



European Roma Information Office

# ERIO Newsletter

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## NEWS

### Prejudice in Ireland: Pavee Point Civil Monitor Report finds National Inclusion Strategy is flawed and failing



By Bernard Rorke (ERRC)

More than a year after the Dublin government finally recognized Irish Travellers as a distinct ethnic group, there is still no sign of progress on social inclusion. A monitoring report by Pavee Point reveals high levels of racism and prejudice, shocking levels of poverty and social exclusion, and exposes the National Traveller and Roma Integration Strategy (NTRIS) as plainly unfit for

purpose.

Read more [here](#).

### #BreakingStereotypes back to school campaign



By Travellers Times

A community led organisation working to improve the lives of Gypsies, Roma & Travellers nationally is running #Breaking stereotypes. A public awareness campaign now in its third year. Sherrie Smith Project manager at GATEHerts tells Travellers Times why the campaign was started:

"In 2016, I took a picture of my girls as most proud parents do on the first day back to school in September..... writes Sherrie Smith. I put it up on my personal facebook, -Josie O'Driscoll CEO

of GATEHerts posted a picture underneath of her grandchildren Phillip & Dermot looking smart for their first day at secondary school underneath and added, "breaking stereotypes." I looked across facebook and there were so many of my Gypsy and Traveller friends and colleagues doing the same, parents, proudly posting back to school pictures."

Read more [here](#).

## **Bournemouth councillor who ridiculed Gypsies may face Equalities watchdog probe**

*By Travellers Times*



A Bournemouth councillor who ridiculed “Irish and Roma Gypsies” in a letter to a local newspaper could land in hot water following a complaint about his conduct to the equalities watchdog.

The complainant – who wishes to remain anonymous - claims that the Councillor Pat Oakley broke equalities laws by failing to “foster good race relations.” Councillors and other public officials have to abide by the Public Sector Equalities Duties and avoid making racist or discriminatory statements, but MP’s are exempt. The Commission has confirmed that it has received a complaint. Bournemouth Council is ultimately responsible for the Councillor’s conduct.

Read more [here](#).

## **New report reveals significant digital exclusion in Gypsy and Traveller communities in the UK**



*By Friends, Families and Travellers*

A new report released by Friends Families and Travellers has uncovered high levels of digital exclusion in Gypsy and Traveller communities in the UK. The report authors interviewed 50 people from across Gypsy and Traveller communities in the UK in July and August 2018 to find out to what extent Gypsies and Travellers experience digital exclusion and highlight issues with digital access, skills and confidence in Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Read more [here](#).

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## ANNOUCEMENTS AND EVENTS

### Roma's health situation and their access to healthcare: Assessing women's and children's health



Hearing on  
**'Roma's health situation and their access to  
healthcare: assessing women's and children's health**  
Audition  
**La situation sanitaire des Roms et leur accès aux soins de  
santé: évaluation de la santé des femmes et des enfants**

29 | 10 | 2018

EESC/CESE, Rue Belliard 99, Brussels/Bruuxelles

60  
European Economic and Social Committee  
Comité économique et social européen

*By European Economic Social Committee*

On the **29th October 2018**, the Group on the Inclusion of the Roma will be looking at the Roma's current health situation and their access to healthcare. Issues such as discrimination in access to health care, differences in life expectancy between Roma and non-Roma, as well as poverty

and its effects on the Roma's health situation will be discussed. The hearing will also look into the situation in women's and children's health, with a particular emphasis on forced sterilizations, pregnancy and infant mortality, as well as vaccination amongst children. It will also feature a discussion on the solutions offered by the state in the light of health issues brought about by poverty, as well as recommendations on the way forward.

Register [here](#)