

Gypsy Travellers

Gypsy Travellers In Scotland

A resource for the media

Updated Spring 2013



**Equality and
Human Rights**
Commission



Scotland

Why does this guide exist?

This guide:

- Provides context and background to the lives of Gypsy Travellers in Scotland
- Highlights policy and social issues that are relevant to the media
- Provides information to help journalists ensure accurate and responsible approaches
- Promotes balanced reporting on sensitive issues

Foreword

Although there are no official figures on the number of Gypsy Travellers in Scotland, numbers are estimated at between 15- 20,000 people, or less than 0.5 per cent of the Scottish population. This estimate includes those living on Council/Registered Social Landlord Sites (RSL), private sites and unauthorised encampments as well as those who live in ordinary housingⁱ. Despite these relatively small numbers, there is significant coverage of this group of people in the media. A recent study by Amnesty International shows that a disproportionate amount of that coverage is negative.ⁱⁱ

There are many policy and social issues that affect Gypsy Travellers. Some of these lead to significant levels of inequality as well as the potential for stigmatisation and tension with settled communities. Media coverage of these issues has a real impact on the lives of affected individuals and on the attitudes of society as a whole. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (the Commission) believes that most journalists report responsibly and wish to present the facts in ways that are accurate, informative, balanced and relevant. However the Commission also recognises that:

- journalists may not have direct contact with Gypsy Travellers
- many stereotypes about Gypsy Travellers already exist
- policy issues (in particular around accommodation, encampments and travelling) are complex and can impact significantly on public opinion at local and national levels

Gypsy Travellers are a defined ethnic group protected by equality legislation. The Commission supports the National Union of Journalists' guidance on race reporting and its affirmation that press freedom must be conditioned by responsibility not to slander sections of any community or to encourage discrimination. This is further reflected in the editorial responsibility to ensure that coverage of race stories is properly placed in a balanced context.

The role of the Equality and Human Rights Commission is to support the eradication of inequalities and to encourage good relations between all groups in society.

Gypsy Travellers

This leaflet is primarily a resource for journalists, recognising that most people living in Scotland have never had any direct contact with a Gypsy Traveller, and therefore the information they receive through the media has a significant impact on their opinions and understanding.

This guide contains information about the key issues that affect Gypsy Travellers, advice about terminology and handling issues of concern, as well as contact details for organisations who work with Gypsy Travellers in Scotland. It is written from the principle that balanced media coverage can help to foster greater understanding between and within communities. In writing this leaflet, the Commission does not want to stifle discussion or media stories about Gypsy Travellers. Instead, it seeks to encourage a more accurate, fair and inclusive discourse about the issues involved that will help the understanding and protect the well-being of all those affected – whether Gypsy Travellers or the settled population.

Contents

This leaflet provides background information across a range of relevant policy areas to assist journalists in presenting informed and balanced coverage of Gypsy Travellers and media issues relating to them. For ease of use, these have been grouped under the following headings:

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Terminology

The following terms are used to recognise broad social and cultural differences between different travelling communities in Scotland. However, identity is complex and as with any groups, there are differences of opinion about terminology. Individuals of course have the right to self-define using other words. Terms should always be capitalised, as below.

Gypsy Traveller (plural Gypsy Travellers)

This is the broad term for people in Scotland who might variously refer to themselves as Travellers, Scottish Travellers, Gypsy Travellers and Gypsy Traveller people. As a generic term, it also encompasses English Gypsies, Irish Travellers and European Roma. It is important to remember, though, that despite sharing many aspects of common heritage, these groups may also identify some clear differences between themselves. Gypsy Travellers regard 'travelling' as an important aspect of their ethnic/cultural identity, although they might not literally be 'on the road' all of the time. Gypsy Travellers as an ethnic group are protected by equalities legislation.

Occupational Travellers and Showpeople

These are people who define themselves in terms of their businesses which move from place to place, often following regular, planned and advertised routes. It includes, for example, Fairground and Circus People. They are not defined as separate ethnic groups and to refer to them as Travellers may cause confusion.

(New Age) Travellers

These are people choosing to live in vehicles and encampments who advocate alternative life-styles that may be underpinned by issue-based, political or social factors. They do not necessarily share any cultural heritage and are not defined as an ethnic group. Numbers fluctuate but have declined significantly from a peak in the 1980's and 90's.

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Roma migrants from European accession countries

As a result of European enlargement, people from the European accession (A10) countries (Poland, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Estonia, Romania and Bulgaria) are able to live in the UK. Historically, Roma people have been well represented in the populations of some of these Central and Eastern European countries, but have not necessarily lived a travelling or nomadic life there. This pattern tends to continue as these new migrant populations arrive in Scotland.

The settled community

The population outwith that of Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Reporting sensitive situations responsibly

The Commission's statutory responsibilities include challenging inequalities and promoting good relations between different groups in society. Policy and legal improvements, although slow, are ongoing to address the significant disadvantages that Gypsy Travellers in Scotland experience. However, negative attitudes and ingrained prejudices within parts of wider society are harder to tackle. All groups in society have both an interest and a role in reducing the tensions and antipathy that can arise between Gypsy Travellers and the settled population, and the media is inherently involved in this.

The Press Complaints Commission Code says: "The press must avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to an individual's race, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or disability." Arguably, this could allow biased coverage of entire ethnic groups as long as no particular individual is mentioned. However, the National Union of Journalists Code of Conduct is clearer: "A journalist shall neither originate nor process material which encourages discrimination, ridicule, prejudice or hatred."

The Commission acknowledges that there will be individuals in any given sector of the population who behave unlawfully. The fact that a minority break the law is not a reason to label a whole group. In this, Gypsy Travellers are no different from any other group of people. We would expect the authorities to deal appropriately with any unlawful or antisocial behaviour, and the media to report on it as they would in any other way. If it is not newsworthy for someone from any other ethnic group, it is unlikely to be any more newsworthy for a Gypsy Traveller.

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It is important to distinguish between unlawful behaviour, and prejudice against behaviour which is seen to be 'different'. It is also important to recognise where ingrained prejudices may shape public reaction or interest. The Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2010ⁱⁱⁱ found that discriminatory attitudes remained particularly common in relation to Gypsy Travellers, and more so than many other 'minority' groups in Scotland. For example, 37 per cent of respondents said they would be unhappy with a close family member forming a relationship with a Gypsy Traveller, and 46 per cent believed that a Gypsy Traveller would be unsuitable as a primary school teacher.

Gypsy Travellers need the same services as anybody else, but may need them adapted to meet particular cultural traditions and needs. Where members of the settled community express opposition to issues, it is important to distinguish between genuine concerns, for example to a Gypsy Traveller site being built on green belt land, and objections that are based purely on stereotyping and prejudice, for example the assumption that the establishment of a new site will result in a rise in crime or littering.

Rights and responsibilities under the law

Over recent years, a wide number of test cases have established that Gypsy Travellers (as well as specific named groups under this broader umbrella term such as Romanys and Irish Travellers) are a distinct ethnic group, and as such protected in law. (In Scotland, the most recent case was a Tribunal judgement in 2009, *K McLellan v GTEIP*)^{iv}. When reporting in the media on Gypsy Travellers, it is worth remembering that the Equality Act 2010 affords Gypsy Travellers the same protections as all other ethnic groups, and the same standards of reporting should apply. Gypsy Travellers are of course also subject to the same laws as any other member of the public.

For many people in Scotland, their only information about Gypsy Travellers comes from the media. Increasingly, interactive media consumption also allows people to share their own views and engage in debate. Journalists face the challenge of not only ensuring that their own reporting is appropriate, fair and accurate but must increasingly take a moderator's responsibility to ensure that what is published on message boards and the like does not constitute harassment or incitement to hatred.

Examples of negative and offensive comments left unmoderated on bulletin boards:

"Okay, so you're taking away a refuse centre where good tax paying people take their unwanted rubbish to be disposed of properly and replacing it with travellers, who dump their unwanted rubbish anywhere. Brilliant!"

"Give the locals a free hand to go down and welcome these vagrants with petrol bombs, either that or go play dodgems in the car park with a forklift truck and their mobile homes".

"...all scum, we have a lot of pikies down here but are usually moved on within 24 hours but the mess they leave..... shower of thieving scum."

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When reporting on the actions or policies of Public Authorities in Scotland, it's relevant to consider that, under the general equality duty, these bodies must in their own actions pay 'due regard' to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations.

Of course, this legislation does not prevent public (or indeed private) bodies taking action to address unlawful acts by people, whoever they are. Any action taken, however, should be proportionate and not used to "target" any particular group on the basis of their ethnic or racial origins.

Gypsy Travellers: A part of Scotland in history and today

Gypsy Travellers have been part of Scotland's economic and cultural life since at least the 12th century, and within that have always celebrated a strong sense of their own culture, traditions and community. As with any ethnic group, there is considerable diversity within the Gypsy Traveller population and it would not be accurate to present them as a single group. There are, however, usually strong and distinctive family and clan relationships amongst those who share a common heritage. These social ties are very important to many Gypsy Travellers who often prefer to live and work in extended family groups.

Along with this strong emphasis on family and kinship, Gypsy Travellers see travelling and a nomadic identity as an important part of both their traditional and contemporary culture. In practical terms, this can be related to the availability of seasonal, temporary or geographically dispersed work opportunities. In emotional terms, it is part of a Gypsy Traveller's sense of self. This does not, however, mean that to be defined as a Gypsy Traveller, they **must** live in caravans on the road - nor indeed do most live permanently in this way. Changing patterns of employment and changing social circumstances – such as educating children or caring for older relatives – mean that Gypsy Travellers today may live in mobile homes or caravans on permanent pitches, they may live in houses or they may travel for all or part of the year. None of these circumstances mean that their identity as a Gypsy Traveller is any less 'authentic'.

This strong sense of group identity and travelling culture shared by Gypsy Travellers is not always well understood or accepted within the wider settled population and can, in some cases, result in clashes of cultures and social tension between groups. For Gypsy Travellers and settled populations, this can be accentuated when other factors such as changes in land use, demographics and employment patterns create new points of contact.

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In 2001, the Equal Opportunities Committee of the Scottish Parliament recognised the significant discrimination and disadvantage facing Gypsy Travellers, and conducted an inquiry into Gypsy Travellers and public sector policies. Their 2001 report contained 37 recommendations for action covering; accommodation, health, education, personal social services, policing and criminal justice and the promotion of good relations. Progress against recommendations was considered in 2005 and found to be slow, so further commitments were made.

The Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee has carried out a further investigation into the situation of Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland, published in the spring of 2013. The concluding paragraph of the most recent report sums up the Committee frustration at the lack of progress on this issue.

'Twelve years on from the first Scottish Parliament inquiry into Gypsy/Traveller life, and it is galling to see that the appalling situation of many Gypsy/Travellers is little changed. We are staggered to find ourselves hearing the same issues and making the same recommendations that were heard and made in the 2001 inquiry. We share our witnesses' frustration, not least that of Gypsy/Travellers, that a positive and collaborative way of providing culturally appropriate accommodation for Gypsy/Traveller people has not yet been found. Where we have heard of commendable initiatives, such as in the North East, they have been dogged by deeply disappointing outcomes – by lack of action in particular.'

Accommodation issues

Where and how Gypsy Travellers live - whether on permanent or temporary sites, in houses or on roadside encampments - is without doubt the single issue that generates the greatest amount of media interest.

Accommodation affects access to health and social care, education and other public services. Where there is any gap between accommodation need and provision, challenges are likely to occur for individuals and potentially the communities in which they live. The background context around accommodation is therefore particularly important to good reporting and in relation to the inequalities that Gypsy Travellers experience in other areas.

'... they have been trying to identify sites, and I know and understand the difficulties that they have in doing that and the resistance that comes from the public at large, which is mainly fed by perceptions that come from the media.'

Police Officer - Scottish Parliament Official Report 2013

Through the Housing (Scotland) Acts of 2001 and 2010, local authorities have a range of statutory responsibilities for the accommodation needs of all groups in society. The particular needs of Gypsy Travellers are explicitly recognised. Gypsy Travellers require a range of accommodation encompassing socially rented and privately owned sites, temporary halting places and fixed housing to meet their individual needs and circumstances.

Some local authorities have worked hard and tried to develop appropriate site provision. However, over many years and in many parts of Scotland, the accommodation needs of Gypsy Travellers have not been consistently addressed. This has caused a clear mis-match between on-going accommodation need and provision. In 2012 Amnesty International^v examined the Local Housing Strategies of twenty seven mainland local authorities. Of these, nine suggested good planning for Gypsy Travellers, fourteen were vague in their plans and five included no accommodation plans for this group.

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This has contributed to accommodation shortages, breakdowns of trust between Gypsy Travellers and local authorities, and sometimes tensions with settled communities.

Permanent sites

Permanent sites can be provided by a local authority/registered social landlord, by private landlords or set up on a Gypsy Traveller's own land.

On **local authority**-provided sites in Scotland, Gypsy Travellers must apply for a place which is either 'first come, first served', or subject to the local allocations policy. If no pitches are available, they will be put on a waiting list. Across Scotland, the occupancy rates on the current twenty five permanent sites are not consistently or centrally monitored. They vary, often according to the state of the facility and particular circumstances of long term residents, but the current trend is for demand to be greater than availability.

The average weekly rent for a pitch is £62 (2012)^{vi} which secures the tenant a place to park their own residential trailer caravan and vehicle, and access to a basic amenity unit containing bath/shower, and toilet facilities. Council tax is part of the rent on some local authority sites, but charged separately on others. Electricity is charged according to use. Some Gypsy Travellers might need or prefer to have a second caravan on their pitch to ensure living space for the whole family. However, tenancy agreements are not consistent between sites in different local authority areas and may impose restrictions on whether they can site a second caravan, as well as the amount of time that the tenant can travel without losing the tenancy.

On sites, local authorities are expected to address housing issues such as adaptations for disabled tenants, complaints, repairs, safety, anti-social behaviour etc. in the same way as they would in any other social housing provision, but evidence given to the 2012 parliamentary inquiry^{vii} suggests this is not consistently the case. Some sites are also located in places of poor environmental quality (under pylons, near industrial land or by major transport junctions) and suffer from poor access and badly maintained approaches, making it hard for residents to get to local services and for local services to reach them.

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Private sites might be run commercially or may have been established by Gypsy Travellers themselves. If run by a commercial business, there may be few protections or security of tenure for Gypsy Travellers. Where a Gypsy Traveller seeks to live permanently on their own land, they need to get planning permission and a site license from the Council. Appropriate land for such a personal site is unlikely to be purchased with planning permission, and it has been suggested that Gypsy Travellers experience disproportionate difficulty getting planning permission for private occupancy of their own land compared to the rest of the population^{viii}.

Temporary sites

When Gypsy Travellers are 'on the road' or away from their 'home base', they are faced with a limited range of temporary accommodation for their trailers. Historically, there was an informal network of stopping off places that were traditionally used on a regular basis. Changes in land use and hardening attitudes towards roadside encampments have meant that Council and private owners have either used or blocked off such places. Gypsy Travellers have therefore turned to 'unauthorised encampments' in what can sometimes be very visible and high profile public spaces. This shortfall of accommodation supply, particularly in the key travelling period over the summer months, is a key cause of community tensions and negative media coverage.

'The simple solution to this problem is the creation of sufficient permanent and short term Gypsy Traveller halting sites Until this happens, this cycle of Gypsy Travellers parking on unauthorised sites, being harassed by local residents and repeatedly moved on by the Councils will continue.'

Equality Officer Health Board - Scottish Parliament Official Report 2013

'There has been a lot of work to try to identify potential locations for sites. It is unfortunate that proposals often meet with community resistance, negative media coverage and so on.'

Equality Officer Local Authority - Scottish Parliament Official Report 2013

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Conflict and stress arising from this lack of suitable accommodation affects both Gypsy Travellers and settled communities. Approaches have been undertaken in various local authorities to mitigate this, including providing waste disposal and portaloos for road-side camps to support the wellbeing and hygiene of occupants and minimise clear-up costs on departure, and agreeing an expected duration of stay.

However, Amnesty International's report into Council housing plans is backed up by other evidence, which suggests that only a small minority of local authorities in Scotland have an accurate projection of supply and demand for sites and temporary pitches at different times of the year on which to base their provision of both long and short term accommodation options for Gypsy Travellers. As such, arrangements can tend to be reactive and ad hoc, which can make community relations and individual circumstances worse.

'The continued absence of adequate and appropriate sites for the Gypsy Traveller community – in public or private ownership, either permanent or seasonal, residential or transit – remains the biggest barrier to good community relations in Scotland'

Equality and Human Rights Commission - Submission to the Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee Inquiry 2012

Housing

Many Gypsy Travellers live in houses. Exact numbers are unknown, as this data was not captured until the 2011 census and some do not identify themselves as Gypsy Travellers for fear of harassment. For some, moving into a house is not a choice, but instead because of personal circumstances such as caring responsibilities. For others, it may be a last resort because they are unable to find a suitable pitch, experience harassment living on a site or cannot access essential basic services such as education, health or social care from the pitches available. Gypsy Travellers living in houses do not give up their cultural or legal identity.

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However, many report a sense of disconnection from family and community and experience less good health than those living on sites or travelling.

Young people and life chances

The most recent data (2009) from the Scottish Government estimated that the Gypsy Traveller population was younger than the wider population. For Gypsy Travellers living on council sites, 43 per cent are aged 19 and under, compared to 23 per cent of the general Scottish population. Under-fives account for 14 per cent of the Gypsy Traveller population compared to 5 per cent of the total Scottish population.

Like any young people, young Gypsy Travellers want to socialise, to learn, to access leisure opportunities and to enjoy a safe, stable and healthy home environment. However research^{ix} continues to show that young Gypsy Travellers experience inequalities from an early age. As a result of where they live, the relevance of service provision and/or their experiences of discrimination, children and young people often face:

- A lack of access to pre-school, out-of-school and leisure services
- Low participation in secondary education with negative experiences/bullying given as the reason for leaving at an early age^x
- Poor and declining educational attainment with low levels of literacy and numeracy
- Uncertainty around their accommodation and potentially their relationship with people living in the vicinity
- A sense that their needs and identities are not being reflected or met within mainstream services

Public bodies continue some work to develop appropriate education, health information and social provision in schools, via e-learning, on sites or within other suitable environments. But it is not consistent across Scotland. Many parents and young people also remain concerned that there is little understanding of Gypsy Traveller culture, and that bullying of Gypsy Traveller children may not be dealt with effectively.

The impact of all of the above on young people affects both their childhood and their adult lives. For example, low literacy affects lifetime employment, access to health care and even getting a driving licence - which is important within a travelling population.

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Substantial negative psychological impact has also been shown in children who experience repeated evictions, family tensions associated with insecure lifestyles and ongoing hostility from the wider population^{xi}. If early years and youth experiences also only offer limited contact with people in settled populations, this can further isolate young Gypsy Travellers within society and indeed impact upon wider good relations throughout their adult years.

Health issues

Although little Scottish specific data exists on the health of Gypsy Travellers, wider UK studies consistently show that Gypsy Travellers have significantly poorer health even when compared to other economically disadvantaged UK residents from minority populations. Gypsy Travellers are more likely to suffer from self-reported anxiety, respiratory problems and chest pain than other ethnic groups within the UK and 38 per cent of a sample of 260 Gypsy Travellers had a long-term illness, compared with 26 per cent of age- and sex-matched comparators^{xii}. Rates of mental ill health are higher, though often still a taboo subject provoking fear and denial. Suicide amongst Irish Travellers was found to be six times the rate of the wider population, potentially accounting for around ten percent of deaths^{xiii}.

Just as with any other section of society, there is a clear relationship between quality of housing and quality of health, but because of the particular accommodation experiences of Gypsy Travellers, this relationship is intensified. Particular issues that arise include environmental factors such as access to running water, maintaining dry and adequately heated homes and living near pollutants such as traffic or industry. But there are also wider impacts on mental and physical health caused by insecurity of tenure, limited access to services, experience of harassment or community tension and distance from extended family.

Despite poor health, Gypsy Travellers continue to have problems accessing Scotland's public health services. Some GPs surgeries and dentists refuse to register Gypsy Travellers as patients, and some doctors are reluctant to visit sites. Mainstream health education and preventative programmes rarely include Gypsy Travellers. As a result, Gypsy Travellers sometimes have no alternative but to seek care in crisis through accident and emergency clinics.

As a result of all of these factors, Gypsy Travellers of all ages have been shown to have a higher mortality rate than that of the general population. One Scottish GP estimates that the average life expectancy of Gypsy Travellers is only 55 years.^{xiv}

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Some more recent studies do indicate, however, that with stable accommodation including secure local authority or private sites and access to adequate education and health and social care, the life expectancy of gypsy travellers can become more closely aligned to that of the surrounding sedentary population.^{xv}

'One core theme which arises across all topics is the pervasive and corrosive impact of experiencing racism and discrimination throughout an entire lifespan and in employment, social and public contexts. Existing evidence highlights high rates of anxiety, depression and, at times, self-destructive behaviour (for example, suicide and/or substance abuse). These are, on the face of the evidence, responses to 'cultural trauma' produced by the failings of 21st century British society and public bodies' failure to engage in an equitable manner with members of the communities.'

Research Report – Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller Communities 2009^{xvi}

Checklist

For balanced reporting on issues relating to Gypsy Travellers, the following may be useful:

1. Be aware of material that is likely to lead to hatred or discrimination
2. Remember that most readers or viewers have no direct contact with Gypsy Travellers and base their opinions on what they see in the media
3. Be aware of stereotypes
4. Be clear whether you are reporting fact or someone else's opinion.
5. Do not assume or suggest that the actions or beliefs of any individuals reflect a whole group, community or race.
6. Do not sensationalise or exaggerate issues involving Gypsy Travellers.
7. Seek to balance the reporting of specific 'incidents' (e.g. unauthorised encampments) with wider coverage and background to some of the causal factors around accommodation that Gypsy Travellers face.
8. Gypsy Travellers are not 'outsiders'. They are full citizens of Great Britain and Ireland
9. Only describe people as 'Gypsy Traveller' if strictly relevant or accurate.
10. Give balanced reports ensuring that Gypsy Travellers' perspectives are reflected alongside those of others. Consult people who are directly involved where possible.

Contacts

The Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland

The Commission works towards the elimination of racial discrimination and promotes equality of opportunity and good race relations between and within ethnic groups.

151 West George Street
Glasgow
G2 2JJ

Telephone 0141 228 5910

Email: scotland@equalityhumanrights.com

www.equalityhumanrights.com

Scottish Traveller Education Programme (STEP)

STEP is funded by the Scottish Government to develop and support inclusive educational approaches for Gypsy Travellers.

The Moray House School of Education
The University of Edinburgh
Holyrood Road, Edinburgh
EH8 8AQ

Telephone: 0131 651 6444

Email: step@ed.ac.uk

Article 12

Article 12 in Scotland is a young person-led network that works to promote young people's participation, rights and access to information. It works with some of the most marginalized young people in Scotland such as: Gypsy Travellers, young people looked after by the state and young people experiencing mental ill health.

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Article 12 in Scotland
PO Box 7182
Montrose
DD10 9WW

Telephone: 01674 674086
Email: respond@article12.org

MECOPP

MECOPP works to challenge and dismantle barriers that deny Black and Minority Ethnic carers access to health, social work and other social care services in Edinburgh, the Lothians and further afield. They work specifically with Gypsy Traveller communities in rural and urban areas of Scotland.

172 Leith Walk
Edinburgh EH6 5EA

Telephone: 0131 467 2994

Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC)

GREC employ a Gypsy Traveller Liaison Worker for Aberdeenshire whose role is to promote good relations between Gypsy Travellers and settled communities and to provide information and advice on local services such as healthcare, education, housing, recycling etc. They also support and encourage the participation of Gypsy Travellers in public life.

41 Union Street
Aberdeen
Scotland
AB11 5BN

Telephone: 01224 595505
Email: info@grec.co.uk

Gypsy Travellers

Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS)

PAS promotes and facilitates better public engagement with the planning system in Scotland. PAS was commissioned by the Scottish Government to undertake a study into barriers to Gypsy Travellers' engagement with the planning system and to pilot means of addressing these barriers.

11a South Charlotte Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4AS

Telephone: 0131 220 9730

Email: office@planningaidscotland.org.uk

Resources

Friends, Families and Travellers (FFT)

An organisation with online and downloadable copies of resources relating to Gypsy Travellers.

www.gypsy-traveller.org

Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland (BEMIS)

Gypsy Travellers in Contemporary Scotland

A report into The 2001 'Inquiry into Gypsy Travellers and Public Sector Policies': Ten Years On (2011)

http://bemis.org.uk/docs/gypsy_travellers_in_contemporary_scotland.pdf

Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee

Inquiries; Published evidence, reports and Scottish Government response

Where Gypsy Travellers Live (2013)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/49027.aspx>

Gypsy Travellers and Care (2012)

www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EqualOpportunitiesCommittee/Reports/eor-12-03w-rev2.pdf

www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EqualOpportunitiesCommittee/130129_Scottish_Government_response3rd_Report_2012.pdf

Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A

review. S. Cemlyn Et Al. University of Bristol, Buckinghamshire New University. Published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission 2009

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf

Gypsy Travellers

Scottish Government

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/gypsiestravellers

Please contact us if you require this publication in an alternative format and/or language.

Website : **www.equalityhumanrights.com**

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REFERENCES

- ⁱ In July 2009, the Scottish Government carried out its last bi-annual count of Scottish Gypsy Travellers and found that there were around 2,120 people living on Council/Registered Social Landlord Sites (RSL) sites, private sites and unauthorised encampments in Scotland. It is accepted that this figure is a significant underestimate as;
- it does not include Gypsy Travellers who live in houses
 - local authorities are not consistent with data on Gypsy Travellers on Council / RSI sites
 - it is unlikely to fully reflect all those who were travelling or away at the time of the count
 - it is a difficult population to survey both in terms of reach and in terms of those who self-identify as Gypsy Travellers
- Organisations and services working with Scottish Gypsy Travellers estimate that the figure is between 15-20,000 people. The 2011 census in Scotland included Gypsy Traveller as an ethnic group for the first time, but final data is not yet available.
- ⁱⁱ CAUGHT IN THE HEADLINES - Scottish media coverage of Scottish Gypsy Travellers. Amnesty International April 2012
- ⁱⁱⁱ Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2010 – Attitudes to discrimination and positive action. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/08/11121400/1>
- ^{iv} <http://archive.scottish.parliament.uk/business/petitions/pdfs/PE1363.pdf>
- ^v ON THE MARGINS - Local authority service provision for Scottish Gypsy Travellers. Amnesty International April 2012
- ^{vi} SPICe Research Briefing – Where Gypsy Travellers Live. Scottish Parliament November 2012
- ^{vii} Where Gypsy Travellers Live Equal Opportunities Committee Enquiry 2012 <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/49027.aspx>
- ^{viii} <http://www.yourrights.org.uk/yourrights/rights-of-gypsies-and-travellers/planning-permission-for-caravan-sites/index.shtml>
- ^{ix} Where Gypsy Travellers Live Equal Opportunities Committee Enquiry 2012 <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/49027.aspx>
- ^x Save the Children (2005), Having our Say - peer research by young Gypsy Travellers found that three-quarters of young Gypsy Travellers said they have been picked on by other school pupils because of their background.
- ^{xi} Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review. Sarah Cemlyn, Margaret Greenfields, Sally Burnett, Zoe Matthews and Chris Whitwell, University of Bristol, Buckinghamshire New University. Published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission 2009

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^{xii} Ibid

^{xiii} All Ireland Traveller health study 2010, Irish Department of Health
http://www.dohc.ie/publications/traveller_health_study.html

^{xiv} Scottish Parliament Press Release (2001), Parliament Committee Calls For Ethnic Minority Status For Gypsy Travellers.

^{xv} Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review. Cemlyn et al
2009

^{xvi} Ibid