



GENERAL ELECTION 2011

A Reasonable Ask

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT

Recognise Travellers as an Ethnic Group

Ensure the Recommendations of the All Ireland Traveller Health Study are Implemented Immediately

A strengthened Equality and Human Rights Infrastructure in Ireland

Support Traveller Participation in Society

Overturn Traveller Education Cuts

Newly establish a Traveller Accommodation Agency

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*The Irish Traveller Movement calls on
all political parties, candidates and
voters to hear the Traveller Voice in
Ireland*

6 PRIORITIES FOR TRAVELLERS



1) Recognise Travellers as an Ethnic Group. Priority: Within the first year of the new Government – to introduce legislative change to recognise ethnicity for Irish Travellers. Legal status of ethnicity is key to solving issues faced by the community. The new Government must:

- Reform law to ensure Traveller Ethnicity is protected in line with international law
- Invest in integration between Travellers and the majority
- Implement services in culturally appropriate ways

2) Ensure the Recommendations of the All Ireland Traveller Health Study are implemented:

Priority: That Traveller health policy is prioritised within the HSE. A comprehensive peer led Traveller health study found Traveller health far behind that of the general population for e.g. Traveller women live 11 years less than the general population and Traveller men 15 years less. Infant mortality rates are three and a half times the national average. Specific targeted measures are required to ensure health improvements for Travellers. The new Government must:

- Integrate Traveller health policy across all Health Service Policy
- Implement the recommendations of the All Ireland Traveller Health Study

3) A Strengthened Equality and Human Rights Infrastructure in Ireland: Priority: Invest in human rights and equality bodies and provide greater protection for Travellers. The Equality and Human Rights infrastructure has been dismantled by loss of independence and crippling financial cuts. This has had a serious negative impact on Travellers accessing their rights and entitlements. The new Government must:

- Reinvest in the human rights and equality bodies that allows for proactive promotion of equality and human rights
- Strengthen the Equality Legislation to include protection under a socio economic ground
- Reverse the legal change that removed licensed premises from the Equality Tribunal remit

4) Support Traveller Participation in Society: Priority: Ensure Traveller organisations are funded locally and nationally by reversing current cuts and support their autonomy. Traveller organisations are key to ensuring Travellers participation. They are currently threatened with forced mergers under the local development programme. The new Government must:

- Support independent Traveller organisations
- Reverse the decision to merge Traveller community development projects into local partnerships and protect the Traveller CDP budget
- Ring fence the National Networks budget that tackles poverty and social inclusion.
- Resource the work of the Irish Traveller Movement

5) Overturn the Traveller Education Cuts Priority: Education is the cornerstone of equality and vital for Traveller's integration. The Traveller Education budget has been disproportionately cut with the removal of Visiting Teacher Services, Resource Teachers, the Capitation Grant and School Transport Services: The new Government must:

- Reverse these cuts immediately
- Evaluate and review current Traveller education supports in line with Government recommendations
- Ring fence resources for Traveller education

6) Newly Establish a Traveller Accommodation Agency: Priority: For all Travellers to be appropriately accommodated with their cultural rights intact. Establish a National Traveller Accommodation Agency. Over 12 years of Traveller Accommodation Programmes have failed to provide meaningful culturally appropriate accommodation - with Travellers being forced to accept standard housing. The new Government must:

- Set up a Traveller Accommodation Agency that can deliver and will cost less
- Ring fence an appropriate budget for Traveller accommodation
- Respect nomadism and deliver a network of transient sites