



**PAVEE POINT**  
**TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE**

**Submission to the Anti-Racism Committee**  
**The National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR)**

Pavee Point is a national non-governmental organisation working towards the attainment of human rights for Irish Travellers and Roma in Ireland since 1985. The aim of Pavee Point is to contribute to improvement in the quality of life and living circumstances of Irish Travellers and Roma by working for social justice, solidarity and human rights.

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## Summary of Key Recommendations

Pavee Point's submission is structured based on ENAR's *checklist for what makes a good National Action Plan Against Racism* and the priority issues identified in the Anti-Racism Committee's interim report: Please see below our key recommendations:

### Process Recommendations:

- Ensure the National Action Plan Against Racism will **address the specific forms of anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism and discrimination**;
- NAPAR to be adopted in a **timely fashion; afforded a sufficient budget and a clear implementation and monitoring framework**; and is implemented in partnership with Traveller and Roma organisations
- Implement NAPAR actions in **coordination with other key inclusion strategies**, such as the National Traveller & Roma Inclusion Strategy, and the National Strategy for Women and Girls, in line with Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014
- **Resource anti-racism organisations, including Traveller and Roma organisations**, to support their participation in the leadership and oversight of the action plan.

### Content Recommendations:

#### 1. Equality Proof Public Services

- In line with commitments in the interim report, ensure that **ethnic equality monitoring** including the introduction of **standardised ethnic identifier** (based on the Census Question on ethnicity) is adopted and rolled out across all routine administrative systems, state agencies and surveys, in line with human rights standards. Use this data to monitor all forms of racism, including anti-Traveller and anti-Roma discrimination, and to **equality proof State policies, budgets and programming**
- Adopt special measures to **train and employ minority ethnic groups, including Travellers and Roma, in public bodies** by including dedicated quotas in recruitment policies within an Garda Síochána, state departments, Local Authorities and other public bodies

#### 2. Access to Complaint Mechanisms

- Resource sustained positive action measures to **facilitate access to complaint mechanisms** for all minority ethnic and racialised groups, including Travellers and Roma
- Ensure the **enactment of the Hate Crime Bill 2021**, in consultation with anti-racism organisations, with **special measures to encourage reporting** of these crimes, including a public awareness campaign targeting protected groups (inclusive of Travellers and Roma).

#### 3. Information, Communications, Media and New Technologies

- Work with the **Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and Press Ombudsman** to include **specific anti-racism elements in their codes of practice**, strategy statements and other guidelines, specifically naming anti-Traveller racism.
- Work to build **anti-racism awareness among media producers** by engaging with the NUJ and civil society to promote **anti-racism guidelines among journalists** on an ongoing and sustained basis in national and local media.
- **Public Service Media to introduce a quota system to ensure the employment of minority ethnic groups**, including Irish Travellers, within Public Service Media and also within internship programmes.
- Develop and **deliver positive action measures to build better relations between Travellers, Traveller organisations and local media**, including measures to challenge negative stereotyping of Travellers and Roma and improved representation by Travellers and Roma in local media.
- Resource sustained positive action measures to **facilitate access to Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and Press Ombudsman complaint mechanisms** by Travellers and Roma.

#### 4. Promoting Political Representation

- Undertake legislative and practical measures to **ensure Traveller inclusion in political representation at local and national levels**, along with other minority groups; including reserving specific seats for members of the Traveller community in the houses of the Seanad and where relevant, in local councils

#### **5. Raising Awareness about Racism**

- Develop and implement **an awareness raising campaign with the general population about anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism** and provide support towards the celebration of Traveller and Roma cultures on a permanent and ongoing basis
- Ensure that **the inclusion of Traveller culture and history in school curriculum takes place in active consultation with Traveller organisations** and acts as a precedent for further inclusion of all the cultures which are part of the diversity in Irish society

#### **6. Equal Treatment in the Justice System**

- Provide **training to all Gardaí and Criminal Justice Personnel on hate speech and hate crime** and its impacts on all the protected categories named in the legislation
- Introduce legislation to **prohibit ethnic profiling** by Gardaí and other law enforcement agencies
- **Incorporate human rights, anti-racism and anti-profiling training within initial and ongoing training with Gardaí and Judiciary**, with a specific focus on the human rights of Travellers and Roma. Include these aspects in performance assessments, promotion and assignment processes of those working in the justice system
- Take necessary steps to **ensure that the Garda Síochána Code of Ethics is fully implemented** in their culture, strategies, policies, processes and behaviour, including introducing sanctions and disciplinary measures when breaches of the Code take place
- **Amend the Garda Síochána (Discipline) Regulations 2007** to explicitly specify that discrimination constitutes a breach of discipline
- Identify the contributing factors and **address the overrepresentation of Travellers in prison, particularly Traveller women**, as recommended by CEDAW Committee in 2017
- Introduce **alternative community-based responses** for Travellers and Roma who have committed non-violent poverty related offences

#### **7. Priority Issues: Accommodation, Social Protection, Health, Education, Employment**

- Ensure full **implementation of recommendations by the Independent Expert Group on Traveller accommodation**, including overhauling legislation and policies which impact on accommodation provision for Travellers
- **Implement the findings and recommendations of IHREC equality reviews of Traveller accommodation** to ensure budgets are drawn down and that Traveller specific and culturally appropriate accommodation is provided to Traveller families
- Address the Roma housing crisis by **introducing clear Roma accommodation actions** and associated implementation plan and resources in the National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy
- To ensure Roma children have access to basic income, **make Child Benefit a truly universal payment** that is not contingent on the fulfilment of the Habitual Residence Condition
- **Publish and implement the long-awaited National Traveller Health Action Plan**; establish a clear consultative structure to drive its implementation and monitoring; and ensure all actions in the Plan have clear targets, indicators, outcomes, timeframes and budget lines
- Ensure direct **targeting of Travellers and Roma in key mainstream health policy initiatives**, including in the implementation of Sláintecare and Healthy Ireland
- Develop a comprehensive **Traveller and Roma training, employment and enterprise strategy** with a robust implementation and monitoring plan, and ensure Travellers and Roma are **included in key mainstream policy initiatives related to employment**, including the forthcoming Pathways to Work Strategy
- Urgently prioritise and **complete the development of a Traveller and Roma education strategy**; ensure it is inclusive of all ages and educational levels, and that it has a robust implementation and monitoring plan and budget lines

## **Introduction**

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre welcomes the development of the National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR), and the opportunity to contribute to this consultation process. In this submission, we will outline how racism and discrimination impact Travellers and Roma in Ireland, and make key recommendations for addressing anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism within NAPAR.

We believe that NAPAR is urgently needed, as to date, there has been little State action to address structural racism and discrimination in Ireland. Implementation of legislation, policies and strategies to promote Traveller and Roma inclusion have been slow, with inadequate funding, sanctions, and monitoring processes put in place.

## **Pavee Point's Work to Tackle Anti-Traveller and Anti-Roma Racism**

Over the past thirty-six years, Pavee Point has an established track record in innovative and ground-breaking work using a collective community development approach to addressing anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism and promoting Traveller and Roma rights. The organisation comprises of Travellers, Roma and members of the majority population working together in partnership at national, regional, local and international levels.

Pavee Point holds to the principle that in order to achieve equality for Travellers and Roma, attention must be paid to the structural inequalities that impact on them, including education, employment, poverty, health, discrimination and racism. This means that policy and practice must be underpinned by an inter-cultural approach and by principles of equality, diversity and anti-racism. Planning, policy and practice plays a key role in determining these outcomes.

Delivering services based on equality does not mean treating people the same, but designing and implementing programmes that are inclusive, culturally appropriate, and tailored to the needs of all groups in society, including Travellers and Roma. This leads to better outcomes for disadvantaged and minority ethnic groups, including Travellers and Roma. Fundamentally we believe that Travellers and Roma should be afforded rights to their cultural identity, without experiencing marginalisation and discrimination in the process.

There is a need for an urgent response and positive action to address the current and historic discrimination and racism experienced by Travellers, and to address the determinants that are leading to these unacceptable inequalities.

Pavee Point campaigned for many years for the State's legal recognition of Traveller ethnicity, and this was achieved in 2017. This was a vital step in tackling anti-Traveller racism as this recognition entitles Travellers to their right to a cultural identity. It means that Travellers will automatically be included in all State anti-racism and inter-cultural initiatives, and that discrimination experienced by communities is recognised as racism. It also ensures that Travellers are afforded protection under the EU Race Directive. Recognition of the minority ethnic status of Travellers needs to open a new dialogue as to how the State interacts with Travellers and Roma into the future.

## **Context**

There are a little over 36,000 Irish Travellers in Ireland, representing less than 1% of the nation's population, and an estimated 5,000 Roma living across the country. As minority ethnic groups, Travellers and Roma experience persistent racism and discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, gender and other grounds. As a result, Travellers and Roma are among the most marginalised and excluded individuals and groups in Ireland.

Discrimination against Travellers at a Glance	Discrimination against Roma at a Glance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travellers are over 22 times more likely than White Irish to report discrimination in shops, pubs and restaurants</li> <li>• Travellers are 10 times more likely than White Irish to experience discrimination in seeking work</li> <li>• 40% of Travellers experience discrimination in accessing health services</li> <li>• 80.2% of Travellers are unemployed (Census, 2016)</li> </ul>	<p>The implementation of EU Directive 2004/38 and state policy (Habitual Residence Condition) leaves many Roma outside the social protection system and, thus, vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 78.9% of Roma feel discriminated in getting a job</li> <li>• 93.3% feel discriminated in getting accommodation</li> <li>• 84.4% feel discriminated in getting social welfare</li> <li>• 81.1% feel discriminated in a public setting</li> </ul>

### Process Recommendations:

Pavee Point welcomes the Anti-Racism Committee's recommendations in their Interim Report, November 2020. This report outlines a definition of racism that is in line with the Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and recognises both the structural and intersectional nature of racism. It also names the specific forms of racism present in Ireland, inclusive of anti-Traveller racism.

The report also acknowledges that we already have extensive evidence of the existence of racism in Ireland, and that NAPAR must focus on practical actions to combat this issue. Pavee Point agrees with this approach and believes that this is a time for a whole of Government effort to combatting racism, with clear objectives, timelines, resourcing, and monitoring frameworks.

Pavee Point remain concerned at the persistent, as well as increased reports during the COVID-19 pandemic, of anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism. Therefore, it is vital that the National Action Plan addresses the specificities of anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism in Ireland.

- Ensure the National Action Plan Against Racism will **address the specific forms of anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism** and discrimination;
- NAPAR is adopted in a **timely fashion; afforded a sufficient budget and a clear implementation and monitoring framework**; and is implemented in partnership with Traveller and Roma organisations
- Implement NAPAR actions in **coordination with other key inclusion strategies**, such as the National Traveller & Roma Inclusion Strategy, and the National Strategy for Women and Girls, in line with Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014
- **Resource anti-racism organisations, including Traveller and Roma organisations**, to support their participation in the leadership and oversight of NAPAR.

### Content Recommendations:

#### 1. Equality Proofing Public Services

**Ethnic Equality Monitoring:** Ireland has committed to developing a system of ethnic data collection across state departments and agencies. However, while progress has been made with some state agencies, there have been major issues and resistance to progress ethnic data collection with others. The urgency to develop and implement ethnic data collection is particularly pertinent during the current pandemic with a number of European institutions having issued statements to draw attention to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Travellers and Roma. We urge the committee to ensure relevant agencies and government departments advance this area of work as a matter of priority.

- In line with commitments in the interim report, ensure that **ethnic equality monitoring** including the introduction of **standardised ethnic identifier** (based on the Census Question on ethnicity) is adopted

and rolled out across all routine administrative systems, state agencies and surveys, in line with human rights standards. Use this data to monitor all forms of racism, including anti-Traveller and anti-Roma discrimination, and to **equality proof State policies, budgets and programming**

**Increased Representation in the Public Sector:** Increased inclusion of Travellers and Roma, as well as other minority groups, within the public sector workforce would provide a sustainable means to promote tolerance and diversity within public services. Currently there are no dedicated quotas set for Travellers and Roma in the recruitment policy and practice in the Gardaí, state departments, Local Authorities and other public bodies.

- Adopt **special measures to train and employ Travellers and Roma in public bodies** by including dedicated quotas for Travellers and Roma in recruitment policies within the police, state departments, Local Authorities and other public bodies

## **2. Access to Complaint Mechanisms**

As the main anti-discrimination laws, the Employment Equality Acts (1998-2015) and the Equal Status Acts (2000-2015), prohibit discrimination in employment, accommodation, housing assistance, education, and in the provision of goods and services. The use of complaint mechanisms by Travellers and Roma is low. In 2018 only six complaints were made under the Employment Equality Acts 1998 to 2011 in relation to membership of the Traveller community.

Pavee Point welcomes the introduction of the general scheme on hate speech and hate crime and hope these will be robust in addressing hate speech and hate crime experienced by Travellers and Roma. In order for the legislation to be effective, it is necessary for the Government to roll out special measures alongside the legislation to encourage the reporting of these crimes.

- Resource sustained positive action measures to **facilitate access to complaint mechanisms** by Travellers and Roma
- Ensure the **enactment of the Hate Crime Bill 2021**, in consultation with anti-racism organisations, with **special measures to encourage reporting** of these crimes, including a public awareness campaign targeting protected groups (inclusive of Travellers and Roma).

## **3. Information, Communications, Media and New Technologies**

Racist incidents against Travellers and Roma often increase following negative media reporting. UK research from Report Racism GRT shows a major peak in cases following the broadcasting of the April 2020 Dispatches programme “The Truth About Traveller Crime”, accounting for 45 reports in that month alone. It is vital that measures are put in place to combat anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism in media reporting, and promote positive representation of Travellers and Roma on all media outlets.

- Work with the **Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and Press Ombudsman to include specific anti-racism elements in their codes of practice**, strategy statements and other guidelines, specifically naming anti-Traveller racism.
- Work to build **anti-racism awareness among media producers** by engaging with the NUJ and civil society to promote **anti-racism guidelines among journalists** on an ongoing and sustained basis in national and local media.
- For **Public Service Media to introduce a quota system to ensure the employment of minority ethnic groups**, including Irish Travellers, within Public Service Media and also within internship programmes.
- Develop and **deliver positive action measures to build better relations between Travellers, Traveller organisations and local media**. These could include internships for Travellers and Roma as well as measures to challenge negative stereotyping of Travellers and Roma and improved representation by Travellers and Roma in local media.
- Resource sustained positive action measures to **facilitate access to Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and Press Ombudsman complaint mechanisms** by Travellers and Roma.

#### 4. Political Representation

Despite calls made by a number of human rights monitoring bodies (CEDAW, CERD, FCNM), Travellers and Roma continue to experience significant exclusion from decision making and wider political processes. Commitments outlined in the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) or the National Strategy on Women and Girls (NSWG) have not materialised into measures to improve the representation of Travellers in political institutions and decision making.

- Undertake legislative and practical measures to **ensure Traveller and Roma inclusion in political representation at local and national levels**, including reserving specific seats for members of the Traveller community in the houses of the Seanad and where relevant, in local councils
- All political parties and representatives to demonstrate commitment to the **Anti-Racism Election Protocol and an Anti-Racism Code of Conduct**.

#### 5. Raising Awareness about Racism

Positive developments are taking place in relation to including Traveller culture and history in the school curriculum, and cross-party support for a Traveller Culture Education Bill which holds potential to initially create a more inclusive school environment for Travellers but can also benefit other minority ethnic groups who are part of the diversity in Ireland now. However, to ensure effective implementation upon its enactment, steps must be taken to ensure that policy and practice in schools are in line with interculturalism, anti-discrimination and anti-racism, and that they explicitly focus on Travellers and Roma and other minority ethnic groups.

It is vital that any anti-racism education and awareness raising initiatives outlined in the national action plan include the specificities of anti-Traveller and anti-Roma racism

- Develop and implement an **awareness raising campaign with the general population about anti-Traveller and Roma racism** and provide support towards the preservation of Traveller and Roma cultures on a permanent and ongoing basis
- Ensure that the inclusion of **Traveller culture and history in school curriculum takes place in active consultation with Traveller organisations** and acts as a precedent for further inclusion of all the cultures which are part of Ireland

#### 6. Equal Treatment in the Justice System

Training activities on human rights, anti-racism and anti-profiling for an Garda Síochána is not adequate, effective or ongoing, and isn't consistently delivered across all ranks. Furthermore, such training is not incorporated into performance assessments and promotion and assignment processes of Gardaí.

Training on equality and human rights issues with the Judiciary is reportedly delivered on an ongoing basis. However, evidence shows that there are significant concerns with administering justice with Traveller and Roma communities, as well as examples of anti-Traveller and anti-Roma sentiments expressed by members of the Judiciary (See Appendix 2).

- Provide to all Gardaí and Criminal Justice Personnel **training on hate speech and hate crime** and its impacts on all the protected categories named in the legislation
- Introduce legislation to **prohibit ethnic profiling by Gardaí** and other law enforcement agencies
- Incorporate **human rights, anti-racism and anti-profiling training within initial and ongoing training with the police and Judiciary** with a specific focus on the human rights of Travellers and Roma
- **Amend the Garda Síochána (Discipline) Regulations 2007** to explicitly specify that discrimination constitutes a breach of discipline

Although Travellers account for only 0.7% of the Irish population, they account for an estimated 10% of the entire prison population and 15% of the female prison population. Research from the Irish Penal Reform Trust shows how Traveller women have been subjected to abusive, discriminatory and racist language and physical violence by the police, and in prison can experience discrimination from other

prisoners and/or prison staff. To further add to the concern, the majority of Traveller women are sent to prison for non-violent, poverty related offences, with experiences of racial discrimination, social and educational disadvantage, homelessness, mental health problems, domestic violence, and/or drug and alcohol dependency.

- Identify and **address the contributing factors to the overrepresentation of Travellers in prison**, particularly Traveller women, as recommended by CEDAW Committee in 2017
- Introduce **alternative community-based responses** for Travellers and Roma who have committed non-violent poverty related offences

## **7. Priority Issues: Accommodation, Social Protection, Health, Education, Employment**

**Accommodation:** The persistent and deteriorating accommodation crisis among Travellers and Roma has been greatly exacerbated by Ireland's ongoing housing and homeless crisis and the current pandemic. The legislative framework (Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998) to drive the provision of Traveller specific accommodation has fallen short. Local Authorities continuously fail to meet their legal duty to ensure adequate, safe and culturally appropriate accommodation for Travellers.

In 2019, an independent Expert Group on Traveller Accommodation set out a clear recommendation to overhaul all relevant legislation and policies which impact on accommodation provision for Travellers, and a number of human rights bodies have urged Ireland to tackle the problem of underspent Traveller accommodation budgets and failure to deliver Traveller accommodation by Local Authorities.

Roma also face discrimination in accessing accommodation, severe overcrowding, homelessness, and structural barriers to social housing, rent supplement and homeless supports. This often leaves Roma families with rough sleeping or staying with family and friends in unsuitable, overcrowded accommodation as their only options. Currently, there are no Roma specific housing actions in the National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy to tackle these issues.

- Ensure **full implementation of recommendations by the Independent Expert Group on Traveller accommodation**, including overhauling legislation and policies which impact on accommodation provision for Travellers
- **Implement the findings and recommendations of IHREC equality reviews of Traveller accommodation** to ensure budgets are drawn down and that Traveller specific and culturally appropriate accommodation is provided to Traveller families
- Address the housing crisis among Roma by introducing clear **Roma accommodation actions** and associated implementation plan and resources in the forthcoming revised National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy

**Social Protection:** Pavee Point welcomes the recommendation to remove all barriers to accessing support for migrant women experiencing Gender Based Violence. Pavee Point have advocated on this issue for many years, as we have seen the devastating impacts of the Habitual Residence Condition on Roma women, unable to access housing and social protections.

We would ask the Committee to consider extending this recommendation further to also include the removal of barriers to accessing Child Benefit, making it a truly universal payment not contingent on residency status. This is in line with UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which prohibits any discrimination between children on the basis of the status of their parents. Concerns about the discriminatory impact of the application of the Habitual Residence Condition, and the resulting extreme child poverty, have been raised by many human rights reporting bodies, including the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance.



- To ensure Roma children have access to basic income, **make Child Benefit payment a truly universal payment** that is not contingent on the fulfilment of the Habitual Residence Condition

**Health:** Travellers and Roma experience stark health inequalities when compared to the general population. The current pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on Travellers and Roma with the rate of testing positive for COVID-19 being significantly higher than the national figure. Within this context, the development of the first ever National Traveller Health Action Plan (NTHAP) has been welcomed. However, there are significant delays with its publication and we remain concerned about the monitoring and implementation framework and resources afforded to its implementation, particularly in the context of the persistent and deteriorating health situation due to COVID-19.

Roma also face additional barriers due to difficulties accessing medical cards, and basic health supports, the absence of dedicated Roma health advocates, as well as a lack of interpretation and translation supports within the health service.

- **Publish and implement the long-awaited National Traveller Health Action Plan;** establish a clear consultative structure to drive its implementation and monitoring; and ensure all actions in the Plan have clear targets, indicators, outcomes, timeframes and budget lines
- Ensure direct targeting of **Travellers and Roma in key mainstream health policy initiatives**, including implementation of Sláintecare and Healthy Ireland

**Education:** Despite the educational disadvantages faced by Travellers and Roma, mainstream educational strategies do not contain actions aimed at increasing Traveller and Roma participation in early years, primary or post-primary. We have welcomed the explicit targeting of Traveller participation in higher education, and a recent commitment to develop the first ever National Traveller Education Strategy. In the context of the current pandemic and school closures, the risk of deepening educational disadvantage among Travellers and Roma needs to be urgently tackled through the development of a Traveller and Roma education strategy, as committed to in the Programme for Government.

- Urgently prioritise and **complete the development of a Traveller and Roma education strategy;** ensure it is inclusive of all ages and educational levels, and that it has a robust implementation and monitoring plan and associated budgets

**Employment:** We welcome the inclusion of Travellers and Roma in the new Pathways to Work strategy, and the commitment to develop a dedicated strategy to address the significant levels of racism and discrimination in employment and unemployment faced by Travellers and Roma. This needs to lead to effective measures with adequate resources to improve employment among Travellers and Roma. It is vital to also incorporate these measures into Ireland's post-COVID resilience and recovery plans.

- Develop a **comprehensive Traveller and Roma training, employment and enterprise strategy** with a robust implementation and monitoring plan, and ensure Travellers and Roma are included in key mainstream policy initiatives related to employment.

## Appendix 1. Examples of Ethnic Profiling of Travellers and Roma by the Police

### Evidence highlights serious concerns around ethnic profiling with Traveller and Roma communities:

- 77.5% of Roma report being stopped by Gardaí for an identity document, and of those, 56% report being stopped four times or more.
- In 2013, in two separate instances two Roma children were removed from their biological parents by the police under Section 12 of the Child Care Act 1991 under a suspicion the children had been abducted. Subsequent inquiry found that the removal of one of the children amounted to ethnic profiling. A further audit of the use of the Section 12 of the Child Care Act found that crucial demographic data to draw conclusions about ethnic profiling is not recorded in the PULSE (police data base).
- In 2014, a Traveller mother discovered that her children aged 4 and 5 were recorded and given criminal tag numbers in the PULSE. The children's details were logged in 2011 after their parents visited a police station in relation to passport applications. The mother was not aware of this until informed by a freelance journalist in 2014. In 2014, a police whistle-blower alleged that up to 40 Traveller families were entered on the PULSE system, including a 16 days old baby, and that these registrations on PULSE were made without any proper foundation, criminal or otherwise.

## Appendix 2: Examples of Hate Speech and Crime against Travellers and Roma

### Anti-Roma and Anti- Traveller Statements by Public Officials:

- In 2018 Presidential Election, candidate Peter Casey made a number of offensive remarks about Travellers during his campaign. He came second in the election, with 23.25% of all votes.
- Fianna Fáil (political party) councillor: *"there should be an isolated community of them [Travellers] some place..."*. The statement was backed by a Fine Gael (political party) Town Councillor who noted that *"They [Travellers] can be sent to Spike Island for all I care"*.
- District Court judge and former Fianna Fail member of parliament: *"[Travellers are] Neanderthal men ... abiding by the laws of the jungle"*
- Dublin Circuit Criminal Court Justice: *"I assume from his appearance that he's from the Roma community who came here to do what all of them tend to do, to use the streets to beg"*

**Anti-Roma Protests in Waterford, 2014:** Over 100 people gathered chanting "Roma, out, out, out" and smashing windows and kicking doors in. Families had to be evacuated from their homes due to the violence.

### Burning and Vandalising Travellers' Homes:

- Donegal, 2013: A house allocated to a Traveller family was burnt in an arson attack to prevent the family from moving in. The events were followed by anti-Traveller statements made by local councillors.
- Tipperary, 2019: A Traveller family was allocated a house and was ready to move in when the house was vandalised with significant damage made to the house.

### Online Hate Speech:

"Promote the use of Kn\*\*\*er babies for Shark Bait" – Court Case: A Facebook page suggesting to use Traveller babies as shark bait and fed to zoo animals was found 'obnoxious, revolting and insulting' by the Judge but was not deemed to be incitement to hatred.