



PAVEE POINT
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

OHCHR REGISTRY

12 AUG 2013

Recipients : *HR Comm. Htee.*
.....
.....
.....

Suggested List of Issues to Country Report Task Force on Ireland for the 109th Session of the Human Rights Committee, 14 October -1 November 2013

Reporting Organisation

Pavee Point Roma and Traveller Centre is a national non-governmental organisation committed to the attainment of human rights for Irish Travellers and Roma. The group is comprised of Travellers and Roma and members of the majority settled population working together in partnership to address the needs of Travellers and Roma as minority ethnic groups experiencing exclusion and marginalisation. The aim of Pavee Point is to contribute to improvement in the quality of life and living circumstances of Irish Travellers and Roma through working for social justice, solidarity, socio-economic development and human rights.

Travellers and Roma in Ireland

The All Ireland Traveller Health Study, commissioned by the Department of Health and Children and published in 2010 establishes the Traveller population at a little over 36,000 in Ireland. The 2011 census gives a figure 29,495. This figure represents less than 1% of the nation's population. As a community, the Traveller population has experienced a history of racism and discrimination, resulting in poor health status, accommodation, access to education and employment. Census 2011 gives a figure of 84.3% unemployment for Travellers.

There is an estimated 5,000 Roma living in Ireland. There is no Government data in relation to the population of Roma in Ireland and so this figure is an estimate. There is a policy vacuum in relation to Roma in Ireland and no existing forums for Roma to feed in to or to influence policy. In this context many Roma are extremely marginalised in Irish society.

Many Roma in Ireland are living in poverty due to a lack of access to work and restrictive social welfare measures. Many Roma find it difficult to gain employment due to factors including racism, discrimination and lack of training and formal education. There is a lack of vocational training options for Roma in Ireland and no clear strategy to facilitate Roma participation in mainstream training programmes. In the absence of an overall coherent strategy for Roma inclusion in Ireland, there is a lack of research and initiatives developed to support Roma. For those who are unable to find employment or access supports, options include reliance on charities and family or 'voluntary repatriation' to country of origin.