



# PAVEE POINT

ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2005

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ANNUAL REPORT 2003–2005



**PAVEE POINT**  
TRAVELLERS CENTRE



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# Director's Foreword

The past three years have proven extremely challenging for Pavee Point and Travellers generally in Ireland. Work with Travellers is taking place in an increasingly unreceptive, and even hostile, environment. This Tri-Annual Report is being published at a time when Traveller organisations, at national and local levels, feel we and our role is increasingly being sidelined from both the development and the monitoring of policy on Travellers. This is evidenced through the deconstruction of a range of national policy fora which we have engaged in since the publication of the Task Force on Travellers in 1995 and the establishment of a high level working group on Travellers which excludes Travellers and Traveller organisations.

This contrasts to the time of the publication of our last annual report when the national policy context was fairly positive and the major challenge was translating policy into practice on the ground. The context has changed with:

- the criminalisation of trespass,
- the removal of cases of discrimination against the licensing trade from the Equality Tribunal to the District Courts;
- the reduction in resources to local and community development work;
- and the refusal to acknowledge Travellers as a minority ethnic group and include them in the State's report on the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Pavee Point and other Traveller organisations lobbied long and hard for the recognition of Travellers as a minority ethnic group. The Government's position and refusal to recognise Travellers as an ethnic group is out of step with the most respected legal and academic opinion in recent years, which clearly would support the position that Irish Travellers are an ethnic group. It is also inconsistent with Government action in other areas of policy where Travellers are de facto recognised as an ethnic group. To date the Government have not set out a detailed rationale for this change and have not made clear what, if any, direct policy implications of such a move are going to be. However we, and other Traveller organisations, perceive this as one more example of a hardening of the Government position towards Travellers.

The recognition of Travellers as a minority ethnic group is crucial to an acknowledgement that racism underpins the socio-economic exclusion Travellers experience. Otherwise there is a danger that the policies emerging will not address the structural nature of Travellers marginalisation and in fact may inadvertently exacerbate this situation. Following on from this there is the lack of validation of Traveller culture - epitomised by negative media coverage and a series of high profile negative media cases over the past three years which constantly seek to focus on the negative aspects of Travellers lives and so negate any discussion of culture.

Despite these negative and regressive developments it would be remiss not to focus on some of the positive initiatives and work that have been taking place over the past three years. One such initiative was the development of Pavee Point's Strategic Plan 2006-2010 which took place through an in-depth period of consultation with internal and external stakeholders. This Plan represents an important process outlining our aims, mission and four key goals and will inform all of our work in the upcoming five years.

Pavee Point has had a hard fight in gaining recognition and expertise over the past 20 years, this expertise represents value for money that needs to be exploited by the government. The participation of Travellers and Traveller organisations is crucial for the successful development and implementation of policies relating to all aspects of Travellers lives.

This tri- annual report can only give a flavour of the work carried out by the organisation, locally, nationally, internationally and through the work of our programmes. None of this work could be carried out without the commitment of the staff and management team who give generously of their time and expertise.

Finally, Pavee Point would no longer be able to develop or function without the support of our funders; we would also like to thank them for their continued support to our work to advance Traveller's human rights.

**Ronnie Fay**

Director  
Pavee Point





# Pavee Point

## The Building

Pavee Point purchased the Freechurch, North Great Charles Street in the late 1980s. This is an invaluable resource to our organisation. The Church itself is a Grade I listed building which means that planning requirements must be met when carrying out any work either externally or internally. Pavee Point has continued to strive to maintain the building over the years with as little intervention to the original fabric as possible, while also developing it as a resource centre for us to carry out our work.

Due to the age of the building there is always a requirement for further improvements. We also need to secure the outside to prevent any further wear and tear. The windows need replacing and a crèche facility is required. A priority has been to maintain the outside of the building, to slow down any further erosion of the stonework.

The Church is a wonderful asset to us and has enabled us to carry out our work, organise functions and to resource other organisations with the use of the facility. However, we need to access more funding in order to develop the internal infrastructure, to develop more training and workspaces, and to make the building fully accessible.

A comprehensive strategy for the preservation, maintenance and development of the building has been put together and the challenge in the coming years will be to access the necessary resources to implement the strategy.



**The church in which Pavee Point operates was erected by the Methodists as the street was being built in 1800.**

# Introduction to Pavee Point

**Pavee Point is a national Traveller organisation whose staff and participants are Travellers and members of the majority population working together in partnership to address Travellers social and economic exclusion.**

The work of Pavee Point is based on two key premises:

- Real improvement in Travellers' living circumstances and social situation requires the active involvement of Travellers themselves.
- Non-Travellers have a responsibility to address the various processes which serve to exclude Travellers from participating as equals in society.

Pavee Point works at a number of levels:

- local;
- regional;
- national; and,
- international.

The organisation's work seeks to develop understanding and responses to a wide range of issues facing Travellers through programmes covering: community development; youth work and early years; education; health, drugs and violence against women; culture and heritage; mediation; local and economic development.

The work of the programmes includes:

- Direct work with Travellers and Traveller organisations;
- Piloting and disseminating innovative approaches on Travellers issues;
- Networking with and supporting individuals and organisations working with Travellers and other marginalised groups;
- Formulating and making submissions to influence policies;
- Dissemination of information and the commissioning of research and its publication.

## Strategic Goals and Objectives

### Strategic Goal 1 – Identity

To achieve the recognition, by Travellers themselves and in the wider society, of Travellers as a minority ethnic group, whose culture and identity are celebrated, resourced and respected.

#### Objectives:

- i To support Travellers to exercise their cultural and human rights.
- ii To promote Traveller inclusion and participation in the cultural life of Ireland.
- iii To seek Traveller visibility in anti-racism and intercultural policies and initiatives.

## Strategic Goal 2 – Empowerment

To create conditions for Travellers and Roma to participate actively in their own community, in Traveller and Roma organisations and in wider society.

### Objectives:

- i To Increase confidence and leadership within the Traveller and Roma community.
- ii To facilitate reflection and constructive debate on sensitive and challenging issues within the Traveller and Roma community that impact on the community itself and affect relationships with wider society.
- iii To support increased Traveller and Roma representation in Traveller and Roma organisations and Political, Economic, Social and Cultural spheres in Irish Society.

## Strategic Goals and Objectives ctd.,

### Strategic Goal 3 – Relationships

To gain equality for Travellers while recognising diversity within the Traveller community and support better relations between Travellers and the wider society.

### Objectives:


- i To promote solidarity and respect for diversity within the Traveller community.
- ii To promote greater understanding and learning of the realities and dynamics of discrimination and racism against Travellers in Irish society.
- iii To undertake a range of relationship building, problem solving and conflict transformation initiatives with Travellers and other communities.

### Strategic Goal 4 – Policy

To support the development, implementation and monitoring of policies that respect Traveller cultural identity and contribute to positive outcomes for Travellers.

### Objectives:

- i To produce a body of evidence that informs policy development that is inclusive of Travellers and respects their culture.
- ii To pilot innovative approaches to work with Travellers and support the emergence of new programmes and initiatives.
- iii To promote Traveller inclusion in data strategies and initiatives across the administrative system.
- iv To represent, promote and monitor Traveller interests at a range of fora and to promote Traveller participation in policy making and decision making.

The 'éist' Manual 

*'Ar an  
imBealach'  
'On the Way'*

**PAVEE POINT**

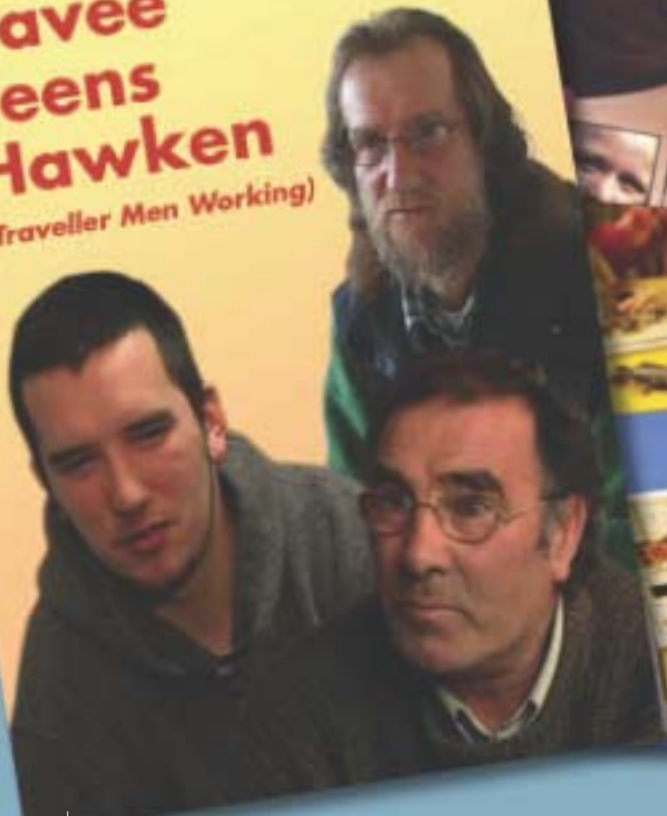


**Anniversary Conference**  
*... Road, Still Moving Forward*

**RECOGNITION**  
TRAVELLER FOCUS WEEK 2005



**Pavee  
Feens  
Hawken**  
*(Traveller Men Working)*



# Pavee Resources 2003–2005

## **Launch of Whisht ... Irish Traveller Folktales and Songs: The Cassidys 1967 – February 2003**

Produced by the Cultural Heritage Programme, this collection of Traveller folktales and songs was launched by Minister of Arts, Sports and Tourism John O'Donoghue on February 26th 2003 at Pavee Point. The CD contains seven stories narrated by acclaimed Traveller storyteller Johnny Cassidy, and three songs sung by his daughter and grandson, Kitty and Andy Cassidy.



## **Poster – Pavee's Ireland**

To celebrate International Anti-Racism Day, Travellers working in Pavee Point designed and produced a poster celebrating Travellers' contribution to Irish Society.

## **Video on National Traveller Health Strategy – November 2003**

Pavee Point produced a video on behalf of the Department of Health and Children on the content of the National Traveller Health Strategy. This was to make the content accessible, to Travellers, local Traveller organisations and health professionals.

## **Publication: Roma Information Sheet**

In conjunction with the Roma Support Group and with funding from the European Refugee Fund through the Reception and Integration Unit, Pavee Point published an information sheet on Roma in Ireland addressing issues such as education, health and employment.

## **Publication of 'Dismantling the Traveller Economy'**

This is a case study on the impact of increasing regulation on the Traveller economy which stresses an inclusive approach to economic development and support for enterprise and cultural diversity. It was produced as part of our TESIP (Traveller Economic Social Inclusion Programme) Programme

## Video – Communities Challenging Racism: Creating an Anti-Racist Community Organisation

Pavee Point has produced and disseminated a short video and user booklet which features real-life situations in order to inform community organisations as to how to develop and work in an anti-racist manner, both in ethos and practice. This video was funded by Know Racism, the CDP (Community Development Programme) and the Family Support Agency under the National Development Plan.

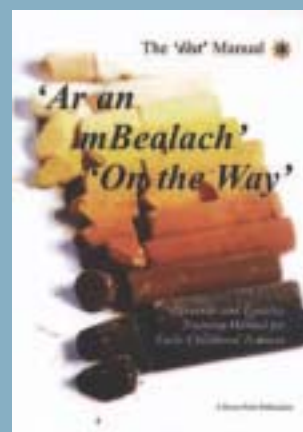


## Launch of Roma Support Group Website – April 2004

International Roma Day (April 8th) was celebrated at Pavee Point with the launch of a support group website, [www.romasupport.ie](http://www.romasupport.ie)

## Launch of 'Ar an mBealach'

In September 2004 the éist Programme launched 'Ar an mBealach', a Diversity and Equality Training manual addressing issues of racism and discrimination in Early Childhood Care, Education and Training. The aim of the manual is to support trainers in delivering diversity and equality training to both students and early education practitioners. The training will help providers of Early Childhood Care Education to create a safe environment where children see and assimilate attitudes of equality and respect for difference. The manual supports the needs of children from both minority and majority communities and is available as part of the Training of Trainers programme.



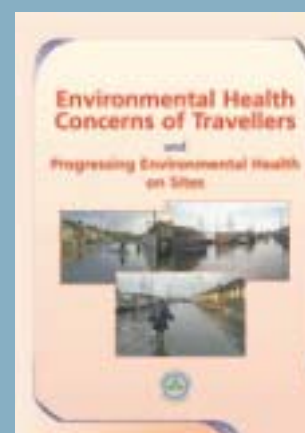
## Launch of 'Éist' Jigsaw – September 2004

Four jigsaw puzzles featuring photographs taken by Derek Speirs and intended for use in the pre-school and primary sectors were launched at Pavee Point in September.

The puzzles depict the lifestyle and culture of Travellers and were developed in response to the lack of educational materials that reflect diversity in Ireland.

## Environmental Health Concerns of Travellers and Progressing Environmental Health on Sites

This report was commissioned by the Traveller Health Unit in the Eastern Region and comprises research conducted in 2001 and updated in 2004. The aim of the research was to investigate and document the issues in relation to environmental health and the Traveller Community, from the perspective of Travellers and from Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) and to present Traveller organisations and local authorities with practical measures as recommendations for action towards achieving progress in relation to Environmental Health.



## DVD for Traveller Parents on Primary School, Pavee Parents; Primary Concerns

Pavee Point recently produced a DVD for Traveller Parents on ways to support their children in Primary school. Pavee Parents; Primary Concerns is an Educational tool which stresses the importance of parental involvement and how this involvement enhances a child's education. It also outlines the supports and organisations that are available for Parents.



## Travellers and Education – Leaflet

“Education shall aim at developing the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent. Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and foster respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, and for the cultural background and values of others.”

Article 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. An overview of the current situation of Travellers and education and the Traveller Education Strategy.

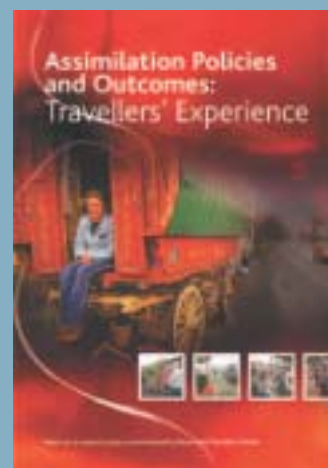
## Report: Roma Educational Needs in Ireland Context and Challenges

Research Report on Roma educational needs in Ireland.  
See page 51.



## Assimilation Policies and Outcomes: Travellers' Experience

Travellers have been the 'objects' of official policy since the Commission on Itinerancy in 1963. A key issue in shaping social policy and practice has been the way in which Travellers' identity is conceptualised. This report illustrates the dichotomy between official policy and actual practice and illustrates the difficulties that Travellers encounter in trying to integrate into Irish society. It becomes clear 'that it is not Travellers' nomadism that fuels anti-Traveller racism; it is their group identity. They are ostracised whether they 'settle' or not.'



## Irish Travellers Challenging the Myths

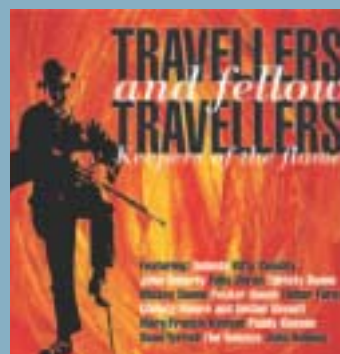
This leaflet sets out to challenge some of the most recurring myths and misinformation about Irish Travellers in Ireland. It was published as part of Traveller Focus week 2005.



## Travellers and fellow Travellers Keepers of the Flame

Music and song have always been important to Traveller life and culture. This collection, which includes some of the best examples of recorded music and song by Travellers, was released as part of Pavee Point's twentieth anniversary celebrations.

CD Featuring: Bohinta, Kitty Cassidy, John Doherty, Felix Doran, Christy Dunne, Mickey Dunne, Pecker Dunne, Finbar Furey, Christy Moore and Declan Sinnot, Mary Francis Keenan, Paddy Keenan, Sean Tyrrell, The Rainey's, John Rooney.



## Challenging the Misconceptions of Violence against Minority Ethnic Women, including Travellers, in Ireland

### An Information brochure for service providers

This brochure sets out to challenge some of the misconceptions associated with minority ethnic women experiencing violence and to provide agencies, groups and professionals with information on appropriate responses to working with women from minority ethnic groups to address violence against women. Minority ethnic communities in this context mean both Travellers and migrant communities.



## Pavee Point Strategic Plan 2006–2010

This document states Pavee Point's vision and mission, highlighting key issues facing Irish Travellers, and stating Pavee Point's core values. Wider policy issues are also explored.

The strategic plan sets out four key goals for Pavee Point, along with the objectives to help achieve these goals.

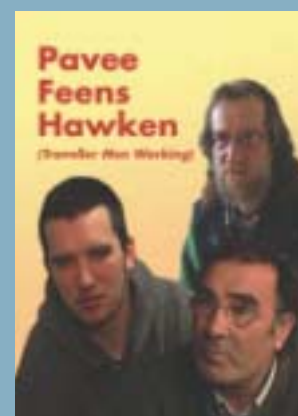


## Pavee Feens Hawken (Traveller Men Working) DVD

As part of Pavee Feens Hawken Pavee Point through the EQUAL project produced a DVD to

- Inform on the work of the 'Pavee Feens Hawken' project and the learning arising from it;
- Raise awareness of the type of work Traveller men have engaged in and would wish to pursue;
- Raise awareness of barriers facing Traveller men and the role training seeking to be inclusive and informed by cultural diversity can play.

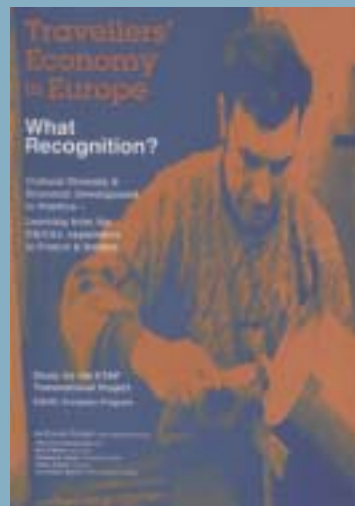
Pavee Feens Hawken was funded through the EU Community Initiative EQUAL and organised by the Traveller Economy Sectoral Partnership.



## Travellers' Economy in Europe – What Recognition?

Travellers experience direct and indirect discrimination at the individual and institutional levels. To a very large extent Travellers both in Ireland and France are excluded from the mainstream labour market and therefore long-term unemployment amongst Travellers is high. This is partly explained by the decline of traditional areas of economic activity and employment, such as scrap metal, horse and market trading, due in part to a changing economic climate exacerbated by restrictive legislation in certain sectors. Disadvantages in other areas of life including education, health and accommodation also enforce this dynamic of exclusion.

This report highlights the learning from the EQUAL experience in France and Ireland.



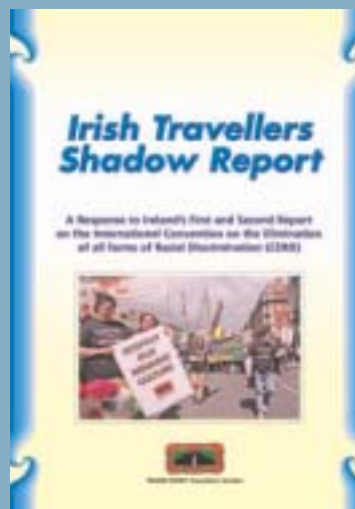
## Irish Travellers Shadow Report

A Response to Ireland's First and Second Report On the International Convention On the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

The Report outlines the current situation of Travellers in Ireland highlighting:

- The Irish Government's refusal to recognise Irish Travellers as a minority ethnic group and their failure to acknowledge that Travellers experience racism/racial discrimination
- Travellers health status and the refusal of many GPs to take them as patients and lack of government action on this issue
- The high unemployment rate among Travellers (73%) and the fact that there is no national strategy to address this crisis
- The fact that 2/3 of Travellers have left school by 15 years of age (National Census 2002)
- The absence of institutional mechanism to ensure agreed policy is implemented

(The full text of Pavee Point's Shadow Report to CERD is available at: <http://www.paveepoint.ie>)



## Pavee Point Website

On March 21st 2005, as part of International Day Against Racism, Pavee Point launched its newly designed website at [www.paveepoint.ie](http://www.paveepoint.ie)



## Summary of main findings of the Traveller Health Survey

Summary Report of the Main Findings of the Traveller Health Survey in Community Care Area 6, 7, 8. These findings demonstrate that there has been a positive impact from the PHC Project in CCA 6 through an increase in the level of knowledge, utilization of and access to health services by Travellers in that area. This survey also provided baseline data for the newly initiated PHCP in CCA 7 and 8.

## Working in Partnership A Report on the Activities of the Traveller Health Unit in the Eastern Region to 2004

As the Irish Health Services embark on a journey of reform the Minister for Health and Children has promised greater public representation, equity and empowered decision making at local level. The Traveller Health Unit in the Eastern Region embodies these principles and in this report we encourage readers to use our Unit as a model of good practice in providing equitable healthcare for minority ethnic groups. The Traveller Health Unit is designed to deliver equitable outcomes in health for the most marginalised group in Irish society – Irish Travellers – and to do so in the most sustainable and efficient manner. In doing this the Traveller Health Unit makes the best use of the central contribution Travellers have to make to ongoing health and well-being in the Traveller community.



## Caring for Diversity

Report on a research project to identify the need and potential for culturally appropriate child welfare and protection services for Travellers.

## Use of Hospital Facilities by the Traveller Community

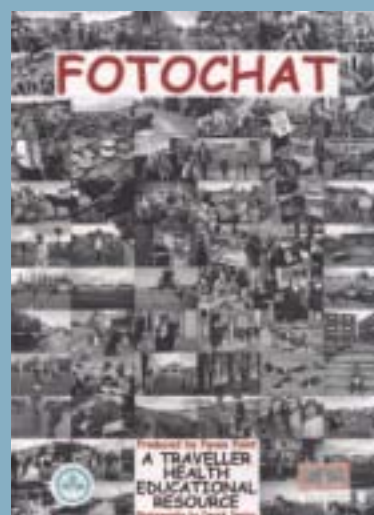
This study was designed by a sub-group of the Traveller Health Unit (THU) including Tallaght Travellers' Support Group, Pavee Point and The Tallaght Hospital (The Adelaide and Meath Hospital, Dublin Incorporating The National Children's Hospital (AMINCH)). Funding was secured from the THU and two researchers were engaged, one from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), to do the analysis of the hospital data; and one from Community Technical Aid (CTA), to facilitate and analyse the focus studies. Two Traveller women were employed as research assistants on the focus group studies. The aim of the study was to identify Traveller access to and utilisation of acute hospital services through use of hospital data, and focus groups, and to make specific recommendations to the major hospitals, Traveller Health Unit (THU) and to Traveller organisations.



## Pavee Fotochat

From our experience of delivering training with Travellers, we have learnt that creative and visual methods are more effective. These methods enable trainees to participate on an equal basis and takes account of the various levels of literacy within the training groups. To support these methods this pack of photographs was designed by the health team in Pavee Point in conjunction with the photographer Derek Speirs with supports from the HSE and the DoH&C to be used as a flexible training, learning and research tool.

There are 94 photographs in this pack which were selected/commissioned to reflect a social determinants approach to Travellers' health, i.e selecting images reflecting Travellers lives, Travellers health and the factors which influence it. This multipurpose pack can be used by simply using photographs to provoke discussion; use as collage to tell a story or to more complex use as a research tool to identify health needs and determinants of health.

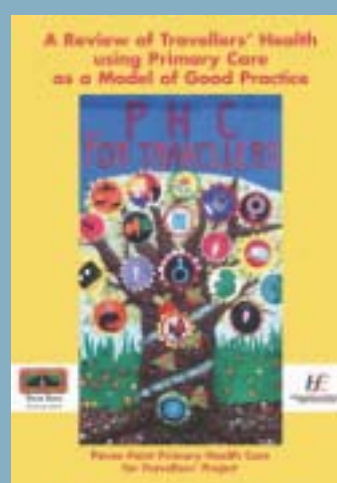


## Directory of Services

The Directory of Services was designed to provide information for Travellers living in the Finglas and Blanchardstown area. While it has information about health services, it also has information about other essential services e.g. Schools, Adult Education etc. It was produced by the Traveller Primary Health Care workers, who visited or contacted all the local services to compile the information, they also selected visual images and color coded the different sections to make it more accessible. The project has provided information and the template for this directory, to support other PHCTP who are interested in producing one for their own areas.

## Review of Travellers Health using Primary Care as a Model of Good Practice

The Report sets out the background with facts and figures about Travellers including the Social Determinants of Health. This is followed by the information about Primary Health Care principles and how the Project came about. It also talks about PHC as a Model of good practice for Traveller health. Finally, it looks at programme interventions between the year 2000–2005 and finishes with challenges and opportunities related to the Project.



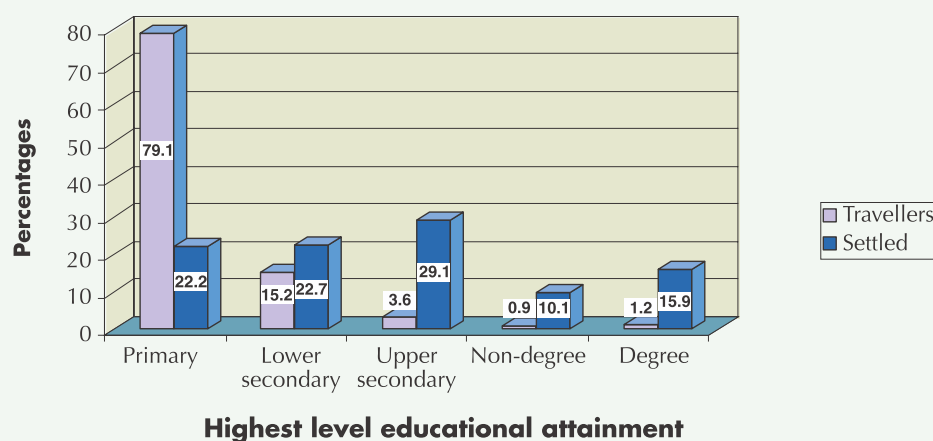
# Traveller Education Programme

## Context

Traveller's Educational status is considerably lower than that of their settled peers. The Census in 2002 revealed that for 54.8% of Travellers, primary school education was the highest level of education they obtained and that 63.2% of Traveller children under the age of 15 had left school. Evidence also strongly suggests that literacy levels are extremely low among Travellers.

Pavee Point has for many years expressed concerns regarding Traveller Education in terms of equality of outcomes, data collection, lack of interculturalism in the curriculum and has pushed for the inclusion and integration of Travellers in mainstream education.

**Proportion of Travellers and settled people and their educational attainment**



**Source: Census 2002**

## Towards a Traveller Education Strategy

Since 2003 a draft Traveller Education Strategy has been developed by a joint working group which comprised members of the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education (ACTE) and the Education Disadvantage Committee (EDC). This includes representatives from National Traveller Organisations (Pavee Point, the National Traveller Women's Forum, Irish Traveller Movement), Teachers Unions and School Management Authorities.

A five Year Strategy was proposed to review and evaluate the whole area of Traveller Education which includes; pre-school and early years, Primary, Post-Primary, Further and Adult Education and Third Level. Its main objective is to ensure that Travellers will be given the opportunity to benefit from an inclusive Education system and gain equality of access, participation and outcomes.

## Consultations with Traveller Parents and Learners

In early 2004 the three National Traveller Organisations (Pavee Point, National Traveller Women's Forum and Irish Traveller Movement) suggested to the Joint Working Group of the Traveller Education Strategy that a National Consultation with Travellers would hugely benefit the process of evaluating existing Educational provision. The three National Traveller Organisations took it upon themselves to organise five consultation seminars. In May and June 2004 five seminars attended by 450 Traveller parents and learners took place in the midlands (Tullamore), North-West (Sligo), South (Mallow) and South East (Kilkenny) with a National seminar taking place in Dublin.

The findings from these seminars and workshops led to the production of a report entitled *“Report on Consultations with Travellers Learners and Parents. Towards the development of the Traveller Education Strategy”* which was presented to the joint working group of the Traveller Education Strategy

The recommendations in this report included:

- **Teacher Training:** Improving the capacity of Educators to deal positively with Travellers in particular and with diversity in general.
- **Involving Traveller Parents:** Improving the capacity of Traveller parents to support their children's (and their own) education.
- **Quality of In School Experience:** There should be a focus on outcomes/achievement/employment for Traveller learners, graduates of education and training
- **Full Interculturalism:** Interculturalism should be a cornerstone of all educational settings so that all children learn to deal positively with difference, develop confidence in their own identity, whether majority or minority and develop the skills to think critically about racism and other forms of oppression.
- **Multi-agency Approaches:** Building multi-agency approaches to the issues facing Travellers and recognising the complexity and plural nature of the factors that impact on Travellers' education.
- **Education Provision for Nomads:** The education system should be more accessible to Travellers who are nomadic.
- **Inclusion:** Education services to Travellers should be provided in an inclusive, integrated setting.
- **On-going Consultation and Participation:** Travellers should be at the centre of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Traveller Education Strategy
- **Ring Fencing Resources:** the resources currently allocated in Education should be maintained and/or reallocated.

## Dedicated Education Programme

In 2004 Pavee Point received funding for a dedicated Education Project. The Parents and Traveller Education project was established in August 2004 and is funded by the Education Equality Initiative Phase 2. This Project is based on 2 objectives, one is to increase inclusion of Traveller parents in Education structures by addressing the deficit of information and understanding of Travellers of the Education system which may hamper their involvement in the Education of their children. The second objective is to work with the Education system and Parents Associations to look at ways of being more inclusive towards Traveller parents.

The work of the project to date has included:

### Resources

- Production of a DVD as a resource for training with Traveller parents on the Primary School entitled *Pavee Parents, Primary Concerns*.  
Training has been delivered with the DVD to Traveller parents
- Production of a Traveller Inclusion Booklet as a resource for schools and other Education settings.

### Capacity Building with Traveller parents

- Facilitating workshops with Traveller parents on the theme of Parental Involvement in Education and early school leaving.
- Coordination and facilitation of Traveller Parent Forums on the theme of Education around the country.
- Providing advice and support to Traveller parents around issues that arise in relation to their children's education for example access to schools, educational assessments, the provision of learning support.



## Supporting Traveller Access to Third Level

- Coordination of a scholarship scheme for Travellers in the Royal College of Surgeons.
- Supporting and advising Travellers who are about to start third level on financial assistance, grants etc.

## Supporting Education structures on Traveller Inclusion and Integration

- Providing advice and support to schools in relation to Traveller inclusion culture.
- Working in partnership with the National Parents Council on Traveller Inclusion within their organisation.

## Policy Work

- Participation in the joint working group of the Traveller Education Strategy
- The coordination of a consultation process involving 450 Traveller parents from all over Ireland to hear their views on Education which took the form of 5 Regional seminars and 1 National Seminar, leading to the production of a report entitled: *“Report on Consultations with Travellers Learners and Parents. Towards the development of the Traveller Education Strategy”*
- Pavee Point has two staff members who sit on the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education.

## The Way Forward

Pavee Point welcomes real change and sees the Traveller Education Strategy as providing new hope for the future of Traveller Education. We welcome a strategy which would give Travellers a chance to achieve equality of outcomes from an Education system that incorporates and celebrates cultural diversity and allows Traveller children to have a positive sense of identity.

The continuation of funding for a dedicated Education Programme in Pavee Point is vital in order to make progress in relation to Education policy and practice.

*“Education needs to be about liberating Travellers, not about domesticating them. True education will give Travellers the tools to challenge their oppression rather than teaching them how to become acceptable in a settled world”*

Martin Collins, Pavee Point, addressing the opening session of the National Seminar of Traveller Parents and Learners June 2004.

# Health Programme

The Health Programme in Pavee Point operates at different levels; local, regional and national. At a local level, there is the Primary Health Care for Travellers' Project (PHCTP), which works in partnership with the Health Services Executive (HSE). At a regional level, Pavee Point co-ordinates and provides technical assistance to the Traveller Health Unit, and at a national level Pavee Point has been appointed as one of the Traveller organisations on the National Traveller Health Advisory Committee. At a national level the Health Programme is also funded by the Department of Health and Children to support them with the replication of the PHCTP; the implementation of the National Traveller Health Strategy and to provide training to Traveller organisations on the All-Ireland Travellers' Health Status Study.

## Local Level

### Primary Health Care for Travellers' Project – Local Level

*“There are no simple and obvious solutions to the health situation of Travellers but it is a situation which calls for a creative and innovative approach. I believe such an approach has been found with the Primary Health Care for Travellers Project, which is a joint initiative between Pavee Point and the Eastern Health Board.”* Mr Brian Cowen, Minister for Health

The Primary Health Care for Travellers' Project was established as a joint partnership initiative between Pavee Point and the Eastern Health Board. The project began as a pilot initiative in October 1994 in the Finglas/Dunsink areas of Community Care Area 6 and then expanded in 1998 into the Blanchardstown areas with funding from the Eastern Health Board. The project has the following objectives:



- To establish a model of Traveller participation in the promotion of health
- To develop the skills of Traveller women in providing community based health services
- To liaise and assist in creating dialogue between Travellers and health service providers
- To highlight gaps in health service delivery to Travellers and work towards reducing inequalities that exists in the established services

The project includes a training course which concentrated on skills development, capacity building and the empowerment of Travellers, this training facilitated the Traveller Community Health Workers (TCHW's) to go out and conduct a baseline survey on the health needs of the Traveller population in their working area. The results were fed back to the community and the health service providers and then workshops were arranged to prioritise the findings and to agree a work programme for the project. This a very effective process as it facilitated the participation of the community in defining their needs; identifying obstacles; setting priorities and outlining interventions which formed the basis of the project actions. This process has been critical to the success of the project as Travellers are engaging at all levels and are confident to articulate their needs.

The 'Project' has resulted in the planning and implementation of interventions in a range of areas including some of the following:

**Culturally appropriate health education and information materials** have been designed by the Project using Traveller images. A series of health education posters have been produced covering: Travellers Health status; Nutrition; Oral Health; Breast Feeding; Immunisation; and dealing with Burns. Videos have also been produced to communicate key health education messages in relation to Traveller Women's health including Breast Examination; Cervical Smear tests; Ante-natal care; Family Planning and the Menopause, Children's health issues including Asthma, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; Immunisation and Breast Feeding. Pavee Point, with funding from the Department of Health & Children (DoH&C) also produced a short video on the Traveller Health Strategy to inform the Travellers around the country of the content and recommended actions in the Strategy.

### **Training and Presentations on Travellers' Health; Traveller Culture and Anti-racism**

The TCHWs provide in-service training to health service providers, teaching hospitals and universities as well as attending seminars and addressing conferences. This training raises awareness of the health status of Travellers, identifying the causality of these inequalities and the challenges Travellers face. The training also encourages dialogue between Travellers and service providers and examines issues of institutional and individual racism and encourages service providers to offer more culturally appropriate services and supports them to develop anti-racist codes of practice.

The PHCTP is invited to attend/present at various national and international conferences e.g in February 2003, at a Healthy cities conference in Belfast, the project presented a paper on access to services and health inequalities for the Traveller community; in April 2004, the TCHWs made a presentation on their experience of the development of the PHCTP at the UK Public Health Alliance (UKPHA) Conference in Brighton. In June 2004 at the first National Traveller Health Conference. The TCHWs gave a creative presentation highlighting the barriers and health inequalities Travellers face. In 2005, during the second National Traveller Health Conference, the Joint Co-ordinator and one of the CHWs gave a presentation titled "Application of Primary Health Care as a model of good practice in relation to Traveller Health".

### **Mental Health Art Project**

Following the completion of a module on Mental Health the trainees from the PHC project embarked on an Art Project to demonstrate the impact of Mental Health issues on the Traveller Community. They identified issues and challenges in Travellers' lives that would have a negative effect on their mental health. They then made two life-size sculptures to represent a fictitious Traveller couple with spaces so you could view their interior lives. The interior shows objects which could impact on

your feelings and mental health related to marriage, home, money, death, suicide, children, discrimination, violence, drug abuse, eating disorders, gambling, accommodation, poverty, phobias etc. The sculptures were used to encourage Travellers to talk and explore these issues, the TCHW's did sessions with local groups and discussed the early signs and symptoms as well as highlighting the services available and how to access them appropriately.



In 'Traveller Health – A National Strategy 2002–2005' the Primary Health Care for Travellers' Projects were described as the 'cornerstone' of the Strategy. It recommended that PHCTP's will be developed in conjunction with Traveller organisations, in all health board areas around the country where there is a significant Traveller population. The Primary Health for Traveller project is now being replicated in 40 other areas around the country.

The Traveller Community Health Workers (TCHWs) provide an essential link between the Traveller community and health service providers. At a local level the TCHW's provide education and information directly to Travellers and work on an ongoing basis with the 300 Travellers families in the Finglas/Blancherdstown area. They encourage and enable Travellers to access services. Their training is a continuous and dynamic process, new competencies, skills and knowledge are acquired as new needs are identified, and appropriate responses and initiatives are developed to respond to them.

Feedback from the follow-up survey done by the TCHW's in their working area, indicates that there is much greater awareness about the needs and entitlements of Travellers in the health service as well as the difficulties in accessing services that are available to them. There is also an increased update of health education information and access and utilisation of services by Travellers in the area.

In September 2005, a decision was made to start a mentoring programme with new trainee TCHW's. The mentoring programme was needed because of the ever increasing demand for TCHWs in the area. An important aspect of the mentoring programme is utilising qualified TCHWs to act as mentors and positive role models to the trainees. This programme is funded through the Traveller Health Unit.

A highlight for the project, in 2005, was the employment of a TCHW as the Health Service Executive (HSE) Joint Co-ordinator of the Primary Care Project. This is the first time a Traveller has been appointed to this position by the HSE and creates an important precedent for the other projects nationally.

In December 2005, the PHCTP launched their third project report, this report focuses on a 'Review of PHC as a model of good practice for Travellers' Health' which charts the development and review of the PHCPT, as well as exploring the context and causality of Travellers' health. This report is available on our website [www.paveepoint.ie](http://www.paveepoint.ie) along with the previous two reports on the development and implementation of the PHCTP.

The PHCTP links and supports other Primary Health Care Projects for Travellers nationally and regionally as part of Pavee Point's role as a national resourcing organisation. Pavee Point is a member of the Eastern Regional Traveller Health Network, which is a network of Co-ordinators and Assistant co-ordinators PHCTP in the region, it provides a forum for discussing issues affecting projects and is also a resource for project members who represent Traveller issue on various committees.

## Regional Level

### Traveller Health Unit (THU) – Regional Level

In the 1995 Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community the Government acknowledged for the first time that the health service was not meeting the needs of Travellers. It also recognised that there is a need for specific health programmes to address and target the needs of Travellers. The Report recommended the establishment of new Traveller Health Structures to address the Traveller community's specific needs and also



Launch of THU Reports, December 2004.

support the development and implementation of a National Traveller Health Strategy. As a result of these recommendations, the National Traveller Health Advisory Committee (NTHAC) was established in the DoH&C and Traveller Health Units were established at regional Health Board levels throughout the country. The Task Force Report recognised the need for collaboration and partnership between health service providers and representatives of the Traveller community. These partnerships are reflected in the composition of the THU's whose remit is to improve Traveller health. Pavee Point has been contracted by the THU in the Eastern Region to provide analytical, technical and administrative support. Various initiatives are funded through the THU which is implemented by Pavee Point. On the 9th December 2004, along with the THU Annual Report; Working in Partnership, A Report on the Activities of the Traveller Health Unit in the Eastern Region, a variety of other reports covering these initiatives were launched: 'Use of Hospital Facilities by the Traveller Community', 'Environmental Health Concerns of Travellers', 'Caring for Diversity' and 'Summary of main findings of the Traveller Health Survey' (Areas 6, 7 & 8). All reports are available to download from [www.paveepoint.ie](http://www.paveepoint.ie) See Publications Section.

### Support the Development of National and Regional Health Networks

The Pavee Point Health team established and continues to resource and support the National Traveller Health Network (NTHN) which was set up in 1997 as a forum for training, representation, feedback and information exchange for Traveller groups involved in health. The NTHN is an essential forum through which Traveller organisations share their learning experiences, discuss common issues that effect them and familiarise themselves with new developments in relation to Traveller Health. The NTHN also acts as a mechanism to develop mandates, receive support and provide feedback and information from the Traveller representatives on the National Traveller Health Advisory Committee. In 2003 Pavee Point received funding from the Department of Health and Children, to support the implementation of the National Traveller Health Strategy; to support the replication of the Primary Health Care for Travellers' projects and to provide training and support to the Traveller representatives on the Traveller Health Units in a more structured and systematic way. This resourcing allowed us to strengthen the NTHN and this has resulted in increased participation in membership from fifteen to seventy-five and the number of projects has increased from twelve to forty nationally. As the membership increased it became necessary to support the development of regional Traveller health structures which were developed on the same geographical basis as the Traveller Health Units. These Regional Traveller Health Networks

(RTHN's) are used to nominate and support Traveller representatives on the regional THU's. Pavee Point also uses these networks to pass on information on national policy developments and to provide information and training for the NTHSS. The Department of Health and Children also recognised the existence of these networks and have recommended that they be resourced and supported through the THU's.

## National Level

### National Traveller Health Advisory Committee (NTHAC) – National Level

Pavee Point is an active member of NTHAC and represents the Traveller interest, alongside the Irish Traveller Movement (ITM) and the National Traveller Women's Forum (NTWF) at the Department of Health and Children (DoH&C). The NTHAC is charged with the responsibility to oversee directly the Traveller Ethics & Research Information Working Group (TERIWG). The TERIWG is responsible for the Ethics Working Group, the Ethnic Identifier Working Group, and the All-Ireland Traveller Health Study Working Group.



Minister for Health, An Tánaiste Mary Harney and Rosaleen McDonagh, Rep. National Traveller Health Advisory Committee

Pavee Point played is very active members of the committee and made a substantial contribution to the development and implementation of the National Traveller Health Strategy (NTHS) which was launched in 2002. Following publication of the NTHS, Pavee Point was given dedicated resourcing by the Department of Health and Children to support them with the implementation of the strategy and to facilitate our participation on the NTHAC sub-groups i.e. Traveller Ethics, Research and Information working group (TERIWIG). The TERIWIG established and is responsible for three further sub-groups: the Ethics Working group; the Ethnic Identifier working group and the All-Ireland Health Study working group.

### Ethnic Identifier Pilot Project (EPP)

The EPP was proposed in Traveller Health: a National Health Strategy 2002–2005 (NTHS) the purpose of the EPP is to develop test and evaluate the collection of information on the ethnicity (including Travellers and other ethnic groups) of hospital patients. It covers actions 8 and 9 of the TNHS which have the central aim of progressing towards the measurement of ethnicity as a routine feature of health information systems. The sole purpose of collecting information on ethnicity is to plan to meet the needs of the community and to ensure everyone has equal access, participation and outcome to health services. The project is managed by the Ethnic Identifier Group which is a sub-group of the National Traveller Health Advisory Committee (NTHAC)

Pavee Point was commissioned by the NTHAC to co-ordinate and provides support and training for the implementation of the pilot question both to the providers and users of the service. Firstly an appropriate question was developed through roundtable discussions and consultation with representatives of Ethnic minority groups in the country. We then developed some resource and training materials i.e. Brochures, Codes of practice and info leaflets for the

two participating hospitals, the Rotunda and Tallaght Hospital. A short training module was delivered and support was providing on an ongoing basis during the pilot to the staff involved in the data collection process. Workshops and information leaflets on rationale for the project were developed and delivered to minority ethnic groups who were living around the hospital catchment areas. The question was piloted in both the Adelaide and Meath Hospital incorporating the National Children's Hospital (Tallaght Hospital) and the Rotunda Hospital. Piloting was completed in both the hospitals in 2005 with very little non-compliances. The successful completion of the pilot in the two hospitals suggest that the process is ready to be rolled out as a mainstream process in hospitals and other health services throughout the country. The question piloted largely reflects the ethnicity question used by the Central Statistics Office in the Census 2006. It is then hoped to rollout the modified question across all administrative systems to ensure coordination, consistency, comparison and familiarity.

### **National Traveller Consanguinity Working Group**

The Traveller Consanguinity Working Group was set up in November 2000 to produce an in-depth analysis of issues relating to consanguinity, as recommended by the Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community 1995. The group which represents the metabolic unit and national screening centre in Temple Street; the Genetic counselling centre in Crumlin Hospital; the Royal College of Surgeons; Roman Catholic Church and Traveller Organisations was initiated and chaired by Pavee Point. Professor Alan Bittles.

Director, Centre for Human Genetics, Edith Cowan University Australia acted as a technical advisor to the working group. The group met regularly over a two year period to produce a Position Paper: 'A Community Genetics Approach to Health and Consanguineous Marriage in the Traveller Community' this paper was submitted and endorsed by the National Traveller Health Advisory Committee and the Department of Health and Children. The then Minister of State Mr. Ivor Callely launched the position paper in March 2003 in Pavee Point. It recommends that families who have a history of genetic disorders should be able to access genetic counselling so they can make an informed decision in relation to marriage partners. The working group is now charged with the responsibility of drawing up a plan of action based on the position paper.

### **All-Ireland Traveller Health Status Study**

Action No. 10, in the National Traveller Health Strategy stated that "A Traveller Needs Assessment and Health Status Study will be carried out to develop and extend indicators collected in the last survey of Travellers' Health Status (HRB, 1987) and to inform appropriate actions required in the area of Travellers' Health. The Travellers' All Ireland Health Study Group was established in 2003, to ensure inclusion of Travellers both North and South of Ireland and to oversee the development and implementation of the study. The Institute of Public Health in Ireland were given the contract to develop the Study Scoping document, Pavee Point was also supported by the DOH&C to work with PHAI to develop an inclusive consultation process for the study design phase. The study Group first conducted a written consultation with key stakeholders and then widely disseminated a discussion paper (July 2003) to stimulate debate. It then conducted a series of nine regional consultations involving Travellers and Traveller organisations and health service providers across the island; approximately 600–700 hundred people attended these regional consultations. On the basis of this work a draft study design document was prepared, circulated and discussed at the All Ireland Feedback event. The final version was submitted to the Department of Health and Children in January 2004, with an accompanying document on procurement options.

After an inexplicable delay, the study document was finally sent for EU Procurement in Dec 2005, unfortunately this did not lead to a successful outcome. A revised study design document was prepared by the 'Assessment panel' (made up of the HSE, Traveller organisations North and South, Dept of Health reps north and south and academia) and finalised by mid 2006. The tendering process should take approx 3 months and it is envisaged that the study will commence by the end of 2006.

The final document identified 'social determinants of health' as the most appropriate approach to identifying the health needs of Travellers and included clear principles in using an anti-racist and community development approach. The document also clearly articulated that Travellers and Traveller organisations must play a central role in the process from the design to the implementation phase and their participation will be vital for the success of the study. Pavee Point was invited by the Department of Health and Children to take on the role to develop the capacity of Traveller and Traveller organisations to effectively participate in the study. This process involved the following steps:

**Information Dissemination** – Pavee Point plays an active role in keeping Traveller organisations informed about the study this is done through regular health bulletins; the National Traveller health network and the recently established regional Traveller health networks which were set up as conduits for training and information exchange

**Training** – During the 1986 Traveller Health Study, Travellers were not actively engaged in the study. Therefore to ensure Travellers effective participation in this study, Pavee Point has developed materials (e.g. Fotochat) and provided training on the study; community mapping and on participative research methodologies for data collection at local level through the regional Traveller Health Networks. A number of training days have been delivered to each of the eight regions (co-terminus with the old health board structure) and trainees have also had the opportunity to pilot the different methodologies in their areas. Many Traveller organisations are currently carrying out a mapping exercise in their area and developing local data bases/Traveller counts in preparation for the Traveller census for the study.



## Conclusion

The Pavee Point Health Programme continues to respond to Traveller health needs in a dynamic way, using community work approaches; developing an intercultural model with a partnership approach; combining national action with national resourcing and direct work with research and policy formation.



# Mediation Service

The purpose of the Mediation Service is to support better relations between Travellers and settled people through a variety of conflict transformation initiatives, including mediation, and to enhance the capacity of Travellers to deal with conflict in their lives.

## Casework

Between 2003 and 2005, a variety of conflict situations were signalled to the Service from around the country by Traveller and settled individuals, by Traveller organisations and other agencies, organisations and businesses. These required a range of responses, including mediation by the Pavee Point Mediation Service, referrals where appropriate to other local and national mediators and mediation services (such as that of the Equality Tribunal) and to other appropriate agencies such as An Garda Síochána, interagency initiatives, information and advice, and sometimes just offering a listening ear.



The Mediation Team

Through the wide variety of contacts made with the Mediation Service and through casework, it is possible to identify recurring issues that arise in conflict between members of the Traveller and settled communities and within the Traveller community. Issues relating to accommodation, anti-social behaviour, policing, racism and discrimination, service provision and family relationships are amongst those that recur. The Service frequently brings these issues to the attention of relevant groups and undertakes a variety of initiatives to address them.

One such initiative in 2005 initially brought together Travellers and representatives of the National Taxi Drivers' Union and An Garda Síochána on foot of concerns expressed by both Travellers and taxi drivers in relation to incidents of fare evasion, driver safety and the potential consequences for provision of taxi services to members of the Traveller community. At a meeting facilitated by the Service, Travellers proposed that a leaflet be distributed to Travellers living in certain areas to highlight the issue and to ask Travellers for their support in addressing it. At subsequent meetings with Travellers to develop a leaflet, they recommended that other types of behaviour impacting negatively upon service provision be included and requested that the leaflet carry the logos of a wide range of service providers as well as Pavee Point. The leaflet that was developed carries a small 'peel off' card with useful contact numbers to call if Travellers wish to report or get advice on behaviour that is disrupting services to their areas. The leaflet and card also acknowledge that Travellers can be the recipients of poor service provision and includes useful numbers to contact if Travellers wish to make a complaint about a service they have received. Many service providers were impressed by the initiative taken by Travellers in developing this leaflet and contributed their logos to it. They include the National Taxi Drivers' Union, An Garda Síochána, the Dublin Emergency Services, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Eircom, the ESB, An Post and the Health Services Executive.

## Building relations with key sectors

Mediation at a micro level can be limited if inequalities at the heart of the wider social system continue to sustain conflict relations. Structural changes at a macro level are also required and it is to this end that the Service works with key sectors, such as local authorities and An Garda Síochána, encouraging and supporting them to play a role in improving relationships with Travellers through bridge building and problem solving initiatives.

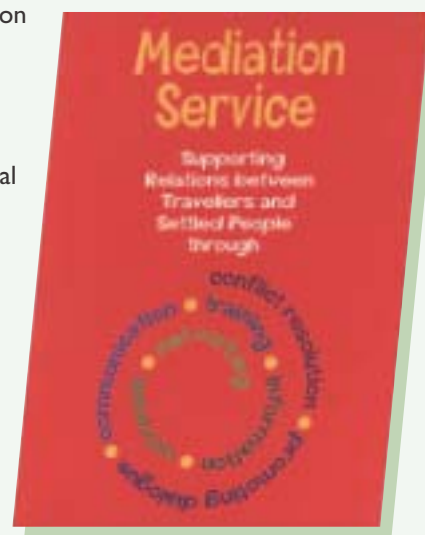
As stated above, there is a policing dimension to some of the conflict situations that come to the attention of the Mediation Service and tendencies towards over zealous policing and under protection have been identified with regard to Travellers. Both approaches to policing have a negative impact on relationships between Travellers and An Garda Síochána, between Travellers and the majority population and on relationships within the Traveller community. The Service has worked closely with Travellers and An Garda Síochána to build better relationships. In 2003 and 2004, the Service sought to build relations between Travellers and Gardaí at a local level by organising a number of meetings between the Travellers working in Pavee Point and Gardaí from three local areas – Finglas, Coolock and Clondalkin – and the Garda Racial and Intercultural Unit. The aim of these meetings was to facilitate an introduction between Travellers and Gardaí in these local areas, to provide Travellers with information about the range of services provided by An Garda Síochána, as well as by the Victim Support organisation, and to identify the barriers to inclusive and effective policing. Feedback from both Travellers and Gardaí in relation to these meetings was very encouraging.

In 2004–2005, the Service collaborated with a Masters student on an action research project on ‘Community Oriented Policing within the Traveller Community’. The research process was particularly beneficial in raising awareness amongst Traveller participants of the potential for participation in some of the emerging community policing/safety forums and other initiatives. The Service has also encouraged and supported Traveller participation in the Finglas Community Safety Forum by organising an information meeting in 2004 for Finglas based Travellers and Dublin City Council and Garda representatives involved in the Forum. The Community Safety Forum allows Travellers and members of the settled community living in Finglas to bring forward their concerns about community safety, but it has also provided a valuable opportunity for relationship building between members of the Traveller and settled communities involved in the Forum. The Service will be building on this work with a view to encouraging Travellers living around the country to get involved in the Joint Policing Committees to be established under the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

The Mediation Service undertook numerous other activities in relation to policing and building better relations between Travellers and Gardaí. This included meeting with the Garda Commissioner in 2005 to discuss conflict within the Traveller community, the development of diversity training with An Garda Síochána and the PSNI, cultural awareness training for Garda Ethnic Liaison Officers, informing Travellers of a Garda drive to recruit members of minority ethnic communities in 2005 and encouraging Travellers to apply.

Issues of accommodation management, which arose in relation to incidents of anti-social behaviour on a site, prompted the Mediation Service to invite Dublin City Council (DCC) and Traveller representatives from the Dublin Accommodation Coalition with Travellers (DACT) to meet and discuss general accommodation management issues. This led to the establishment of a working group in 2002 and the development of a DCC pilot letting scheme for Traveller accommodation. Piloting of the scheme over a two-year period began in October 2004. The working group monitoring the implementation of the pilot scheme has also been considering and responding to the issue of anti-social behaviour on Traveller accommodation.

The Mediation Service worked closely with Dublin City Council in 2005 to develop an accessible leaflet for Traveller tenants outlining Dublin City Council's policy and procedures on anti-social behaviour in Traveller accommodation, together with an audio CD version for tenants who might have reading difficulties. The Service hopes that the learning from this initiative will be of interest to other local authorities and Traveller groups. In 2004, it gave a presentation on the pilot letting scheme to the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and published articles in the Pavee Point newsletter (July 2004) and in the Housing Unit newsletter (October 2004). The articles generated significant interest and enquiries for further information from local authorities.



## Capacity Building with Travellers

Between 2003 and 2005, the Mediation Service encouraged and supported Travellers to explore in a collective way some of the more sensitive, conflict related issues affecting their community. Issues such as illegal dumping, drugs, anti-social behaviour, policing, and conflict and violence within the Traveller community were the focus of numerous meetings and workshops, including:

- a May 2004 workshop for Travellers and Traveller organisations on 'Legislation and Good Practice in Preventing and Combating Anti-Social Behaviour'; and
- a workshop with the Equal Men's Projects on 'Conflict and Violence within the Traveller Community' in Glenree in September 2004.



These meetings and workshops offered Travellers and Traveller organisations an opportunity to become better informed and to develop their thinking on these issues, which puts them in a better position to negotiate with other organisations and agencies so that they can address these conflict related issues together in a more constructive way. They encouraged greater solidarity between Travellers, and through the sharing of ideas and experiences had the potential to empower Travellers to act in ways that they may not have considered before. The Mediation Service has had the opportunity to work particularly closely with Travellers involved in Pavee Point on these issues. In a 2005 workshop to evaluate some of this work, Traveller participants observed that Travellers are more confident about working on these issues. Service providers working with Travellers have also commented on this greater sense of confidence amongst Travellers.

# Culture and Heritage Programme

The Traveller Cultural Heritage programme was established in 1990. Its aims are:

- To research and document Traveller history, which had previously gone unrecorded, and therefore to develop an appreciation of Travellers' cultural heritage;
- To promote Travellers' positive identity as an ethnic group and to enhance their cultural identity and self-determination;
- To resource the traditional skills of Travellers as well as stimulating creative development and re-interpretation of these arts;
- To improve knowledge and appreciation of interculturalism in Ireland.

## Activities

In the period 2003–2005, the Cultural Heritage Programme has been involved in a number of activities.

## RTE Radio Documentary

*More than a Museum* was a documentary broadcast on radio in January 2004 that examined Travellers' contemporary interaction with culture.

## Oral History Unit

The Oral History Unit, which was set up in 2001, continued its development and has now recorded and archived some forty hours of interviews. The Programme also invested in a computer with editing and storage software with the support of the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism.

## Street Mosaic

The Programme produced a giant street installation for the new Mountjoy Square Park facility. This involved over four months of work in designing and completing a two tonne "Treepot" with traditional Traveller motifs. It was installed in the newly refurbished park and launched by then-Lord Mayor of Dublin Royston Brady in May 2004.



'Treepot' in Mountjoy Square, Dublin.

## Role of Culture in Social Inclusion

The Cultural Heritage Programme also participated in a European-funded initiative to examine the role of cultural expression in promoting social inclusion. This involved implementing a pilot cultural action and the production of a documentary by Travellers who had had been given training in video production. The group took part in transnational work with partners on the project from Spain, the Netherlands, Greece and Poland. Workshops were held in Greece, Spain and the Netherlands. The Programme will host their partners in Dublin in March 2005 at an international seminar, taking the theme of “Capacity Building”.

## Drama Production

The Programme devised and produced a Traveller drama in collaboration with Skipalong Theatre Company.



‘Now and Then’, a Drama and Culture Programme in collaboration with Skipalong Theatre Company.

## Workshop on the role of Culture in combating Social Exclusion

Pavee Point hosted an international seminar on the ‘Role of Culture and Cultural Expression in promoting Inclusion of Minority Ethnic Groups’ on Thursday, March 3rd 2005.

The seminar provided an important and timely opportunity to discuss the role of cultural expression in promoting awareness, understanding and appreciation of Ireland’s and Europe’s increasingly diverse cultures. It was being held as part of a transnational programme funded under the European Union Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion 2002/2006 and involves partners from Ireland, Greece, Spain, Holland and Poland, each of whom have been implementing pilot cultural actions.

Contributors were Brendan Ó Caoláin, Pavee Point; Eoin Collins, Nexus Research; Fouli Papageorgiou, Prisma, Athens; Bisi Adigun, Arambe Theatre Company Dublin; Siobhan O’Donoghue, Migrant Rights Centre, Dublin; Deirdre Healy, CREATE, Dublin and Glen Eneh, Access Ireland, Dublin. Other contributors were from the Arts Council, and partners from Holland, Poland and Spain.

Among the key issues emerging were the importance of cultural action as paramount in addressing and improving the situation of Travellers and other minority ethnic groups across Europe. Cultural action encompasses a broad array of work being done in the partner organisations. This work in the general sense has its foundation in an acknowledgment of the marginalisation of Traveller and other minority groups culture as the crux issue leading to the exclusion of these groups in many ways. The importance of cultural action in the field of the arts and cultural heritage can be better appreciated in this context and requires resources.

In the afternoon a number of cultural events were held in Pavee Point – among which were Johnnie K, a circus trained clown who has worked with school children in peace and war zones against racism and xenophobia; and a lively drama presented by Pavee Point Players, a Travellers’ theatre group play that came directly from the grass roots and also live Traveller music played by **Mickey Dunne** (pipes) and **Barney McDonagh** (whistle). The workshop was



Johnnie Kearns, a circus trained clown who works with school children in peace and war zones against racism with Sheila Keenan at the Cultural Seminar, Pavee Point.

attended by a large number of people from the target groups, NGOs, policy makers and the arts community.



Mickey Dunne (left)(pipes) and Barney McDonagh (whistle).

## Workshop on Minority Ethnic Culture and Rights

Pavee Point Culture and Heritage Programme hosted a delegation of the Kankuamo people from Colombia in South America in April, 2005. The Kankuamo are one of four indigenous groups living in the Sierra Nevada mountains in Northern Colombia. Hundreds of their people have been murdered over the past two decades as multi-national logging and mining interests begin to exploit their land against their wishes.



Biddy Mc Donagh, Mary Cawley CHP with Kankuamo delegation Jaime Arias and Adriana Hinojosa.

There was an interesting exchange of information between Travellers and Kankuamo and many historical and contemporary issues were discovered to be held in common. The Kankuamo were presented with a traditional Traveller beady pocket which has a close parallel in Kankuamo culture.

The Culture and Heritage Programme presented a key note address alongside the Kankuamo to the Latin American Solidarity Committee’s Latin America Week on the following weekend. The groups have kept in touch in the intervening months.

# Traveller Economic and Social Inclusion Programme

## TESIP

The Traveller Economic and Social Inclusion Programme (TESIP) was funded through the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme administered by Area Development Management. There are three measures within the LDSIP: services to the unemployed; community development; and community-based youth initiatives. The main focus of Pavee Point's work through this programme was economic development issues facing Travellers.

Following liaisons with the Civil Service Commission on how best to target the Traveller community, a workshop was organised for those working with Travellers as either mentors or tutors. Later in 2003 a two-page document, which described the work with the CSC and the learning outcomes of the workshop, was published and disseminated to mark Anti-Racism in the Workplace Week.

Early in 2004 research exploring the likely impact on the Traveller economy of the EU directive on car dismantling was launched. The launch took place at the end of the fourth EQUAL Project Development Workshop.



Following meetings with Minister Frank Fahy, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on the Traveller economy and its development, Traveller groups around the country were contacted to inform them of his interest and its potential. A briefing paper was submitted to the Minister for his consideration.

At the local level TESIP:

- continued to work with the Finglas Cabra Partnership in engaging young men through the 'Subla' programme and other initiatives in this area;
- linked to the development of responses to Travellers economic issues in Belfast through mechanisms like Peace II;
- worked with the Blanchardstown Area Partnership on Traveller enterprise;
- continued to support the development of the Laundry in Cara Park, which is one of the two Traveller projects funded through the Social Economy Programme.

FÁS and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources contacted Pavee Point to explore a proposal of an eight-week work experience for three Travellers in that Department. Information was circulated through a variety of networks and, after considerable discussions, three Traveller women interested in developing their office skills took up the offer. Given the importance of the public sector as a potential employer the lessons arising from this initiative could be usefully applied at local level. In the summer of 2005 another three Traveller women enjoyed this experience for a longer period of ten weeks. Pavee Point understands that the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform are exploring the possibility of expanding this opportunity across the Civil Service.

TESIP organised a range of workshops/seminars for those working within the LDSIP; state personnel whose work impacts on Travellers' socio-economic inclusion; and locally-based organisations. This work included:

- The second forum for those working with Travellers in the LDSIP in Cork, which focused on the Traveller economy and how best to support it locally;
- A seminar in late 2004 where a debating format was used to explore the interaction between labour market access, education, social inclusion, and equality/diversity.

On the policy front, TESIP wrote or contributed to submissions on the budget and the National Employment Action Plan; worked on the second progress report on the 1995 Task Force Report's chapter on economic development, the Equality Bill 2004 and the EU Green Paper on equality. A training survey was undertaken through the Traveller and LDSIP networks to ascertain the levels of engagement and support. This was in response to issues raised by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

The programme has also participated on committees such as the Equality Authority's ESU Advisory Committee and ADM's Equality and Community Development Advisory Group.

TESIP has played an active role in developing a range of projects, both national and trans-national, that continue to focus on Travellers' socio-economic exclusion and the role anti-discrimination legislation or policies like National Action Plans for Inclusion should play in addressing these issues.

TESIP is one of the three community and voluntary strand representatives on the NESF 'Creating a More Inclusive Labour Market' project team.

This programme ended in December 2004.

## **NAPS/NAP Incl**

'Cultural Diversity in Action' is the name of the project organised by Pavee Point and funded through the Combat Poverty Agency's Programme called 'Supporting Participation of People living in Poverty in the NAPS' 2005. The aims of the project are to:

- Create a better understanding of the NAPS/NAP Incl process within the Traveller community. The issue of employment will be the main theme;
- Give Travellers the opportunity to examine and identify the role NAPS/NAP Incl could play in improving their lives and job opportunities; and,
- Create a better understanding within the system of the impact on Travellers lives of the exclusion of their identity and culture from policy making and implementation.

A two pager describing the aims of the project and what the NAPS/NAP Incl have to say about Travellers was circulated widely. Two regional workshops were then organised during the summer of 2005 in Tullamore and Galway. 20 Travellers participated in these workshops. A workshop was then organised with policy makers to discuss the issues arising at the regional workshops and in particular to focus in on Travellers culture and identity and these can be properly supported.

# Community Development Programme

Pavee Point is funded as a Specialist Support Agency (SSA) by the Community Development Support Programme and the Family Support Agency. The overall aim of Pavee Point's work as an SSA and as a Traveller development agency is the appropriate inclusion of Travellers and the Traveller agenda in the focus and work of community projects and other initiatives.

We undertake a dual national role in the Community Development Programme and the work of the Family Support Agency. Firstly, to promote community development principles and practice in work with Travellers and Roma and secondly, to respond to the issue of racism within an Irish and European context.

## Priority Objectives and Highlights for 2003-2005 have included:

### Providing an information service

- Work in this area included producing quarterly Pavee Point Newsletters which are distributed to a mailing list of 2000 organisations. Themes have included Roma, Accommodation, Social Inclusion, Drugs and the Traveller community, Health and International Developments.
- Political bulletins which are disseminated to all TDs and Senators.
- CDP and FRC bulletins.
- Updating and publishing new 'Fact Sheets' on Travellers.
- Re-designing Pavee Point website.
- Special Support Agency Newsletters.
- Info Sessions and Stands.
- National Photography Competition *A Travellers Ireland*.
- Reactive and proactive media work.



Gerry Kearney, General Secretary, Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Ronnie Fay, Director Pavee Point, Julie Keenan and Pauline Collins, CE Workers Pavee Point.

### Promoting Democracy

- Encouraging voter registration.
- Developing Traveller specific voter/political education courses.
- Developing contacts between Travellers and their political representatives at local, national and European levels.

### Supporting the Roma Community

- Undertaking **Research into 'Roma Educational Needs in Ireland'** report launched and disseminated June 2005.
- Building the capacity of the Roma Support Group.
- FÁS Pilot Training Programme for Roma.
- Supporting the development of an independent Roma NGO.
- Celebrating International Roma Day.
- Producing Information sheet on Roma.
- Participation in 'New Communities' Family Day at Áras an Uachtarán July 2005.



### Progressing Work on Data Issues

- Disseminating the results of the 2002 Census (Traveller Census was published by CSO 29th January 2004) to Travellers and Traveller organisations.
- Working with CSO on the development and piloting of the ethnicity question for census 2006.



### Policy Work

- Representing Traveller interests on a range of committees and agencies including the National Traveller Sectoral Committees addressing Education, Health, Accommodation and the Monitoring Committee on Travellers. The Community Platform and the Human Rights Commission as well as the Council of Europe Specialist Group on Roma and Travellers (MGS Rom) and the European Roma and Traveller Forum and the Board of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI).

### Promoting the ethnic identity of Travellers through

- Producing Shadow Report under the International Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and attending CERD hearing Geneva March 2005.
- Lobbying the Oireachtas Committee on Human Rights for the inclusion of Travellers as a minority ethnic group in ICERD. We succeeded in getting this Oireachtas Committee to examine this issue and made a presentation to them in March 2004.
- Developing a shadow report under the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and attending UN CEDAW hearing 2005.
- Developing and making policy submissions on Travellers.



### Promoting Traveller Participation

- Promoting Participative and Representative Democracy among Travellers.
- Coordinating Traveller CDP Network.
- Piloting of Traveller leadership course within Pavee Point.
- Supporting the development of a National Travellers Forum, Minceir Whiddin.
- Providing support to Traveller organisations.



Martin Collins, Pavee Point  
at the Press conference following the Nally trial.

### Promoting Equality, Anti-Racism and Diversity

- Dunsink Protest. In October 2004 we organised a protest against the erection of a 30 ton barrier by Dublin Corporation at Dunsink Lane in Finglas. It cut off easy access for over 300 Travellers to schools, doctors, shops, church and a whole range of local amenities. It involved a six mile round trip where previously a half mile would have sufficed. It was a very negative development and carried out without any consultation with local Travellers or the statutory Local Travellers Accommodation Consultative Committee.
- Reactive work with the media was extremely intensive in 2005 following high profile incidents such as the barrier in Dunsink 2004, the Nally trial and the fallout of racist media reporting and anti Traveller sentiment being expressed by community leaders, journalists and politicians.
- Press conferences with the Parish of the Travellers and the National Traveller Women's Forum took place in response to the particularly negative media publicity in relation to nomadic Travellers (2003) and the fallout from Nally Trial (2005).
- The video "Communities Challenging Racism – *Creating an Anti-Racist Community Organisation*" was launched on March 21st 2004 to celebrate International Day Against Racism.

## Traveller Focus Week

Traveller Focus Week was organised by Pavee Point in 2005 and funded through the National Action Plan Against Racism (NPAR).



Marie and Lisa McDonnell help launch 'Pavee Parents Primary Concerns'

**Recognition** was the theme chosen for 2005. This reflected one of the themes of the NPAR and also addressed one of the key issues concerning Travellers status in Irish society.

The week took place from December 3–10th 2005 and included a range of events including: the exhibition of *A Travellers Ireland* Photo competition in Temple Bar; the premier of Rosaleen McDonagh's play *Josie and Jim* in the Project Arts

Centre; Design and Launch of a leaflet on *Myths about Travellers*; Launch of Music CD *Travellers and Fellow Travellers* and a concert in the Teachers Club; Launch of an Education DVD *Pavee Parents Primary Concerns*; Launch of a range of Health Materials and Launch of brochure *Challenging Misconceptions of Violence against Women from Ethnic Minority Groups*. Local Traveller groups around the country also held events and launches to mark the week as well as an ITM roundtable discussion on *Accommodation Broken Promises* and a roundtable discussion in conjunction with The Equality Authority, the HSE and Pavee Point on the Application of Equality and Traveller Proofing in Health Policy and Practice.

Over 2000 people participated directly in events during the week and TFW resulted in very positive media coverage and presentation of Travellers issues.



Finbar Furey at the 'Travellers and Fellow Travellers' concert

## Pavee Point 20th Anniversary Conference in Clontarf Castle

### 20 Years on the Road, Still Moving Forward

Pavee Point celebrated its 20th anniversary with a conference in Clontarf Castle on December the 9th. The day was officially opened by President Mary McAleese and included highlights such as Michael Collins performing a Drama commemorating 20 years of Pavee Point, exhibitions of Pavee Point photos and work and an inspiring speech by President Mary McAleese. Mr Mikko Puumalainen, First Ombudsman for Minorities in Finland: spoke on 'Protecting Minorities and Respecting Ethnicity'. The day proved a great success where people had the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the work of Pavee Point over the past 20 years.



Pavee Point Chairperson Anastasia Crickley, President Mary McAleese and Primary Health Care Worker Missie Collins

# Youth Work Programme



Sile de Valera, then Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, visits Youth Programme 2003.

The aim of the Pavee Point Youth Work Programme is to enhance the lives of young people within the Traveller Community. The Programme supports work at local, regional and national levels to develop quality standards in youth work for Travellers. This involves networking with and resourcing organisations such as the National Youth Council of Ireland, other Traveller

youth programmes, the Children's Rights Alliance and the National Children's Office.

In 2003 the Programme made a submission to the National Youth Strategy as part of our national resourcing and policy work. A member of the youth team was elected as a board member of NYCI.

The Youth Programme also facilitates the generation of conditions that will allow young Travellers and children to exercise and *enjoy full citizenship internally* within the Traveller Community; and in wider society through involvement in Dáil na nÓg (National Youth Parliament) and the local Comhairle na nÓg. In 2003 the Youth Work Programme completed an outreach policy, which guides and regularises the team's informal work with young people on sites.



The Youth Team celebrated both International Women's Day and International Day Against Racism with awareness-raising events for young Travellers and sharing of best practices. The Team carries out regular work with the Dublin Traveller Youth Forum to ensure that there is solidarity with other Traveller youth work organisations. The Programme also participated in the development and publication of Finglas Youth Strategy.

In 2004, the Programme presented a drama based on *Grease* about racism and young Travellers to 500 young people at the Young Social Innovators event at CityWest.

The *Strength through Diversity* programme involved working in solidarity with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered youth and young Asylum Seekers. The project involved peer-to-peer education to learn about and raise awareness of racism among majority-population youth.

The Programme participated in the *Voice of the Child* programme in cooperation with the National Children's Office to develop new methodologies in consulting with young Travellers.

The programme supports Community Employment workers in learning about community development and becoming leaders in the youth programme.

The Programme received grants from Léargas, Development Cooperation Ireland and the Dublin Bus Community Support Award to support its work with young Travellers.

The Programme contributed to the submission on the Traveller Education Strategy.

In 2005, the Youth Programme focused on engaging young Travellers in peer-led and peer-to-peer youth work. That is, helping young Travellers to lead programmes themselves and to teach each other about the issues that we engage. Some of the programmes that young Travellers were involved in include:

- The production of a Peer-led film on Traveller ethnicity which was shown in the *Reel Youth* film Festival
- The development of a young Men's Peer to Peer drugs education programme in Finglas
- Continued involvement in *Strength in Diversity* – a peer-to-peer anti-bias programme involving other minority youth
- Peer facilitated research into the issues of drugs and education with young Travellers in Coolock and Finglas.

Another key theme to the work in 2005 has been the direct participation and involvement of young Travellers in speaking for themselves about the issues that affect them. Some of the events that young Travellers were facilitated to speak about their concerns and their lives include:

- The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) Annual General Meeting
- Comhairle na nÓg and Dáil na nÓg
- Opening of the office of the Ombudsman for Children
- The Children's Rights Alliance reference group on children's rights in Ireland
- End Child Poverty Coalition research on young people and poverty
- NYCI Consultation on Young People and Stereotyping
- Presenting Traveller culture on *ID* children's news
- Meeting the President to share their views

The work of the young people and of the youth programme has been recognised by several agencies through:

- Young Citizen Awards being conferred to the participants of the Young Men's group for Coolock and the Young Women's Group from Coolock and Finglas
- Grants from the Finglas Cabra Drugs Task Force, the European Year of Citizenship through Education and Electric Aid.

The Programme also renewed its engagement in policy and advocacy issues in 2005 through providing:

- A submission to the youth work section of the Traveller education strategy
- A submission on Traveller housing to NYCI's social partnership paper
- A submissions to the Shadow Report on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- A presentation on youth work with Travellers and anti-racist work to an NYCI Conference in Limerick
- Inputs to the End Child Poverty Coalition.

# Violence Against Women



Pavee Point has always aimed to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women in training Traveller women.

The Violence against Women (VAW) Programme has worked at national, regional and local levels since its inception in 1998. The Programme works to address violence against women in the Traveller community and to address gaps within mainstream service provision. This dual approach ensures that issues of sexism and violence against women are prioritised and addressed within the overall work of Traveller groups and that a Traveller dimension is included in the work of mainstream organisations.

The Programme leads on from the innovative Pavee Point NOW Project of 1998–1999, which looked at specific issues faced by Traveller women experiencing gender-based violence.

Since 1998, the Programme has taken a lead role in addressing the needs of Traveller women in the area of domestic violence. However, the Programme now recognises a need to broaden the Traveller analysis of abuse to include other forms of violence such as rape and sexual assault.

Traveller women's experience within the Irish legal system remains largely unknown. The focus, to date, has been on Traveller women's experience in relation to An Garda Síochána. The experience of Traveller women within the Irish legal system requires urgent examination.

Traveller women are not an homogeneous group. Therefore, the work of the Programme also needs to reflect diversity, to be inclusive of the experiences of young Traveller women, lone parents and single Traveller women.



## Equality for Women Measure

In 2003, development work was undertaken in relation to the Pavee Beoirs: Progress in Partnership – Raising Traveller Women's Voices: Equality for Women Measure initiative. This initiative is a joint project between the National Traveller's Women Forum and Pavee Point. The VAW programme is involved with the training aspect of the initiative. Training on anti-sexism and VAW was undertaken with Traveller Women in four regions throughout 2004 and 2005. This is an important initiative involving the Programme to link with women in local Traveller organisations on the issue of sexism and violence against women.

## Blanchardstown Refuge Development

The programme is currently working in partnership with other key groups in developing a women's refuge in Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. Pavee Point is a board member of this refuge. This work has proven to be different than expected since the Refuge is still struggling to get funding in order to provide services to women affected by domestic violence.

## VAW Programme Strategic Plan 2005–2007

A strategic plan to inform the work of the programme for the period 2005–2007 was developed during 2004 in conjunction with the Programme's Steering Committee, Traveller Women and key groups working on the issue of violence against women.



## CEDAW

The VAW Programme took a lead role in the development of Pavee Point's Shadow Report on Ireland's Combined Fourth and Fifth Reports under the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

## EU Conference 2004

Rosaleen McDonagh chaired the domestic violence panel for the E.U. Conference on Violence against Women – *From Violation to Vindication of Human Rights* held in Dublin Castle on May 24–25, 2004.

## Conference 2004

The VAW Programme took part in the conference hosted by ADAPT House on *Diversity and Domestic Abuse* held in Limerick Nov 30–Dec 1, 2004. The Programme participated in the Cultural Perspectives Workshop, at which they presented a paper entitled *Framework for Developing Appropriate Responses to Violence against Traveller Women*.

## Programme Brochure

In 2003, the VAW designed an updated programme brochure. This brochure was disseminated to a number of Traveller organisations, statutory service providers and NGOs working on the issue violence against women.

## Crime Council Research

The VAW Programme worked with the Crime Council on their research on domestic violence. A chapter on Traveller women features in that research which was published in 2005.

## Brochure: "Challenging the Misconceptions of Violence against Women from Minority Ethnic Groups in Ireland"

The VAW Programme developed a brochure on violence against minority ethnic women. The information is targeted at service providers and gives facts behind the misconceptions of violence against minority ethnic women.

The brochure was launched as part of Traveller Focus week in December 2005.



## Organisational Priority 2005: Conflict and Violence

The VAW team took responsibility for the organisational priority 2005 within Pavee Point together with the Mediation team.



Launch of 'Myths' leaflet, December 2005.  
 Melanie Verwoed, Ronnie Fay, Pavee Point, Philip Watt, NCCRI  
 and Rosaleen McDonagh, Pavee Point.

# Traveller Specific Drugs Initiative

The Traveller Specific Drugs initiative was established in November 2000. The project's main strategic goals are:

- To strengthen Travellers participation in responding to drug issues
- To continue to develop and support a Traveller analysis of drug issues
- To ensure Traveller inclusion in all relevant drug policy and research
- To develop, design and deliver a range of training modules and materials as appropriate for work with Traveller groups and service providers

## 1. Training

A pilot training programme, “*Beginning the Journey*”, ran in 2004 and 2005, training 14 people working in a range of local Traveller organisations. The aim of the training was to “enhance community participation, skills and knowledge of Travellers and Traveller organisations of drug issues and drug-related structures both locally and nationally thereby ensuring quality outcomes from all relevant policies and practices developed”. A seminar was held in 2005 to explore the development of further training and supports to local Traveller organisations.

## 2. Work with Traveller Groups

- The project coordinated networking events for Traveller groups providing a space for them to develop an analysis of the issue, support each other and obtain information on current trends and issues relating to local, regional and national drug policy.
- The project carried out a needs analysis with Traveller groups in the Eastern region in relation to the supports they need to address drug issues locally. In 2006, the project expects to be working closely to progress work with local Traveller groups.
- Increasingly more Traveller groups are representing Travellers on Local and Regional Drug Task Forces and accessing supports to address drug issues locally. The TSDI has been supporting Traveller groups to become engaged in these structures.
- One to one training and technical supports continues with Traveller organisations addressing drug issues at a local level.
- The TSDI has worked closely with the National Drug Strategy Team over the last year and Travellers are now a target group of both the Local and Regional Drug Task Forces. We will continue to raise their awareness of drug issues within the Traveller community.

## 3. Regional Drug Task Forces

The National Drug Strategy initiated the Regional Drug Task Forces in 2004. The project made a number of submissions, disseminated information to Traveller groups around the country and worked with the National Drug Strategy Team to ensure that Travellers will be named as a target group in the guidelines and action plans of the Regional Drug Task Forces, which will operate outside Dublin. The new structure will provide new challenges to the project's work. It is important that the project is resourced to develop the capacity of Traveller groups who are new to the issue. The TSDI was the interim community representative for Travellers in the Eastern region on the Northern Area Regional Drugs Task Force and was nominated by the Eastern Regional Traveller Health Network. This representation has now been taken over by North Fingal Travellers Group. Regional Drug Task Forces have been established and Travellers are represented in a number of them. We will have a key role monitoring the representation of Travellers on the structures and their inclusion within the Area Action Plans.

#### 4. National Drug Strategy Team

Travellers are now a target group for all Local and Regional Drug Task Forces. The TSDI has been advocating for this for the last 3 years. At a national level the National Drug Strategy Team and the TSDI have developed a more structured relationship with the TSDI sending regular reports as to the work Traveller groups are carrying out locally, the supports needed and the gaps that exist in relation to drugs for the Traveller community. Over the past three years, the project has met with the NDST on a number of occasions to raise issues of concern. A working relationship has been developed and the project sends 6 month reports on the work that is happening around the country, along with regular correspondence on emerging issues or concerns e.g. our response to the Mid Term Review's failure to name Travellers as a target group in the revised strategy.

#### 5. Guidelines

The development of guidelines on good practice in drug education settings with Travellers as part of a manual on Quality Standards in Drug Education, the project convened the working group on communities. It is hoped that the quality standards, along with the roll out of a training programme will begin in 2006.

#### 6. Newsletter

An extended newsletter was published by Pavee Point in October 2005 on the theme of Drugs. This newsletter included contributions from local Traveller organisations, Merchant's Quay Ireland and the Director of the National Drug Strategy Team. This newsletter contains useful information and analysis on the drugs issue in the Traveller community for Traveller groups, drug service providers and policy makers. Those who would like a copy should contact the team on [drugsawareness@pavee.iol.ie](mailto:drugsawareness@pavee.iol.ie) The project produces two newsletters a year.



#### 7. National Advisory Committee on Drugs

The preparation of the research report findings was completed at the end of 2005 and will be published in late 2006. The Traveller Specific Drugs Initiative was a member of the Research Advisory Group for this research and actively supported the completion of this research. This included contacting Traveller groups around the country to participate in focus groups, contacts for service providers, providing extensive information on the issue of drugs in the Traveller community to the researchers and acting in an advisory capacity as a member of the Research Advisory Group.

## **8. Mid Term Review of the National Drug Strategy**

Traveller groups came together in September 2004 to discuss the Mid Term review of the National Drug Strategy. Fergus McCabe, the community representative from the NDST discussed the role of the National Drug Strategy at this meeting. A submission was made by those present at the meeting to the Mid Term Review and local Traveller groups attended the consultations that took place around the country, along with making submissions. The project made its own submission also and disseminated information on the regional consultations to Traveller groups who also attended the regional consultations.

## **9. Conference**

The TSDI hosted a conference in April 2005 entitled: Moving Forward: Towards the Development of a Community Response to Drug issues in the Traveller community which was attended by 120 participants from local Traveller organisations, local drug services, Local and Regional Drug Task Forces.

A conference report was prepared and is available to download on the Pavee Point website.

## **10. Strategic Plan**

The project developed a new strategic plan which will run from 2006 to 2008, the remaining time of the current National Drug Strategy. The project carried out a stakeholders' analysis as part of the development of its strategic plan, with Traveller groups and a wide range of service providers. This informed the development of the strategic plan and its actions.

## **11. Expanding the Project**

In March 2005, the project became a two worker project with Community Development Worker Emma Kennedy coming on board. In September 2005, Patrick McCann joined the project as part time Development worker so the TSDI now has three members of staff.

## **12. Drug Education/Information**

In November 2005 the project completed its first health promotion leaflet on drugs for Traveller parents. The subject of the leaflet is 'Signs and Symptoms of Drug Use'. Many Traveller organisations have ordered the leaflets to date. The project will be producing more materials in the coming year.

## **13. Steering Committee for the Project**

In January 2004, the project established a steering committee who's main role is to 'provide critical thinking and analysis regarding issues with the development and direction of the Traveller Specific Drugs Initiative'. Members of the group include the HSE Northern Area, Exchange House, Bray Travellers CDP, Citywide Drug Crisis Campaign, Soilse etc. The steering committee had a large role in the development of the project's strategic plan.

Finally, the level of the project's one-to-one work in providing technical support to Traveller groups has increased significantly as has our work in general as demands increase and as the issue of drugs within the Traveller community continues to develop. Capacity building work and providing supports to Traveller groups is an area that the project will continue to prioritise over the next three years in its strategic development and this is a central element of and challenge to our work.

# Equal Project 2003–2004

## Pavee Feens Hawken (Traveller Men Working)

The overall aim of Pavee Feens Hawken was to “focus on the Traveller economy and so create the opportunity to develop innovative responses in culturally relevant ways that are attractive to Traveller men. And thereby challenge Travellers socio-economic exclusion through self-employment.”

The structure of the project was designed to provide an opportunity to work directly with Traveller men (via the pilots) and then exchange information and learning with other actors working with Travellers through the Project Development Workshops; the transnational partnership; and mainstreaming.

The Development Partnership for this EQUAL project was called the ‘Traveller Economy Sectoral Partnership’ and its members were: Clondalkin Travellers Development Group; FÁS; Finglas Cabra Partnership; Galway Travellers Support Group; Irish Business and Employers Conference; Irish Trade Union Trust; Pavee Point Travellers Centre; Tribli Ltd, Exchange House Travellers Service.



## The Three Pilots

Over the course of the project three pilot projects were run by Clondalkin Travellers Development Group, Galway Travellers Support Group, and Pavee Point Travellers Centre. The pilots, through which up to 31 Traveller men participated, had completed their work by December 2004.

The range of work and training covered in these pilots included: Safepass; FETAC accredited training in gardening/horticultural; work based literacy; D.I.Y.; personal and community development; and the equal opportunities potential of information technology. Traveller men from each of the areas came together to discuss issues that faced them all and how these could be addressed. The men discussed issues around identity and the difficulties in establishing and maintaining a Traveller enterprise in a discriminatory society.

## Transnational

Pavee Feens Hawken formed a transnational partnership with a French project entitled ‘Codipe’ organised through the ‘Federation Nationale des Associations Solidaires d’Actions avec les Tsiganes et Gens du Voyage’ (FNASAT). This partnership’s work was carried out through: exchange visits; research on the Traveller economy, cultural diversity and the challenges to be addressed; and the exploration of the concept of a Traveller/Gypsy enterprise logo.

During the period 2003–2005 seven exchange visits were hosted through the transnational partnership. These visits were instrumental in broadening participants understanding of the issues to be addressed and the most appropriate methods to be employed.

The research was launched in Lyon, France on April 29th, 2005 and presented in Ireland on 15th June, 2005. The title of the report in English is ‘Travellers Economy in Europe: What recognition?’ Amongst the policy developments explored was the EU’s Green Paper on Entrepreneurship. A development the Entrepreneur Cluster Group in Ireland had fed into in 2003. Amongst its recommendations it calls for the “Taking into account and involving Travellers or persons who represent them in the design and implementation of policies and measures.” (p61)

The concept of the logo generated much lively discussion. Concerns were raised by some Traveller participants that acting on this idea would create more barriers. An internal discussion document was developed during the course of the project.

## **Project Development Workshops (PDW)**

One of the main functions of the Project Development Workshops was to provide a space for the exchange of learning and the identification of potential responses to the issues arising. During 2003–2005 five PDWs took place. The target audience for these events were Travellers and Traveller organisations; policy makers and practitioners with responsibility for social and economic developments.

The biggest PDW took place in Croke Park in March 2004 where up to 90 people participated. The workshop explored the learning arising from the Codipe EQUAL project in France and the Pavee Feens Hawken and Blanchardstown EQUAL projects in Ireland. At the final workshop held on 15th June 2005 the project's DVD; transnational research; and evaluation were presented. These are available to download/order from [www.paveepoint.ie](http://www.paveepoint.ie)

## **Capturing the Learning**

Two distinct audiences were identified for the dissemination of the learning from the Pavee Feens Hawken project: policy makers and practitioners; and the Traveller community. A variety of approaches were used for this work including: the production of a DVD, newsletters, and research; and the Project Development Workshops.

### **DVD**

Experience has shown that an effective way of creating local demand is to bring to Travellers attention the work other Travellers have undertaken. This in turn has encouraged local agencies to respond more positively to Travellers needs as there is to hand a model or way of developing this work. The DVD should support this dynamic.

### **Newsletters**

The newsletters were used to disseminate learning from the project as it evolved. In 2005 the final newsletter was published which focused on mainstreaming. It describes the learning arising from the pilots; the mainstreaming issues raised at the PDW held in Galway in October 2004; and the Entrepreneurship Cluster's proposal.

## **Mainstreaming**

The EQUAL Entrepreneurship Cluster consisted of CASE (Craft as a Source of Employment) which was based in Leitrim; Pavee Feens Hawken; and SWELL (Supporting Women Entrepreneurs Locally in Longford). It became apparent that the enterprise supports generally available were not meeting the needs of the Cluster's participants. A proposal was pursued which sought the development of more appropriate and inclusive supports for the 'atypical' entrepreneurs. Unfortunately this proposal met with little support.

### **FÁS SIT**

In late 2004 FÁS and the Minister for State at DETE identified a budget of €5m which could be used to develop employment supports for Travellers in 2005. The learning arising from the Pavee Feens Hawken project fed into this development which became known as SIT (Special Initiatives for the Expansion of Employment Opportunities for Travellers). Four pilot areas were identified: Dublin; Cork; Clare; and Galway. Self-employment or enterprise development supports were rolled-out to varying degrees in each of these areas.

# Early Childhood Care and Education Programme

## Context

Pavee Point has worked to improve the lives of Traveller children for the past 20 years. In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Pavee Point seeks to ensure that: the voices of Traveller children are heard, their identity and culture are respected, they are protected from discrimination, and their right to intercultural education becomes a reality. The Early Childhood Care and Education Programme advocates for the Traveller Child at policy level while also offering advice, information and training to colleges, service providers and others.

The Early Childhood Care and Education programme recognises that many issues faced by Traveller children are not exclusive to them. A strong body of evidence gathered in many countries proves conclusively that prejudice and racism affects everyone and is harmful both to



Early Childhood Diversity and Equality Training Session

those who practice it and those who are targeted by it. Furthermore it is known with relative certainty that the seeds of prejudice and attitudinal development are sown in early childhood.

Recognising the need for a diversity and equality approach for every child in early childhood care and education services coupled with the demographic changes in Irish society the programme engaged in a consultation process with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) sector (2001). This resulted in the publication 'éist' ('listen' in Irish). The report outlines why it is important to address diversity and equality issues in ECCE, clarifies definitions and terminology, looks at models for addressing diversity issues and offers strategies and guidelines for training and practice. Following this consultation phase and report the programme was funded under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme (EOCP) to raise awareness, develop, pilot and evaluate a diversity and equality training programme for the ECLE (0–6 years), the 'éist' Project (2002–2005).

## The Éist Project

The vision of the 'éist' project is to promote the needs and rights of every child attending early childhood provision to participate as equal and active citizens assured of their rights and free from all forms of discrimination including racism, sexism and classism. It has taken a leadership role in promoting diversity and equality awareness training in the early childhood sector. It was funded under the National Development Plan 2000–2006 and was also supported by the Bernard van Leer Foundation. 'éist' has laid the groundwork for mainstreaming equality and diversity training in the ECCE sector. The training programme has been promoted, developed and tested nationally at pre-service, in-service and supervisory level. Evaluations of the initial training and subsequent feedback from participants indicates that the approach developed is an appropriate vehicle to promote anti-discriminatory practice and respond inclusively to the needs of every young child.

**Ar an mBealach** a training manual has been published based on the pilot training. This manual will be the foundation of a training of trainers programme to be delivered in 2006 subject to the procurement of funding. Unfortunately the project was not funded under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme (EOCP) to disseminate the training.

## Early Childhood Care and Education Work Programme

- Developed completed and evaluated three pilot training programmes at national level on diversity and equality in early childhood care and education
- Delivered introductory diversity and equality training to all 35 County Childcare Committee managers and development workers
- Developed a diversity and equality training, information and resource pack for City and County Childcare Committees
- Co-ordinated training seminars nationally for the City and County Childcare Committees on the use of the pack
- Published and launched *Ar an mBealach* (2004) a diversity and equality training manual for the early childhood care and education sector
- Made submissions to various early childhood consultation processes on the inclusion of a diversity and equality focus in ECCE policy, training and practice including: OECD Thematic Review of Early Childhood Education and Care Policy in Ireland (2004), CECED, National Quality Framework (2005), National Action Plan Against Racism (2004) (dates relate to consultation period).

## Resources

The Early Childhood Care and Education Programme developed resources for use in the early childhood sector such as:

- Developed and published a set of sequence of cards and posters depicting Irish children from a variety of backgrounds with support from Barnardos
- Developed and compiled awareness-raising packs on diversity and equality issues for County Childcare Committees, which include an information folder, awareness-raising exercises folder, videos, Traveller jigsaws, children's books and diversity and equality publications
- Compiled Resource lists and information packs on diversity and equality issues and issues specific to the Traveller child for early childhood practitioners
- Developed and produced jigsaws depicting Traveller life and culture available through Lisheen Toys, Co Kerry
- Developed in consultation with the sector diversity and equality guidelines for practitioners through the advisory subgroup on diversity and equality for the National Coordination Childcare Committee (NCCC) within the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. To be published in 2006.



## International Work

The Early Childhood Programme works in partnership with the Diversity in Early Childhood Education and Training (DECET) Network to further diversity and equality training and practice at European and national levels.

Pavee Point participated in the working group which developed a diversity and equality training manual and training for trainers programme delivered to a European audience, in Barcelona in spring 2006.

Represented Pavee Point and the DECET Network at the Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood Annual International Early Childhood Conference in Melbourne, Australia 2005: Honouring the Child, Honouring Equity: Reconsidering Rights and Relationships

## Representational Work

The Early Childhood Programme works to enhance the circumstances of the Traveller child on a variety of statutory and voluntary committees including;

- National Children's Advisory Committee (National Children's Office)
- National Coordinating Childcare Committee (NCCC) (JELR)
- Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education (CECDE) Consultation Committee
- National Traveller Education Strategy (DES)
- Children's Rights Alliance (CRA)
- End Child Poverty Coalition (ECPC)

## The Voice of the Child Project

Pavee Point initiated the Voice of the Child Project in early 2004. It has been developed in association with Pavee Point Youth Programme and five organisations working with young Travellers: Mayo Travellers Support Group; Cooperation Fingal; Clondalkin Travellers Development Group; Wicklow Travellers Group; the Training and Education Support Project (TESO), Finglas.

The project arose from recognition that recent efforts at national level to consult with children and young people (e.g. through Comhairle and Dáil na nÓg) failed to reflect fully the voices, opinions and concerns of young Travellers. There is a need to understand the reasons behind this situation. The project initiated the development of a process specifically to counter these inadequacies. In doing so the project engaged "Schedia" ('Raft' in Greek) an NGO working in Athens and a member of the DECET Network to work with the organisations participating in the project. 'Schedia' were invited because of their long history in focusing primarily on the use of art as a means to promote respect to diversity and inclusion.

The project has four objectives:

- To hear the voices of young Travellers on a variety of issues, which they had identified as important to them;
- To test a process through creative media for enabling and empowering young Travellers to articulate their experiences and opinions;
- To consider the experience of Travellers in existing consultation processes and examine barriers to participation;
- To develop a final product that would outline this consultative process, articulate the issues raised by participants and explore deeper issues relating to consultation with young Travellers. Report Completed in 2005.

## Traveller Education and Children

The views of Traveller children were sought on their experience of the education system. The children were interviewed individually and were recorded on video. They then were invited to look at their own video and give their agreement or not to present their views to the National Traveller Education Advisory Committee. The objective was to ensure that the Traveller child's voice was heard in the development of the Traveller Education Strategy. All children were asked if there was one thing they would ask the Minister for Education and Science to do to improve their lives in school. All the children interviewed responded similarly with statement such as: 'Stop the Slagging, Stop the Name Calling', (Ages 5–12)

# Work with Roma

## Roma Support Group



Ion (Roma Support Group), Christina and Diana Zatreanu with President Mary McAleese at Áras an Uachtaráin International Families Garden Party 2005.

Over the past 2 years Pavee Point has worked to support the development of an independent Roma Support Group (RSG). There are many Roma volunteers available, skilled and active with the RSG however unfortunately one of the biggest challenges in supporting the emergence of

an independent and resourced Roma NGO has been the lack of funding available to help progress this ambition. Numerous funding proposals have been submitted, both within Ireland and within the European Union, however these have usually been unsuccessful. The current funding climate for the community sector and funding criteria have made this task difficult. It remains an on-going challenge.

## Research

A key recommendation from the Initial Needs Assessment of Roma in Ireland, published March 2002, was the need for specific research into Roma Educational Needs. To advance this recommendation a proposal for funding was made to the Education Equality Initiative which subsequently funded a joint project by the City of Dublin VEC, the RSG, and Pavee Point. A research committee was established with participants from the organisations mentioned above from the Department of Education and Science, the county of Dublin VEC, the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism, Crosscare, Aontas, NALA, FÁS and the ICCL. A researcher was employed in 2004 and focus groups with Roma organised. The research report was completed and published in June 2005.



## Human Rights for Roma Seminar

With funding accessed through the European Refugee Fund a national seminar on Roma and Human Rights was held on April 28th 2003 to mark International Roma Day and to coincide with Easter for Orthodox Roma. The seminar had Ms. Ina Zoon, one of Europe's foremost experts on Roma issues in Central and Eastern Europe, as a key note speaker. It provided an update on Human Rights issues for Roma in Europe; an overview of the situation of Roma in Ireland and an opportunity for Roma to celebrate and share their culture. The seminar was aimed at policy makers, service providers and NGO's working with Roma.

At the seminar a photo and panel exhibition of Roma in Ireland was launched and is available for use by groups. A Roma information leaflet was also published which gives an overview of the issues affecting the 3000 Roma living in Ireland. It is also available on line on Pavee Points' website.



## International Roma Day

### 2004

To celebrate International Roma Day, April 8th, in 2004 a cultural celebration for Roma was organised. Roma from throughout the country came to celebrate the day. A Roma web-site was also designed and launched. A briefing on Roma issues was provided to the media.

### 2005

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) organised a seminar to mark International Roma and Travellers Day 2005 held in the European Parliament buildings Dublin. Ion Zatreanu RSG gave an overview on the situation in Ireland for Roma and Gheorge Dancea RSG prepared traditional Roma food. Speakers included MEP Proinsias De Rossa and Claude Cahn, Programmes Director from the European Roma Rights Centre.



International Roma Day Celebrations.

## Framework Convention on National Minorities

In March 2003, the Framework Convention on National Minorities conducted a study visit to Dublin and representatives of the Roma Support Group made a presentation to the Convention members on the situation and challenges for Roma living in Ireland.

## Council of Europe Specialist Group on Roma and Travellers (MGS Rom)

In October 2003 for the first time ever the MGS Rom held their meeting in Ireland. They visited Dublin for 3 days. The Roma Support Group participated in the meetings with the MGS Rom and government departments and presented issues for Roma living in Ireland. The RSG also organised a Roma music concert for the visiting representatives in City Hall at a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor Cllr. Dermot Lacy.

## Roma Training Project 2005

In the summer of 2005 Pavee Point applied for funding to FÁS to run a pilot project for Roma in Ireland. The focus of the course was around integration into Irish society based on English language skills, communication skills, introduction to Irish society and structures, preservation of Roma Culture and building links with other organisations and the Traveller community. The principles behind this model are those of community development, capacity building and solidarity.

The application was successful and project began in September 2005 with a coordinator and assistant coordinator 18 participants both men and women from Romanian and Slovakian backgrounds were recruited. The course runs from 1pm–5pm in Pavee Point. Initially English language skills were seen as the most pressing need so the CDVEC provided 6 hours ESOL (English to Speakers of other languages) tutoring per week.

The highlights of the Programme to date have been:

- Attainment of a first aid certificate by all participants
- Participation in Traveller Focus Week
- Start your own business workshops
- Commencement of group art project exploring Roma culture
- Establishment of Steering Committee

The programme has been very successful so far with high attendance and a big demand for more places. There is currently a waiting list of 75 Roma.



Pilot Project for Roma September 2005.

# Representation on External Committees

## International

### **Council of Europe Specialist Group on Roma and Travellers (MGS Rom)**

**European Roma and Traveller Forum (ERTF)** – international assembly of representatives of Roma and Traveller communities in European countries whose aim is to promote the social and political interests of the Roma and Traveller population, defend their Human Rights, struggle against racism and discrimination and promote cultural diversity.

## National

**The Human Rights Commission** – Martin Collins is a Human Rights Commissioner since July 2001. It was set up as a direct result of the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 which provided for the establishment of a Human Rights Commission in this jurisdiction and for a Human Rights Commission in Northern Ireland.

**Monitoring Committee on the Implementation of the Task Force Report** – Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

### **Minceirs Whiding National Traveller Only Forum**

**National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee** – This is a statutory committee at the Department of the Environment that was established as result of the 1998 Traveller Accommodation Act.

**National Advisory Committee on Traveller Education** – This is a Department of Education advisory committee that was established as a result of the 1995 Task Force Report on the Travelling Community.

### **National Traveller Health Advisory Committee**

**Community Development Programme, Equality and Anti-Racism Sub-Group** – Department of Social Community and Family Affairs.

**Support Agency Network** – a network of regional and specialist support agencies to the Community Development Programme.

**Traveller Community Development Network** – a network of Traveller community development projects.

**Irish Traveller Movement** – a national network organisation of groups and individuals working within the Traveller community.

**National Traveller Women's' Forum** – a national federation of Traveller organisations working with Traveller women.

**National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism** – Established under the aegis of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

**Community Platform** – a network of 32 national, community and voluntary organisations addressing poverty, social exclusion and promoting equality.

**The Mediator's Institute of Ireland** – The representative organisation of mediation in Ireland.

**National Women's Council of Ireland** – The national representation of over 135 women's organisations established to promote equality for women in Ireland.

**National Traveller Health Network** – a network of Traveller Organisations who have health projects.

**National Youth Council of Ireland** – The co-ordinating body for voluntary youth organisations and services, representing over 650,000 young people.

**Youth Against Racism and Discrimination** – National Youth Council of Ireland and Development Education for Youth.

**The National Co-ordinating Childcare Committee** – Pavee Point represents the Voluntary Pillar on this committee which was established to oversee, in the context of the Childcare Measure in the National Development Plan, the development of a childcare infrastructure in an integrated manner throughout the country.

**NCCCRCSREMCIT** – Pavee Point is chair to the Advisory Committee to the National Co-Ordination Childcare Committee in Relation Children with Special Requirements and Ethnic Minority Children Including Travellers.

**National Children's Strategy** – Department of Health and Children. Pavee Point is a member of the Advisory Council to the Strategy.

**Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty** – Combat Poverty.

**Barnardo's National Children's Resource Centre** – Dublin.

**Children's Rights Alliance** – Dublin

**Children in Hospital Ireland**

**Educational Disadvantage Forum** – St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin.

**OMNA** – Pavee Point is on the consultative committee to Omna which gives technical advice to the Certifying Body Sub-Group of the National Co-ordinating Childcare Committee.

**Equality Advisory Group, Area Development Management Ltd.** – an independent company designated by the Irish Government and the European Commission to support integrated local economic and social development.

**National Steering Committee Violence Against Women** – Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

**Equality Proofing Committee** – Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

**National Action Plan Against Racism** – 'Protection' National Working Group.

**The National Economic and Social Forum** – project team on 'Creating a more Inclusive Labour Market'.

**The Advisory Committee to Equality Authority's Equality Studies Unit**

**The Employment Group co-ordinated by the EAPN** – which seeks to influence employment policy development from an equality and poverty perspective.

**The Advisory Committee to FÁS' Strategic Initiative for Travellers**

## **Regional**

### **Blanchardstown Refuge**

### **Drugs Education Workers Forum**

**LEARN Network** – a network of Community Development Programme Regional and Specialist Support Agencies in the Eastern Region.

### **Eastern Regional Committee, Violence Against Women**

**Traveller Health Unit** – HSE Eastern Region.

**ICON Drugs Support Service** – which provides information, advice and advocacy for drug users.

### **Clondalkin Traveller Development Group**

### **Trav Act**

**Finglas/Cabra Partnership** – Services to Unemployed Committee.

**St. Margaret's Traveller Development Group** – Ballymun, Dublin.

### **Coolock Youth Area Network**

**Traveller Education and Support Options (TESO)** – Finglas Dublin

### **Women's Aid Daphne Initiative**

### **Women's Aid Community Development Support Agency**

**Pavee Laundry** – Belcamp, Dublin

### **North Fingal Traveller Organisation**

### **Fingas Traveller Forum**

# International Work

Work at a European and International level has been a key feature of the work of Pavee Point since our foundation in 1983. Our rationale for this work is that many of the problems that Irish Travellers face, such as racism, exist outside of the country and are unlikely to be resolved at a national level alone. Work at these levels allows us to make contacts with Roma and Travellers and other minority ethnic groups in different parts of the world. These contacts can inform our analysis and understanding of the issues facing Travellers and, equally importantly, we can learn from strategies and initiatives undertaken in other contexts.

International work also allows us to highlight the situation of Irish Travellers and to get Traveller agendas addressed in a range of fora. Our international work has also helped us in Pavee Point to deepen our analysis and understanding of poverty, social exclusion, racism, migration, nomadism, Roma and Travellers.

## Council of Europe

The setting up by the Council of Europe of a Specialist Group on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers (MG-S-ROM) was decided in September 1995. This Group is the first Council of Europe body responsible for reviewing the situation of Roma and Travellers in Europe on a regular basis.

The Group's terms of reference stipulate that it shall advise the Committee of Ministers on matters concerning Roma and Travellers; it also plays the role of "catalyst" for other sectors of the Council of Europe, through encouraging and stimulating activities under way and promoting new initiatives if the need arises. It can also carry out specific studies or other activities in accordance with the decisions of the Committee of Ministers. Lastly, it coordinates activities concerning Roma and Travellers, in liaison with the Coordinator of Activities and the Roma and Travellers Division.

In addition, representatives of the Organisation for Co-operation and Security in Europe (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues) and the European Commission attend meetings of the Group as observers. The Group can invite representatives of other Council of Europe bodies and other international organisations where appropriate. Lastly, depending on the agenda of its meetings, it may invite competent experts and representatives of Roma and Travellers organisations. There were two meetings in 2003 attended by Pavee Point. The first was a seminar on 'Cultural Identities of Roma, Gypsies, Travellers and related groups', held in Strasbourg on the 15th and 16th September 2003. Attitudes towards concepts such as family, time, food, and other cultural mores were discussed.

The second meeting was an international seminar on 'Challenges for Cooperation and Integration between Roma and Travellers and local and Regional Authorities'. This was held on the 15th October 2003 in Rome and was addressed by Pavee Point representatives.

## European Roma and Traveller Forum

Following on ten years of efforts and discussions, the European Roma and Traveller Forum was officially constituted in 2004. Pavee Point was involved from an early stage and is a founding member of the Forum. Martin Collins is the nominated delegate to represent Irish Travellers at the Forum with the substitutes from the Irish Traveller Movement and National Traveller Women's Forum.

The Forum will provide Roma and Travellers an official voice at European level and will also provide close relations with the Council of Europe, allowing Roma and Travellers to take part in the decision making processes on issues concerning them.

## Centre of Housing Rights and Evictions

The Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) is an international non-governmental organisation mandated to protect and promote housing rights throughout the world. COHRE has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UN).

A fact-finding mission to Ireland was undertaken, at Pavee Point's invitation by COHRE in April 2004 in order to investigate the housing rights of Travellers. The mission was motivated by forced evictions and the lack of access to appropriate accommodation for Travellers. After the completion of the mission, they continued to obtain additional information from those interviewed. Pavee Point and COHRE are currently considering submitting a collective complaint to the European Committee on Social Rights.

## United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

CEDAW was acceded to by Ireland on 22 December 1985 and this country's first periodic report was submitted in February 1987. In 2004 Pavee Point wrote a Shadow Report in relation to Ireland's Combined Fourth and Fifth Reports under this convention. This Shadow Report was submitted to the United Nations in New York in January 2005. A member of Pavee Point attended the hearing on Ireland.

## United Nations Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Ireland ratified the Convention (CERD) in December 2000 and it entered into force in January 2001. CERD affords protection against discrimination on the basis of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. A requirement of the Convention is the submission by Governments of Country Reports every two years. Ireland was late with its first report and therefore submitted a joint First and Second Report on CERD in early 2004. Non-governmental organisations are encouraged to furnish Shadow Reports to the International Committee of CERD and Pavee Point published its own Shadow Report to coincide with the Irish Government's.

Pavee Point contended that the Irish Government's refusal to acknowledge Travellers as an ethnic group in the CERD Report was both anachronistic and demeaning and has negative implications of policy in general and the treatment of Travellers in the CERD Report in particular. Pavee Point was represented at the CERD hearing on Ireland in Geneva in March 2005.

## **Culture Combating Social Exclusion**

The Cultural Heritage Project is involved, with partners from Greece, Spain, Netherlands and Poland in a European Union Community Action Programme to combat social exclusion.

The partners are developing pilot cultural actions designed to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of Europe's increasingly diverse cultures.

The Irish initiative involves Travellers engaging in media production, particularly video as a means of documenting Traveller culture and bringing it to a wider audience, as well as providing Travellers with much needed media production skills.

## **National Action Plans for Social Inclusion**

Following on from the commitments made in the Lisbon Agenda to 'make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion', EU member states produced National Action Plans in 2003 which initially covered the period 2003–2005 but have been extended to 2006. The purpose of this trans-national project is to capture the role these plans have or could play in addressing the exclusion experienced by Traveller and Roma communities. Pavee Point has worked alongside other non-governmental organisations and government departments from up to 6 countries including currently Spain (who are the lead partner), Portugal, Greece, Hungary, Romania, and the Czech Republic. At the end of the current phase a manual will be produced which looks at the issue of indicators to measure progress on addressing Travellers and Roma socio-economic exclusion. This project is funded through the EU Transnational Exchange Programme (Fight against Social Exclusion 2002–2006).

## **TRAILER**

Across the European Union, States have introduced or strengthened existing legislation to incorporate the EU's Race Equality Directive into their domestic law. It is important that Roma and Travellers are aware of this legislative change and the impact it could have on their lives.

So the Traveller & Roma Action for Implementation of Legal & Equality Rights (TRAILER) Project aims to strengthen the implementation of anti-discrimination law to combat discrimination against Roma and Travellers in Bulgaria, Ireland, Romania, Slovakia and the UK. Pavee Point Travellers Centre is the Irish partner in this project which is lead by the UK partner, European Dialogue. This project is funded through the EU Community Action Programme to Combat Discrimination 2001–2006.

## **DECET Diversity in Early Childhood Education and Training**

The Early Years Programme in Pavee Point works closely with colleagues in Europe involved in similar work in a group called the DECET Network. DECET brings together a network of people from European Organisations and projects in Belgium, France, Spain, the UK, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Greece and Ireland. Each of the organisations/projects has common goals for valuing diversity in early years practice, based on anti-bias principles. The anti-bias approach promotes equality of access, participation and outcomes for all children attending early years services. The core principles of the approach are inclusion, respect, and equality for all children and their families. The DECET Network is funded by the Bernard Van Leer Foundation and supported individually by projects at a national level.

## Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The Council of Europe's FCPNM is the first multilateral human rights instrument devoted to the protection of national minorities; and it entered into force with respect to Ireland on 1 September 1999. As part of the FCPNM countries are obliged to produce country reports and in Ireland's reports to date the primary focus has been on the Traveller Community (November 2001).

The Advisory Committee (AC) of the FCPNM examined this report and visited Ireland in March 2003: to seek further information on the implementation of the FCPNM from representatives of the Government as well as from NGOs and other independent sources.

The AC adopted its opinion on Ireland at its 17th meeting on 22 May 2003. The AC voiced special concern "about the accommodation situation of Travellers and the slow progress in meeting targets for providing additional accommodation, including halting sites," and highlighted "a need to improve the level of participation of persons belonging to the Traveller and other communities in a range of different economic, social and political areas of life." In December the Government responded to this Opinion; and then in May 2004 the Council of Ministers adopted its Resolution. In February 05 a follow-up seminar was run by the Department of Foreign Affairs in co-operation with the AC.

In tandem with this work on the first cycle of reporting the process for the second cycle began. In December 2004 the AC forwarded questions to the Irish Government. In July 05 the Irish Government hosted a meeting with interested parties including Traveller organisations. Ireland's second report was submitted in December. Of concern for Travellers are the continuing lack of recognition of Travellers culture and identity; and the exclusion of Traveller organisations from the implementation process developed.

All documents related to the Framework Convention including Ireland's reports, and the Opinions on Ireland by the Advisory Committee can be found on the Council of Europe website at: [http://www.coe.int/T/E/human\\_rights/minorities](http://www.coe.int/T/E/human_rights/minorities)

## European Commission against Racism and Intolerance

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is a body of the Council of Europe, composed of independent members. Its aim is to combat racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance at a pan-European level and from the angle of the protection of human rights.

One of the pillars of ECRI's work programme is its country-by-country approach, whereby it analyses the situation as regards racism and intolerance in each of the member States of the Council of Europe and makes suggestions and proposals as to how to tackle the problems identified.

ECRI's first Report on Ireland is dated 7 June 1996 (published in September 1997). ECRI published its Second Report on Ireland on 23 April 2002 and began the third phase of its reports in January 2003. These reports deal with both the legal and policy aspects of the problems of racism and intolerance. They also contain recommendations addressed to Member States on how best to improve their response to these problems.

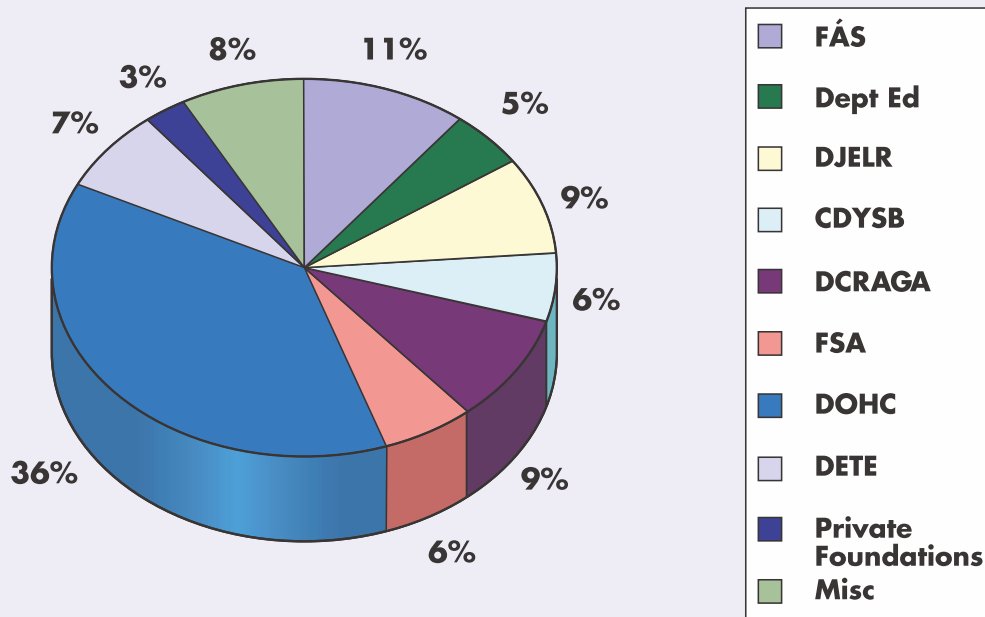
ECRI's Second Report pays particular attention to the situation of Travellers in Ireland under the section "Issues of Particular Concern" a section which in ECRI's opinion merits "particular and urgent attention in the country in question". The Report highlights the need for increased awareness-raising concerning issues of racism and discrimination re Travellers as well as exploring Traveller health, education, employment, accommodation, and empowerment. ECRI's Second Report on Ireland is available to download from the Council of Europe's website [www.coe.int/ecri](http://www.coe.int/ecri)

# Pavee Point Staff and Structures

Pavee Point's Senior Management is responsible to the Board of Management. Staff, from the programmes, make up the membership of the sub-groups.



# Funding Sources



## Funders:

<b>FÁS</b>	Foras Áiseanna Saothair
<b>Dept Ed</b>	Department of Education and Science
<b>DJELR</b>	Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform
<b>CDYSB</b>	City of Dublin Youth Services Board
<b>DCRAGA</b>	Department Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
<b>FSA</b>	Family Support Agency
<b>DOHC</b>	Department of Health and Children
<b>DETE</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Private Foundations</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	

# Directors' Report

## For the year ended 31st December 2005

The directors present their report together with the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2005.

### Principal Activity

The principal activity of the company consists of facilitating the Travellers in developing awareness, confidence and skills necessary to realise their potential and campaigning for Travellers rights.

The Directors are satisfied with the results for the year.

### Results And Dividends

The surplus/(deficit) for the year after providing for all expenditure amounted to (€78,042) 2004 – €34,906

### Directors

In accordance with the Articles of Association the directors are not required to retire by rotation and remain in office.

### Post Balance Sheet Events

In accordance with the Articles of Association the directors are not required to retire by rotation and remain in office.

### Health and Safety of Employees

It is the policy of the company to ensure the health and welfare of employees by maintaining a safe working environment and system of work. This policy is based on the requirements of the employment legislation including the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989.

### Directors and their Interests

The interests of the Directors and Secretary in the share capital of the company all of which are beneficial were as follows:

	Ordinary shares	
	2005	2004
<b>Anastasia Crickley</b>	–	–
<b>Mairin Kenny</b>	–	–

### Directors' Responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that year. In preparing those financial statements the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2003. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Auditors

The auditors, BKRM have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 160(2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

### On behalf of the Board

.....

**Anastasia Crickley**  
**Director**

.....

**Date**

.....

**Mairin Kenny**  
**Director**

# Auditor's Report 2005

## Independent auditors' report to the shareholders of Dublin Travellers Education and Development Group Limited

We have audited the financial statements of Dublin Travellers Education and Development Group Limited for the year ended 31 December 2005 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's shareholders, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's shareholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's shareholders as a body, for our audit work for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Irish Accounting Standards are set out in the statement of directors responsibilities.

As described in the statement of directors' responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Irish Accounting Standards.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and Auditing Standards promulgated by the Auditing Practices Board in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2003. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the company; whether, at the balance sheet date, there exists a financial situation requiring the convening of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the company; and whether the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the company's balance sheet and its income and expenditure account are in agreement with the books of account and returns.

We report to the shareholders if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and directors' transactions is not given and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

We read the directors' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

## Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

## Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2005 and of its deficit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2003.

We have obtained all the information and explanations that we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements.

The net assets of the company, as stated in the balance sheet, are more than half the amount of its called up share capital and, in our opinion, on that basis there did not exist at 31 December 2005 a financial situation which under Section 40 (1) of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1983 would require the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of the company.

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BKRM

Registered Auditors & Business Consultants

81/82 North Strand Road

Fairview

Dublin 3

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31st December 2005

	2005	2004
	€	€
<b>Income</b>	1,808,318	2,185,151
Administrative expenses	(1,879,536)	(2,150,245)
<b>Operating loss</b>	(71,218)	34,906
Interest payable and similar charges	(6,824)	–
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	(78,042)	34,906
Surplus brought forward	866,571	815,661
Reserves Adjustment	–	16,004
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	788,529	866,571

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the above two financial years.

# Balance Sheet

As at 31st December 2005

	Notes	2005 €	2004 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	5	70,210	101,421
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors		25,435	19,685
Cash at bank and in hand		753,604	805,011
		849,249	926,117
<b>Creditors</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(60,716)	(59,542)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			
		788,533	866,575
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>			
Called up share capital	7	3	3
Profit and loss account	8	788,530	866,572
<b>Equity Shareholders' Funds</b>			
	9	788,533	866,575

The financial statements were approved by the board on and signed on its behalf by:

**Anastasia Crickley**  
Director

**Mairin Kenny**  
Director

Date



# Pavee Point Values

- **Human Rights**

We believe that all people, including Travellers, Roma, and Gypsies, should have access to resources which enable them to meet basic human needs, to reach a socially acceptable standard of living, and to live with dignity in society.

- **Community Development**

We believe a community development approach and its associated principles provide an appropriate way of working with Travellers. It means working with, rather than for, Travellers. It supports collective action, participation and empowerment, and gives priority to preventative actions.

- **Multi-dimensionality**

We believe that single-factor explanations of the situation of Irish Travellers are simplistic and inaccurate. The problems Travellers experience, and issues of concern in relation to Travellers, are multiple and complex. They require a holistic, multi-dimensional approach.

- **Equality**

We believe that we must be pro-active if all people are to enjoy equality of access, participation and outcomes. We therefore espouse an anti-racist, anti-sexist approach, and we also reject exclusion on the grounds of disability, sexual orientation, religion, social and national origin, age, family and marital status.

- **Cultural Diversity**

We believe that a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society should be based on equality and mutual respect. Travellers and Roma have a right to assert and celebrate their distinct ethnic identities.

- **Social Solidarity**

We believe that social solidarity should be based on efforts to bridge the divisions and inequalities based on wealth, power and social status. Traveller solidarity involves developing alliances among and between Travellers and Roma as well as with other minority groups and different sectors, nationally and internationally.

- **Partnership**

We believe that Travellers and non-Travellers can be most effective in a partnership relationship that recognises their respective responsibilities, strengths and competencies. We also believe in the value of developing a range of partnerships with other organisations and agencies, voluntary and statutory.



**PAVEE POINT** is a voluntary non-governmental organisation which is committed to human rights for Irish Travellers.

The group comprises Travellers and members of the majority population working together in partnership to address the needs of Travellers as a minority group who experience exclusion and marginalisation.

The aim of Pavee Point is to contribute to improvement in the quality of life and living circumstances of Irish Travellers, through working for social justice, solidarity, socio-economic development and human rights.

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**PAVEE POINT**  
TRAVELLERS CENTRE