

# Roma and Child Protection Working Group

**Date:** Monday 25th November 2024

**Time:** 11am to 12.30 pm

**Location:** Google Meets [online]

**Attendees:** Mihai, Tyanna-May, Dada, Katarina, Joanna, Simona

## Agenda and Minutes

Agenda Items	Minutes	Action Items
<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mihai to open the meeting and welcome attendees.</li><li>Introducing new attendees Joanna and possibly Filip.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Joanna: Lancaster University in the Sociology Department - social work specialism; experience working with different Roma organisations.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Works with Dada at Law for Life - focus on Child Protection Services and anti-discrimination.</li><li>Engagement lead for child and family justice at Lancaster University.</li></ul></li></ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 1: Cases/problems we would like to discuss.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>15 minutes to be spent discussing specific cases that we may be concerned about so we can come together and suggest ways forward.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No updates.</li></ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 2: An update from last month's action points.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mihai to ask attendees who were tasked</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Everyone in the process of committing to the action points.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Iveta to follow up with previous action points from the 1st meeting and update the group in the</li></ul>

<p>with an action point last month if there have been any updates/progresses.</p>		<p>next meeting.</p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 3: Discuss our approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How can we approach our policy work on a national level? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Child practice safeguarding review.</li> <li>○ Writing to the DoF to provide Roma-led training for social workers.</li> <li>○ National pilot program for child protection.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● How can we approach our policy work on a local level? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Raising the problem with councillors and MPs to be presented in parliament.</li> <li>○ Supporting Roma families and helping them understand mistakes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Any other suggestions?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outlook for the <b>next year</b>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Asking for a review from the case in Leeds is the first step - what went wrong?</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Dada: Joanna has submitted a bid to her university before to do a pilot project to strengthen Roma advocacy.</li> <li>● Joanna: proposed to create a network to support Roma advocates. Supporting career projections, wellbeing, and connecting them with materials and resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding : £18,000.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Joanna: suggests we create a methodology that would measure the impact of these initiatives under the advocacy network - to increase likelihood for policymakers to take it under consideration.</li> <li>● Tyanna: Contacting policy institutes who have a particular focus on social work, child protection, minority rights to help with research to help with methodology and possible funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joanna is currently speaking to the data science institute at Lancaster to see how we can create a methodology.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Dada: strengthening Roma advocacy is the number one mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Creating a hub for Roma advocates, creating resources.</li> <li>○ Partnership with local authority where Roma advocates are placed within specific localities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Share the map of different Roma services in the UK.</li> <li>● <a href="https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/services-directory/">https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/services-directory/</a></li> <li>● Tyanna to research potential policy institutes who are willing to help on methodology and possible funding.</li> <li>● Tyanna to research organisations that are involved in the conversation of child protection within the BAME community.</li> <li>● Gather information to add on the webpage - materials, contacts - follow the model of the RSG Brexit page.</li> <li>● Mihai to contact Marc Willers KC about</li> </ul>

	<p>and that is how we can collect data for methodology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Black, Minority Ethnic Groups beginning to be heard more; Nuffield Foundation (one of the places we approach for help), National Organisations that support this initiative.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Important that we establish what does strengthening Roma advocacy mean? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mihai: increasing our capacity, knowledge, and skills in child protection cases, and advocate for them in the process.</li> <li>○ Tyanna: physical presence of Roma social workers.</li> <li>○ Joanna: support for workers and clients, resources and materials.</li> <li>○ Increasing our network of Roma family lawyers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Katarina: Bradford's situation is very bad. Roma influence limited to working as interpreters. Bradford's attitude is one where they do not bother with Roma involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dada: Find a way to create engagement with councils in key geographical areas.</li> <li>● Joanna: We should check if other communities are facing similar dismissive practices.</li> </ul> <p>Mihai: Have a page on the RSG website and other charities websites where people can find relevant information, access to lawyers, clinics, materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Family Rights Group would like to have this on their page as well as they are a larger profile.</li> </ul> <p>Tyanna: How do we get Roma rights on the same level as BAME rights?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Changing the narrative and</li> </ul>	<p>representation on the Leeds case and pursuing a public review.</p>
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	<p>perception around Roma and why they should be listened to and should receive the help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Joanna: By receiving better data especially from the Bradford community and other localities facing these problems can we then present the information to the relevant authority to justify this help.</li>   <li>● Public review of the Leeds case - collective effort with the original signatories of the first letter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Send a new document about a public review of the Leeds case that we sent to the signatories of the first letter.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Closing Remarks and Reminders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● General questions.</li> <li>● Agreeing on the next meeting date.</li> <li>● What needs to be done before the next meeting?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Before the next meeting we should start collating resources for the website which will include materials on: legal help, advice, clinics.</li> <li>● <b>Next meeting date: 20 January, 11am to 12.30pm</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Joanna to look into the practicalities of a safeguarding review and what steps we would need to take - once we know more we will agree the next steps.</li> <li>● Mihai to invite Joanna and Dada to the Roma Refugee and Migrant's Forum on the 28th January.</li> </ul>