing

\textbf{“You’re sleeping with your sister, sleeping with your sister - you inbreds”}

\textbf{Harassment at school and college:}

Two young Roma students reported how a group of 12 young people surrounded them singing

\textbf{“You’re sleeping with your sister, sleeping with your sister - you inbreds”}
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Traveller pupils</th>
<th>Gypsy/Roma pupils</th>
<th>All pupils</th>
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<td>2009-10</td>
<td>31.25</td>
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<td>29.47</td>
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<td>2013-14</td>
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Common Myths Dispelled

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PR1btH-bltQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PR1btH-bltQ)
- These are the most common stereotypes that add to deeply ingrained cultural prejudices
Nothing about Gypsies and Travellers is taught on the curriculum

The Roma holocaust is not taught at any stage despite up to ½ million killed

Cultural requirements are very rarely taken into consideration

How can children be expected to understand up to 3% of the population with only negative media and stereotypes to portray images?

Examples: changing in classrooms, sex education, family events
School exclusions

- GTR education is a bigger issue than school exclusions, exclusions are recorded and provide a good indicator of the inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils.
- Persistent Disruptive Behaviour is commonly used as a reason for exclusions - it is a wide net for the school to use without giving a specific reason.
- Physical assault against a pupil also reason for GTR exclusions, link to racist bullying experienced by 90% of GTR pupils?
- 2012 report by Children’s Commissioner found that 100% of GTR exclusions were overturned on appeal.
Common concerns

**Travellers**

- Raised believing that it’s best to keep quiet and hide to avoid situations
- Social services will step in with kids/elderly/etc
- Further harassment/incrimination, become perpetrator

**Services**

- Dogs
- Horses
- Shouting
- Threat of violence
- Who’s the leader?
What should your school do?

- Invest in books, puzzles, games etc that portray Gypsies and Travellers
- Celebrate gypsy Roma Traveller History month in June
- Encourage discussion and training with staff so they are aware of cultural differences and requirements
- Engage with parents, school is intimidating for them as well and they are keen for their children to learn or they wouldn’t be there
- Treat “pikey” and “Gypo” the same as any other racial slur
Examples of the work to date include:

- Interactive presentation on 23rd June led by specialist palliative care clinical quality lead for North Herts setting out the provision of practical support for carers and family at end of life.

- GATE raised awareness of the challenges and needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community i.e. refusal to use Hospice care, management of pain relief in their own homes

- Placed 15 year old Romany Gypsy girl in to work placement at Potters bar hospital for half term.

- Created easy password entrance for GRT job applications

- Created partnerships with Domestic abuse, sexual health, learning difficulties and Help the aged organisations.
MISSING

WILL PATRONS KINDLY REFRAIN FROM

- Running
- Pushing
- Acrobatics or Gymnastics
- Shouting
- Ducking
- Petting
- Bombing
- Swimming in diving area
- Smoking

THANK YOU!
• Does the Council or Police have a duty to move Gypsies and Travellers when they are camped without the landowner's permission?

• What about trespass?

• When can the Police move them on?

• What about criminal activity associated with some authorised encampments?
What can you do?

- Think, there may not be anyone with good literacy skills, posters leaflets won't help. This DOES NOT mean they are stupid.
- Provide the family with 1 mobile phone number.
- Provide a room for the family.
- A designated member of staff to communicate with the family.
- Be honest and keep them informed.
- Try and locate a member of the family as a direct point of contact to talk to and to multiply the information to the wider family.
- Like any grieving/bereaved family be sympathetic, kind and understanding that grief and loss often transpires as anger.
WAYS TO MOVE FORWARD
Crystal’s Vardo
An educational, fun and informative play looking at Gypsies and Travellers over last few centuries. Suitable from 7 years old.
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