



### Employment:

- Traveller Economy - value placed on Travellers who trade, deal in scrap/horses as a way of making a living not a way of crime.
- Sometimes Travellers don't get jobs because they are Travellers. We would have more protection under the current law to challenge this and could even see the introduction of positive discrimination laws that encourage employers to provide jobs to Travellers through government funded schemes.

### Health:

- Because Traveller Culture would be recognised Traveller's living conditions could improve, therefore Travellers' health could improve.
- Traveller culture could be included in design/delivery of health services.
- Travellers could live longer.

### Politics:

In Romania, Hungary and Roma Gypsies are recognised as an ethnic minority group so the government there have to keep places for Roma gypsies in their Government. The same could happen in Ireland if Traveller Ethnicity was recognised.

*Would it mean I would not be Irish anymore?*

No, Travellers are born in Ireland which makes us Irish - nothing can take that away!!

**BEING IRISH IS OUR NATIONALITY,  
BEING A TRAVELLER IS OUR ETHNICITY.**

*If I am getting social welfare benefits, will my benefits be affected?*

No, like everyone, Travellers are means tested to see if they are entitled to receive social welfare. Everyone is examined on the basis of their means (ie: how much money they have) and not on their identity. So if a Traveller is entitled to receive social welfare benefits they will.

*Would it separate Travellers and Settled People further?*

No. If Traveller ethnicity was recognised by Settled people they may start to understand Travellers better which may bring Travellers and Settled people closer together.

*How to get involved in ITM's Ethnicity Campaign*

If you would like to support Travellers seeking recognition of their ethnicity you can do so by contacting ITM offices on 01 679 6577 or by logging on to our website **www.itmtrav.ie** where you can sign a petition that calls on the Irish Government to recognise Travellers as an ethnic minority group.

TRAVELLER ETHNICITY



## TRAVELLER ETHNICITY



### What makes us Travellers?

- Born into family
- Religion
- Language
- Beliefs/values
- Way of life
- Culture
- History

# WHAT DOES ETHNICITY MEAN?

*Ethnicity is a fancy word which means: What makes you; YOU*

## EVERYONE HAS AN ETHNICITY

Ethnicity:	What makes you a Traveller?
Family	Family
Religion	Religion
Language	Language
History	History
Culture / way of life	Culture
Beliefs/values	Beliefs/Values

### Irish Ethnic Minority Group;

Travellers are an Irish ethnic minority group because we are a small Irish community who share the same culture / way of life, language, belief values and history.

However, this ethnic minority status is not recognised by the government. It is a basic human right to have our ethnicity and identity recognised.



### Issues Affecting Travellers Today:

- Culture not recognised or valued
- High levels of racism and discrimination
- Not able to travel anymore
- Traveller identity not recognised in schools
- We die younger than country people
- Not many people will give us a job

### What would change if our ethnicity was recognised?

- Things wouldn't change over night but we would have more protection under international human rights law and under equality laws and the Constitution in Ireland.
- The government would be placing a value on our culture; other people in society may see Travellers more positively.

### Accommodation:

- Nomadism would be recognised. We could use our status as an ethnic minority to campaign and put pressure on the government to create laws that respect the Traveller culture and strike down laws that attack our culture.
- Local authorities are already obliged to provide proper Traveller accommodation but have failed to do so.

If Travellers were recognised as an ethnic minority we could put pressure on Councils to provide this accommodation by using international law as a campaign and lobbying tool.

### Culture:

- Government would have to protect Traveller Culture from dying out. They may provide funds to keep travelling alive, for the teaching of Cant to Traveller Children etc.

### Discrimination/Racism:

- We would have the same level of protection under international laws as all other ethnic groups around the world.

### Education:

- Traveller Culture may be recognised in schools.
- Traveller Culture may be taught to all children in schools.
- More Travellers may stay on in education.
- Children whose families travel may not lose out on education.

