



Introduction

Welcome to the latest Roma Support Group e-bulletin. Including:

- Under GDPR, we want to explain how we are respecting your privacy – and hopefully, your continued receipt of our newsletter
 - First speech by a Labour MP – Kate Green - explicitly supporting Roma communities in the UK
 - UN special Rapporteur finds post-Brexit racism in the UK – and makes criticisms of the treatment of Roma (and Gypsy and Traveller) people in the UK
 - The government’s independent review of school exclusions, and our evidence to the inquiry
 - Latest Roma cultural awareness training; 10 July in Central London
 - “Unsettled status” – Migration Observatory report, their conclusions
 - Meeting: “The Rights of the Roma – the struggle of citizenship in post war Czechoslovakia”; 30 May in Central London
 - Glasgow Roma – an unusually good article in the mainstream press from a Scottish reporter; Roma young photographers; a pictorial guide to “Knowing Roma; ten facts that people should know about Roma” produced by Friends of Romano Lav (Glasgow); and a job vacancy in Glasgow
 - “If you could do one thing....to support integration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers”. Roma young children in Bradford; and Roma youth in Slough
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BUT FIRST

Dear subscriber,

Under the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) coming into effect on 25 May 2018, we need to make sure that you agree to continue receiving updates from Roma Support Group.

You are currently on the mailing list for our newsletter, and we only use your contact details to send you this update on our work.

If you are happy to continue receiving our newsletter, do nothing.

If you would no longer like to be contacted by us, however, please let us know by replying to this email. Reply to info@romasupportgroup.org.uk

Thank you

Kate Green MP: speech to National Roma Network conference 14 December 2017

We are very pleased to re-produce the speech that Kate Green MP gave at the recent final meeting of the National Roma Network in London. Kate is the Labour MP for Stretford and Urmston (in Greater Manchester) and she is the co-chair of the Gypsy Roma Traveller All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), and the chair of the Migration APPG. Kate will be co-chairing the forthcoming roundtable event in Commons on Roma & Brexit.

Kate said:

“The UK has a long history of Roma Migration. Two distinct waves took place in recent history: the first after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the second as a result of the expansion of EU. These different periods of migratory behaviour took place in very different contexts, but the obstacles all Roma communities in the UK face suffer from a similar root problem of lack of data.

“Despite claims to the contrary, the government have consistently overlooked the Roma community. Regardless of some positive noises by Ministers, the government’s Race Disparity Audit simply revealed the dearth of information

collected or accessible to government departments on the Roma population in this country. This stretches from uncertainty over basic information such as how many Roma migrants there are in the UK, to outcomes in health, housing, employment amongst many other areas. Yet understanding the service deficiencies which we know exist is important, not only to help improve the experience of the individuals who use them, but also to contribute to a wider integration strategy.

“Instead, the lack of knowledge contributes to a lack of policy interest, and prevents evidence based arguments for new rights and access from being heard. Without suitable data it is difficult to put pressure on government ministers and decision makers to ensure services and expertise exists that meets the needs of Roma communities.

“In some areas, however, some progress has been made. Education is one area where there is slightly better data due to the school census - a statutory census that takes place during the autumn, spring, and summer terms. While the data that does exist shows high exclusion rates and lower outcomes starting right from early years, this has at least meant that advocacy organisations can point to official government data to map key issues and barriers, to develop and press for solutions, and to call for the spread of good practice.

“But even in education, problems exist in a fragmented system: the growth in academies and free schools has made it difficult for pressure for improvements to be applied by local education authorities. Meanwhile, the lack of ring fenced funding, and of staff with relevant expertise and knowledge to provide effective support, shows that while data is important to understand the problems, the appropriate resources and political will are vital to address them.

“Brexit is another pressure on minority groups, including migrant Roma. The resources necessary to tackle the inequalities which Roma experience will be even harder to come by as groups and schemes supporting marginalised communities lose funding they have been receiving from the EU through the European Social Fund. It is vital that the British government commit to, at the very least, replace this funding. But the most pressing issue is the creation of

the new settled status after Brexit. The government has shown little interest in the difficulties marginalised groups may face in obtaining the information and evidence needed to apply for settled status. As a result, some will simply stay without it, unrecorded, under the radar, and even more vulnerable. Indeed, there are already reports of Roma who have arrived here lawfully facing deportation when found homeless or unable to supply documents. There's an urgent need for a communication programme via Roma groups to ensure that clear information is passed on about documentation requirements, application procedures that need to be followed, and sources of independent advice.

“These are just some of the issues faced in addressing the extreme disadvantage and exclusion experienced among Roma communities in this country. We can't be satisfied either with the poor outcomes that they too often experience, or with a lack of information to address them. Good data collection, including in the next census, tailor made policy, and engaging with the Roma community are all vitally needed. Politicians, alongside advocacy groups, must now speak out.

“Thank you”.

RSG news

Our submission and evidence to the UN special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

3 April 2018

Suggestions on relevant civil society organisations, communities and individuals to meet with:

- Staff, volunteers and trustees of Roma Support Group, based in Newham, London. Contact details [here](#).

Information, studies and data on trends and manifestations of discriminations based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin or other status, as well as studies on equality;

- The UK government has recently launched a website [Ethnicity: Facts & Figures](#). This is to illustrate racial disparity in the access to, and provision of, public services. The government consider that this is part of an approach to resolving racial inequalities by “explain or change”. RSG does not accept that this is a possible direction for Roma, as none of the 120 datasets available identify Roma as a distinct ethnicity – and a further 20% in the education field only refer to Roma children/young people in association with Gypsy children/young people. See our [recent critique of this government initiative here](#).

Information and data on racial profiling in policing, racial discrimination in the administration of justice; but also discrimination with regard to access to health, education, decent housing, employment, social services, participation in political life and others; including details on individual cases of violations;

- From the recent [Lammy Review](#) on Race and Criminal Justice System (CJS):

The review also addresses the position of other minorities who are overlooked too often. For example, Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT) are often missing from published statistics about children in the CJS, but according to unofficial estimates, are substantially over-represented in youth custody, for example, making up 12% of children in Secure Training Centres (STC) (p3)

and

There are important blind spots in our justice system. The first of these concerns Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. Though Gypsies, Roma and Irish Travellers represent just 0.1% of the wider population, they are estimated to account for 5% of male prisoners. The reason these figures remain estimates, however, is that Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have not featured in the official monitoring systems across the CJS. The absence of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers from official monitoring has

meant, for example, it is impossible to analyse whether charging rates, sentencing decisions, or reoffending rates are proportionate for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. Ministers have committed to rectifying this problem – the change should be made as soon as possible.(p11)

- There is very little other official published data about the discrimination experienced by Roma. However, Roma Support Group has developed its own evidence base, working alongside Roma volunteers and champions, and other service providers. This includes
 - [access to health programmes](#);
 - Roma perspectives on [education and schools](#);
 - the [exclusion of Roma](#) from schools in England;
 - [Roma Voices in the UK](#);
 - the [impact of social security/welfare changes](#) on Roma;
 - a [commissioned research report](#) on the issue of “rough sleeping” by Roma in central London;
 - [the institutional denial of \(Romanian\) Roma the right to seek work](#), and travel to work, in the London Borough of Brent since 2015, and the policing of this prohibition by Romanian police and UK Visas & Immigration;
 - and our [critique of UK government policy to Roma](#).
- Other important qualitative studies of Roma exclusion and discrimination include:
 - [Evidence collected](#) about the experiences of (mainly) Roma in east Kent of health services (Kent Healthwatch, 2017)
 - [Population, settlement and critical issues](#) for Roma in the UK (Salford University, 2013)
 - [South Yorkshire Roma reports](#) – series of mapping studies and Roma perspectives (Salford University and Migration Yorkshire, 2017)
 - [Variety of resources and reports](#) collated via Migration Yorkshire (up to 2017)
 - Our own series of 22 newsletters (from 2013 onwards) carries a variety of information on issues, incidents and concerns re Roma settlement in the UK, available [here](#)

Assessment of the impact of the institutional and policy framework at the national and local levels, including good practices;

- The main thrust of government policy since 2012 towards GRT communities has been the so-called [Ministerial Working Group report](#) on tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy and Travellers. Roma are only mentioned in relation to commitments on education; the Ministerial Working Group [only met once](#). RSG's critique of the 28 commitments in this report is available [here](#).
- The European Commission has encouraged all member states (including then UK until 2020) to develop policies to secure greater Roma integration. Their most recent evaluation of the UK government's record is that "mainstream approaches aren't working"; a review of their assessment is available [here](#).
- The 2015 UK government (under Prime Minister Cameron and then Prime Minister May) produced no policy in relation to GRT communities. The 2017 UK government policy towards GRT communities was outlined by the junior minister, Lord Bourne, at a recent MHCLG GRT liaison group meeting as being:
 - Responses to the Race Disparity Audit (Ethnicity: Facts & Figures) *op cit*
 - The agreement of six pilot projects – total value £200,000 – for 12 months as agreed by MHCLG, Dept of Health and Dept for Education
 - Development of an agreed integration strategy – following consultation on the recently issued [draft strategy](#)
- RSG is deeply sceptical about this approach. As we have shown, the Race Disparity Audit only referred to Roma in passing, and it is unlikely that any sharp policy developments could emerge out of this blunt tool. The investment of £200,000 for a number of short, 12 months projects (only two of which are likely to focus on the needs of Roma) is minute compared to the sums of, for example, European Strategic & Investment

Funds (such as ESF) which could have been targeted at [GRT communities in England](#) has the government been prepared to support such targeting. Finally, the Integrated Communities Strategy green paper has been drafted in relation to a [government commissioned report](#) from Louise Casey which only mentioned Roma in relation to the supposed problems that they created in local communities (allegedly occupying school places [#1.26], creating rubbish [#3.50], causing anti-social behaviour [#3.50] and causing anxiety by their very presence, [#1.42]).

- Finally, there is the issue of Brexit – the decision of the UK to leave the European Union. This directly impacts on the lives of many EU nationals who have chosen to live in the UK; and clearly, for many Roma who have both chosen to move to the UK and/or been forced to leave their countries of origin (institutional discrimination; naked racism, anti-Gypsyism etc). The UK government is committed to maintaining current agreements for existing migrants – who can apply for permanent residence (to be re-titled settled status) after five years. The major problem for many Roma is that (a) they are fearful of existing forms of administrative removal being practised now by state authorities - [targeted at Roma communities](#); and that (b) future administrative arrangements for applying for settled status could discriminate against those communities which don't have e.g. a formal and regular employment record in the UK; or the assessment of “conduct and criminality” in the assessment of applications for settled status; or use of digital-only platforms for application processes. As Baroness Whitaker said in a debate in the House of Lords (12 December 2017):

The reforms to EU migrants' access to welfare benefits have had a disproportionate impact on Roma well-being and the conditions for assuring their residence in the UK are discriminatory. Five years' continuous residence does not work for family units who go backwards and forwards over the channel for family events and contacts. Family is of particular importance to people who have little confidence in the state, and of course contributes significantly to its members' well-being. It is not clear what will be adduced for the assessment of conduct and criminality. Will it be local

resentment, no matter how prejudiced, or permanent exclusion from school, of which there is now a disproportionate and worrying amount? Will it be civil penalties, such as driving offences, or all criminal offences, no matter how petty? The use of income records as evidence tends to exclude anyone in the informal economy or a family enterprise, and the online stipulation is another barrier to many. Can the Minister specify exactly which documents will be accepted?

Practical recommendations that could be brought before the Government;

- To adopt of a [National Roma Integration Strategy](#). (ref: Ministry Housing Communities & Local Government)
- To conduct an equality impact assessment on the [proposed process of applying for, and being assessed for](#), settled status for Roma who are EU nationals living in the UK (ref: Home Office)
- To support the unqualified right to reside in the UK for all Roma exercising their free movement rights - [under the European Union](#) – to work, or seek work, or for their family members and dependants to also enjoy free movement rights; and for these rights to be also enjoyed by Roma people with vulnerabilities e.g. when homeless (ref: Home Office)
- To explicitly include the issue of Roma (and Gypsy and Traveller) children/young people's exclusion from school, as part of the [Department for Education's present independent assessment of school exclusions](#) (ref: Dept for Education)

[Read the full statement from Professor Tendayi Achiume here.](#)

[End of Mission Statement of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance at the Conclusion of Her Mission to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#)

11 May 2018

We provide extracts (below) from her statement which directly concern Roma people and communities in the UK:

(16) For the sectors covered by the RDA, communities and civil society actors expressed concerns at the disparate definitions of ethnic groupings relied upon across local and regional authorities that the national audit depends upon. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities, who have historically and systematically been rendered invisible by government data collection omissions expressed deep concern with how these omissions risk under-representing the extent of their marginalization. These concerns are valid. Government authorities assured me these are concerns they take seriously, and I strongly urge them to honour their obligations to guarantee the substantive equality of GRT communities.

(21) With respect to education, the situation is analogously grim. Race and ethnicity continue to have a significant impact on success. The circumstances confronting GRT are especially dire where educational outcomes (progress and attainment) concerned. In 2015/16, pupils from the Traveller of Irish Heritage and Gypsy/Roma ethnic groups had the highest rates of both fixed period and permanent exclusions. More than half of Traveller of Irish Heritage and Gypsy/Roma pupils received temporary ('fixed period') exclusions at secondary schools while in special schools Black Caribbean pupils had the next highest rate of temporary exclusions, at 32.01% after Irish Travellers.

(22) In my consultations with GRT communities in England, and Scotland a number of disturbing trends emerged as central to helping explain the statistics above. These communities noted the dearth of GRT teachers in schools across the UK and the predominance of stereotypes inside and outside the classroom that GRT children are incapable of educational advancement and thus not worthy of the investment in educational resources that characterize the experiences of other children. I heard a testimonial from a bright, 15-year-old advocate for GRT children who aspires to be an oncologist. Despite her strong academic performance, she recounted pervasive bullying on the basis of her ethnicity. She also explained how her school curriculum contains virtually no representation of her culture, which further compounded her sense of alienation. Others corroborated this testimony and provided examples of practices and attitudes towards GRT children that together

achieve the informal but effective exclusion of these children from the schools across the country. I recommend that all countries of the UK must take steps to address both formal and informal exclusion of GRT children and youth from schools.

(49) Many of the communities and organizations with whom I consulted communicated the devastating racial impact of criminal justice law and policy in the UK. The Lammy Review, an independent review commissioned by the UK government, captures the national picture in this regard, providing an overview of how at every stage in the criminal justice process—from stops and searches to sentencing—racial and ethnic minority communities are the disproportionate target. It also highlights the complex picture of differential disparity within racial and ethnic minority communities. For example, Blacks make up 3% of the UK population but in 2015/16 accounted for 12% of the adult prison population and more than 20% of children in custody. Other racial and ethnic minority groups were also overrepresented but to a lesser degree. The Lammy Review also highlights the overrepresentation of GRT children in Secure Training Centres, and a striking increase in Muslim prisoners across different ethnicities from about 8900 to 13200 over the last decade. Muslims, who are about 5% of the UK population, now make up about 15% of the prison population, and this dramatic rise is not associated with terrorism offences, according to the Lammy Review.

(50) Data on GRT in the criminal justice system is sorely lacking, making it difficult even to ascertain the extent of the disparate impact of this system on these communities. This is a problem that requires urgent rectification, not least because what estimates there are point to serious overrepresentation of these communities in the prison system.

(53) These racially disparate figures should not be assumed by any means to reflect proven disparate levels of criminality among racial and ethnic minorities. For example, White people are more likely to have drugs found on their person during stops and searches, but Black people are eight times more likely to be subject to such stops. There can be no question that a pervasive and officially tolerated culture of racial profiling is at work in certain police forces, and that racial and ethnic minority children and youth are among the most vulnerable. In some parts of the UK, such as Glasgow, GRT children and

youth are on the front lines of racial and ethnic profiling. In consultations, racial and ethnic minority communities reported the prevalence of racial and gender stereotypes as a result of which black and brown children—especially boys—are presumptively treated as full grown adults of an inherently dangerous and violent nature. Given the disproportionate use of police violence against black and brown boys, even where the evidence suggests higher rates of criminal charging for white boys, the concerns of racial and ethnic minority communities offer the most persuasive explanation for the disparities.

(54) Racial and ethnic minority offenders are overrepresented in both the adult (25%) and youth (40%) prison estates. While there has been a reduction in the overall number of children entering the youth justice system for the first time, not all children have benefitted equally from this reduction. Among First Time Entrants (FTEs), from March 2006 to March 2016 the number of racial and ethnic minority children entering the youth justice system fell by 72% compared with an 86% drop for white children. Overrepresentation is more acute among black, Muslim and GRT youth. As of September 2017, racial and ethnic minority children accounted for 45% (397) of imprisoned youth, while racial and ethnic minority represent 17% of the national youth population.

RSG's submission to the government independent inquiry into school exclusions

1 We welcome the establishment of this independent inquiry into school exclusions. We think that the terms of reference are relevant. We are particularly interested in the expert group who will assist in the process:

The group will provide expertise on the school system and perspectives of pupils more likely to be excluded.

We would be interested to know who is providing the “perspectives” of Roma pupils who you identify as one of the pupil groups more likely to be excluded.

2 We would like the inquiry to consider the report we produced last autumn, *Fulfilling their potential? Exclusion of Roma pupils in the English educational system*¹. This report confirmed the widely accepted conclusion that “Gypsy/Roma” pupils were much more likely to be excluded from English schools. It also found that:

- These higher rates of exclusion (four times higher than all pupils exclusion rates) have been further widening in the last four years, since 2014/15
- That these differences affect both permanent and fixed term exclusions
- That some towns and cities have even higher rates of exclusion for Gypsy/Roma pupils (e.g. Rotherham and Sheffield)
- And some towns and cities have very low rates of Gypsy/Roma exclusion – indeed, lower than the (already low) levels of exclusion in those authorities (e.g. Newcastle and Bradford)

3 The report went on to suggest a range of factors within the English educational system, the operation of school exclusions, and the way in which schools respond to Roma students – all of which might influence this high rate of exclusion. The report further identified a range of factors that might mean some Roma children and young people were more likely to experience school exclusion.

4 The report made five recommendations. The first recommendation might be partially met by the convening of this inquiry. However, we are concerned that there doesn't appear to be any terms of reference which deal with the position of pupils who have been permanently excluded from school, and what then happens to them. This concern is rooted in the awareness that in some 'high excluding' authorities, pupil referral units (PRUs) have sizeable proportion of Roma pupils. We are intensely aware of the importance of these young people not being able to leave the education system equipped with the knowledge to develop their opportunities in the UK. The other recommendations were:

¹https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2lw1_Krq5gnell0TmdtUWcyTFE/view

- to investigate how the appeal system operates for Roma pupils, and especially with the involvement and awareness of their parents
- to confirm the Department for Education is fulfilling its requirements under the Equality Act to ensure that particular groups (like Gypsy/Roma); and in particular, how Department is ensuring that its own statutory guidance issued to schools on school exclusions is being followed for Roma pupils. We believe that this requires a dedicated resource within the Department.
- to ensure that within each authority where there is a sizeable proportion of Roma pupils, there is a skilled and knowledgeable member of the leadership team who can work alongside of schools and Roma pupils and their communities, to improve the outcomes for Roma pupils. We would urge individual schools to similarly invest and develop the abilities and knowledge of the school leadership team re Roma pupils progression and inclusion
- finally, to confirm that the exclusion procedures in academy schools are sufficiently strong and liable to oversight, which might have been eroded with changing balance between academy schools, academy trusts, RSCs and local education authorities.

5 We think that members of the inquiry team will be familiar with the challenges that Roma face in their countries of origin. The recent Fundamental Rights Agency report *Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey Roma – Selected finding*², is a very useful summary of the major issues of:

- absence of provision in early years;
- levels of attendance;
- early leaving of education;
- segregation in schools and
- levels of attainment

Most Roma students in England enjoy much more favourable conditions than in their countries of origin. We think that this is consistently supported by

²<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/eumidis-ii-roma-selected-findings> (pp23-28)

parents' having greater confidence in the English educational system. Nevertheless, issues around exclusion are evident.

We also think that it is worthwhile reminding members of the inquiry that most Roma pupils – in contrast of Traveller and Gypsy children - arrive in English schools with very little English fluency. Additionally, their families' migrant status also influences the availability of resources (e.g. access to free school meals³ and hence, eligibility for Pupil Premium). Cultural attributes of (migrant) Roma – whilst having echoes within indigenous Traveller and Gypsy communities – are also significantly different. There should be caution to using general “GRT” approaches to Roma pupils educational development.

6 Finally, we would like to draw the inquiry's attention to two additional points. The latest statutory guidance to schools about exclusions from the Department⁴ (Sept 2017) states:

Statutory guidance to the head teacher on the exclusion of pupils from groups with disproportionately high rates of exclusion

21. The exclusion rates for certain groups of pupils are consistently higher than average. This includes: pupils with SEN; pupils eligible for free school meals; looked after children; and pupils from certain ethnic groups. The ethnic groups with the highest rates of exclusion are: Gypsy/Roma; Travellers of Irish Heritage; and Caribbean pupils.

22. In addition to the approaches on early intervention set out above, the head teacher should consider what extra support might be needed to identify and address the needs of pupils from these groups in order to reduce their risk of exclusion. For example, schools might draw on the support of Traveller Education Services, or other professionals, to help build trust when engaging with families from Traveller communities.

³ Due to the removal of EU nationals rights to certain social security benefits which act as 'passported benefits' for free school meals

⁴https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/641418/20170831_Exclusion_Stat_guidance_Web_version.pdf

7 Can the inquiry determine (a) if any schools with high exclusion rates for Roma pupils have considered 'extra support' to address the needs of Roma pupils; and (b) if they have, what 'extra support' has been utilised? We are keen to hear these answers as the guidance examples schools drawing on the support e.g. of Traveller Education Services (TES). We are aware that many Roma children – and their schools - have been supported by local TESs but in the last five years, we are also aware that there has been an extensive closure of these TESs throughout the country. So what forms of 'extra support' have schools drawn upon?

8 Finally, a more minor point. In the statistical data made available by the Department, it has been common for the spreadsheets to include tables showing the numbers of excluded pupils, by ethnicity, at a local authority level. This is available currently (for 2015-16 exclusions) within 'underlying data' table SFR35_2017_LA_characteristics. However, for the data series issued 21 July 2016⁵ (covering school exclusions 2014-15), the 'underlying data' zip files promised to contain the information about exclusion by ethnicity at a local authority level – but it was absent. In answer to a query, staff at the *Education Standards Evidence and Dissemination Division* emailed on 13 January 2017:

Please accept our apologies that this data is not currently included in the underlying data files as stated, it will be published in due course.

They were unable to say when this data would be published. It is still not available in May 2018. Can you make sure that this omission is rectified?

9 We would be pleased to assist with any further information the inquiry team would like to consider.

Training for professionals – Roma cultural awareness

10 July 2018, 10am – 4pm, Central London venue

⁵<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england-2014-to-2015>

Who should attend this training?

This training is beneficial for those working in Children's services (including adoption/fostering teams), Adult social services, Family intervention and support services, Children's Centres, Schools, Health services including safeguarding leads, Police , Youth services , and third sector organisations.

Why should you attend this training?

This training can make a real difference to your engagement with Roma. Better understanding promotes confidence and better decisions. This is further augmented by having relevant case studies and practical engagement tools to hand. Trainers deliver interactive presentations including films and forum theatre performance and facilitate seminar discussions. The session also provides the opportunity to meet other practitioners working with Roma and share examples of good practice.

Aims

Many practitioners are dealing with an increasing number of difficult cases which involve East European Roma. The training will enable professionals to explore issues related to experiences from countries of origin, cultural customs and taboos, understanding of UK norms and expectations and impact on communication and engagement with services and professionals. We will also look at examples of good practice and practical ways to improve engagement and communication with migrant Roma communities in the UK.

Learning Outcomes

- Know the basic facts related to the Roma history, origins, languages spoken, culture and customs relevant in a professional context
- Understand the barriers to accessing services
- Identify taboos and culturally sensitive issues
- Understand Roma experience of authorities
- Understand key concerns affecting Roma children and adults
- Develop practical tools for engagement
- Build networks with other professionals

How to book. Booking is essential

Visit our website: [Roma Support Group - training](#)

Or email us: rsep@romasupportgroup.org.uk

Cost:

Public and Charity sector: £130

Small charities (maximum 5 paid staff): £100

Independent professionals: £100

Students: £80

Commercial sector: £170

10% off for early bookings - received by 31 May 2018

If you have any questions please contact:

- Gaba on 07751496920 (Monday – Thursday, 9am - 3pm)
- Marta on 02075118245 (Friday only - 10.30am - 5pm)

Unsettled Status? Which EU Citizens are at Risk of Failing to Secure their Rights after Brexit?

Migration Observatory report

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/reports/unsettled-status-which-eu-citizens-are-at-risk-of-failing-to-secure-their-rights-after-brexit/>

If the government's proposal for a user-friendly online system goes ahead, the large majority of EU citizens should not have difficulty making an application. EU citizens in the UK have high average levels of education, a large majority are working, most are relatively young and most do not report any problems such as low language ability or poor health. The share of EU citizens who are not

internet users is low, so most should be in a good position to navigate an online application system.

This report has outlined the characteristics of people whose cases are more complex. The nature and severity of the barriers they face will vary and thus are difficult to compare among each other. However, a few observations are warranted.

First, simply having one of the characteristics identified in this report does not mean that a person will fail to secure settled status. People are likely to face greater difficulties if there is a combination of factors. For example, barriers to access due to language, disability or lack of digital literacy will be most relevant for people with complex cases because they lack evidence, or for those who are isolated and cannot easily rely on friends and family for help.

Second, the individuals who are most likely to be excluded from the settled status process are those who are already vulnerable for other reasons. This includes victims of abuse and exploitation, and isolated people who are not participating in mainstream institutions such as banking and formal work or study. As a percentage of the EU citizen population, the number of people falling into these 'most vulnerable' categories is likely to be small. However, available data suggest figures in the tens of thousands for groups such as women experiencing domestic abuse and young people not in education, employment or training.

Many of these people may need help completing the process. Some will be on low incomes and thus unable to afford professional advice from immigration lawyers or regulated advisors, which can be expensive. The simpler the settled status application process, the less likely it is that applicants will need advice in order to complete it. However, accurate advice about eligibility and how to apply may still be important for many of the people described in this report, and their ability to do so will be influenced by policy decisions such as what kinds of informal evidence can be accepted.

Third, policy decisions about the evidence that can be accepted are likely to be important for a significant minority of EU citizens. For a host of reasons outlined in this report, some people may have left very little paper trail. An estimated 3.4% of adults in the UK population do not have a bank account, and

EU citizens in this position may also have limited evidence of their daily life in the UK. Other people in this category include young adults living with their parents, people at home caring for family members, young people not in education, employment or training, self-employed in low-skilled occupations, and EU citizens without passports. For these people, the important policy questions will be what kinds of 'informal' evidence is accepted and how comprehensive the coverage of the 5 years of residence needs to be, since tracking down complex evidence from multiple different sources will be more difficult and more likely to put people off applying, especially for those who already find the process difficult to navigate due to language barriers, health problems or chaotic lifestyles.

Finally, arguably the biggest challenge if the government aims for comprehensive take-up of settled status is awareness. There are some large groups of people who would not normally be classified as 'vulnerable' but who may not realise that they need to apply, from children to very long-term residents to people who already hold permanent residence documents. These people's inclusion in the process will be in part a function of how well accurate information is circulated and how broadly the programme can be publicised. Having a deadline can encourage more people to apply who might otherwise postpone the task indefinitely (Altmann et al, 2017). But if a significant number of eligible people do not apply, enforcing a strict deadline would increase the illegally resident population. As a result, perhaps one of the most important unresolved policy questions affecting the completeness of the settled status process is what contingency plans will be in place for people who do not apply by the deadline.

Meeting

The Rights of the Roma: The Struggle of Citizenship in Postwar Czechoslovakia

Rethinking Modern Europe seminar, Institute of Historical Research in collaboration with the Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, hosted by The Wiener Library

Round table: Celia Donert, University of Liverpool; Michael Stewart, University College London; and Becky Taylor, University of East Anglia.

Date: 30 May 2018

Time: 6.00 – 7.30

Venue: The Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide, [29 Russell Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 5DP](#).

Celia Donert's *The Rights of the Roma* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) writes Romani struggles for citizenship into the history of human rights in socialist and post-socialist Eastern Europe. Roma often appear as victims in human rights narratives; instead, this book draws on extensive original research in Czech and Slovak archives, sociological and ethnographic studies, and oral histories to foreground Romani activists as advocates for their own rights under socialism. Exploring how Roma responded to the legacies of genocide and the building of socialism, this vivid social and political history also sheds new light on human rights in twentieth-century Czechoslovakia. The post-socialist human rights movement did not spring from the dissident movements of the 1970s, but rather emerged in response to the collapse of socialist citizenship after 1989.

Free event open to all. Limited spaces, book [here](#).

Glasgow

“The Roma are yet again scapegoats for society’s ills”

We are pleased to provide a link to this all-to-rare example of journalism from the Scottish-based writer, Kevin McKenna. It appeared in The Observer paper on 10 December 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/dec/10/roma-again-scapegoats-for-ills-of-society>

Glasgow again

10 facts you might know about Roma – Friends of Romano Lav

A wonderfully innovative short pictorial A Guide to Knowing Roma. Click here.

<http://www.masqmag.com/blog/2017/2/22/the-roma-guide>

Glasgow again

Govanhill – seen through the eyes of young Roma photographers

Click here.

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15916388.Govanhill_seen_through_the_eyes_of_young_Roma_photographers/#gallery9

Glasgow again

Job vacancy – project co-ordinator, Friends of Romano Lav (Glasgow)

Closing date Thursday 31 May. For details of the job and how to apply, see here.

Where next for migrant Roma communities post Brexit?

Open Democracy, 9 May 2018

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/uk/cristian-tileag-salomea-popoviciu/where-next-for-migrant-roma-communities-post-brexit>

.....and finally

If you could do one thing.....; the integration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

British Academy for Humanities and Social Sciences

Brief examples of a nursery school and a voluntary youth project that work really effectively with Roma children, young people and parents. See the full report here.

St Edmund's Nursery School and Children's Centre: Integrating Roma children from Central and Eastern Europe into early years education

Chapter 3: pp21-26

Aik Saath, Slough: Promoting social integration through youth-led heritage and oral history projects

Chapter 6; pp43-49

<https://www.britac.ac.uk/sites/default/files/British%20Academy%20YCDOT%20Case%20Studies.pdf>
