**PRESS RELEASE**

Minister of State for New Communities, Culture, Equality and Drugs Strategy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, T.D., today announced details of a comprehensive consultation process which will take place during 2015 with a view to putting in place a revised National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy.

The Department of Justice and Equality, together with the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy Steering Group chaired by the Minister of State for New Communities, Culture, Equality and Drugs Strategy at the Department of Justice and Equality, will undertake a comprehensive consultation process during 2015 with a view to putting in place a revised National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy. The consultation process will allow interested parties to make submissions in key areas such as anti-discrimination and anti-racism, cultural identity, accommodation, health, employment, education, family and children and political participation.

It is intended that a revised National Strategy to run from 2016 to 2020 will be in place in early 2016.

As well as seminars and meetings with organisations at national level, the consultation process will include a series of regional public meetings to allow maximum participation by anyone interested in contributing to the development of a revised Strategy.

*“The Department of Justice and Equality has reviewed the effectiveness of existing structures for consultation with, and improving outcomes for, the Traveller and Roma communities”* said the Minister*. “The objectives are to ensure genuine consultation mechanisms are in place for both communities and to secure improved outcomes aimed at bridging any gaps between these marginalised communities and the wider settled community. With that in mind I approved a series of proposals including the establishment of a Steering Group to oversee the development and implementation of Ireland’s National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy. As part of its work, the new Steering Group, chaired by me and supported by the Department of Justice and Equality, will oversee a consultation process to develop a revised National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy which will now get underway. I am strongly of the view that the time is right to develop a revised strategy to improve outcomes for the Traveller and Roma communities and I look forward to hearing the views of all interested parties*”.

The consultation process will involve 3 phases.

1. Phase 1 is an initial round of consultations to identify the priority themes to be addressed in a revised National Inclusion Strategy.
2. A second phase to identify and agree specific objectives under each of the themes identified in Phase 1.
3. A third phase which will focus on identifying precise and measurable actions and timescales for achievement of each of the objectives that emerged from Phase 2. Thereafter, a final draft proposal for a revised Strategy will be prepared for consideration by Government in October 2015.

The Minister of State is now inviting submissions on the first phase of the consultation process, in relation to the priority themes to be addressed in a revised National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy.

Submissions may be e-mailed to: tig@justice.ie or may be posted to

Traveller and Roma Inclusion Unit
Department of Justice and Equality
Bishop’s Square

Redmond’s Hill
Dublin 2

**The closing date for receipt of submissions for this phase is Friday, 3rd July 2015.**

More details on the consultation process are available at [www.travellerinclusion.ie](http://www.travellerinclusion.ie).

05 June 2015

**Note for Editors**

Ireland’s [National Traveller and Roma Integration Strategy 2011](http://www.travellerinclusion.ie/website/TravPolicy/travinclusionweb.nsf/page/Publications-en) was developed under the EU Framework for the Implementation of National Roma integration Strategies up to 2020. In that context, Member States were invited to prepare, update or develop their national Roma inclusion strategies taking into account their specific circumstances with particular reference to the key priority areas of access to quality education, employment, healthcare, housing and anti-discrimination. Please see [www.travellerinclusion.ie](http://www.travellerinclusion.ie).

Following a 2014 review of the effectiveness of structures for consultation with and improving outcomes for the Traveller and Roma communities, the Department of Justice and Equality (DJE) established a National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy Steering Group to ensure that a renewed emphasis is given across Government to making progress on implementing Ireland’s National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS). Membership of the Group is set out below. The Steering Group is chaired by the Minister of State for New Communities, Culture, Equality and Drugs Strategy and the Minister considers that it is appropriate at this time to undertake a review the existing Strategy with a view to making whatever changes are appropriate by early 2016. The Steering Group will have the key role in overseeing this process.

The process will involve 3 phases. Phase 1 is an initial round of consultations to identify the priority themes to be addressed in a revised National Inclusion Strategy, followed by a second phase to identify and agree specific objectives under each of the themes identified and a third phase which will focus on identifying precise and measurable actions and timescales for achievement of each of the objectives that emerged from Phase 2. Thereafter, a final draft proposal for a revised Strategy will be prepared for consideration by Government.

**Steering Group Membership**

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| Tusla - Child and Family Agency |
| Health Service Executive |
| Traveller Counselling & Psychotherapy Service |
| Involve |
| Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre |
| Department of Children & Youth Affairs |
| Higher Education Authority |
| Western Traveller & Intercultural Development |
| Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine |
| An Garda Síochána |
| Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht |
| Department of Environment, Community & Local Government |
| National Traveller Women’s Forum |
| Irish Traveller Movement |
| Parish of the Travelling People |
| Department of Education & Skills |
| Navan Travellers Workshops |
| Department of Public Expenditure & Reform |
| Bray Travellers C.D.P. |
| Department of Health |
| Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation |
| City and County Managers Association |
| Mincéirs Whiden |
| Department of Social Protection |
| Exchange House Ireland |

### EU Framework

*Ireland’s*[*National Traveller and Roma Integration Strategy 2011*](http://www.travellerinclusion.ie/website/TravPolicy/travinclusionweb.nsf/page/Publications-en)*was developed under the EU Framework for the Implementation of National Roma integration Strategies up to 2020. In that context, Member States were invited to prepare, update or develop their national Roma inclusion strategies taking into account their specific circumstances with particular reference to the key priority area – access to quality education, employment, healthcare, housing and anti-discrimination.*

*As part of the EU Framework, Ireland reports annually to the*[*European Commission*](http://ec.europa.eu/roma)*on progress made regarding implementing the national strategy. A copy of Ireland’s reports and the reports of the European Commission can be found*[here](http://ec.europa.eu/roma).

### Steering Group

*Following a 2014 review of the effectiveness of structures for consultation with and improving outcomes for the Traveller and Roma communities, the Department of Justice & Equality (DJE) established a National Traveller & Roma Inclusion Strategy Steering Group to ensure that a renewed emphasis is given across Government to making progress on implementing Ireland’s National Traveller & Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS). Membership of the Group is set out below.*

### Consultation Process

*During 2015, DJE will be undertaking a wide-ranging consultation process aimed at reviewing Ireland’s existing NTRIS with a view to making whatever changes are appropriate by early 2016. A draft call for*[*submissions*](http://www.travellerinclusion.ie/website/TravPolicy/travinclusionweb.nsf/page/news_and_press-en)*has been prepared and will be published shortly, including on this website.*

### Steering Group Membership

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| National Traveller Women’s Forum |
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| Parish of the Travelling People |
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