

# TRAVELLER HOMES NOW

## THIRD MONITORING REPORT

### NOVEMBER 2019



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## INTRODUCTION TO THE TRAVELLER HOMES NOW THIRD MONITORING REPORT

Travellers in Galway City and County are demanding quality culturally appropriate accommodation. They are challenging the substandard conditions that the community are living in across Galway. GTM is facilitating the Traveller Homes Now campaign to support the community in their fight – their fight for a home, their fight for their cultural rights to be respected, their fight to make sure future generations will not have to live in these same conditions. GTM aims to achieve full equality for Travellers; and the participation of Travellers in the social, economic, political and cultural life; as well as the broader enhancement of social justice and human rights.

This report assesses the compliance of the Irish State and Local Authorities on their obligations as set down in domestic policy and law and under the UN Convention for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The data for this third and final report was collected between September and November of this year. The benchmarks used were those identified and monitored for the first and second reports. Peer researchers recorded if there had been any progress in meeting these benchmarks for change and recorded tenant's own advocacy efforts and the respective Council's responses. It assesses progress between May 2019 and November 2019.

The reports were compiled using baseline data on the standard of Traveller specific accommodation in Galway and highlighted the substandard living conditions experienced by Traveller families across the city and county. The methodology used in all three reports was a Traveller peer led data gathering model focusing on the 18 sites and group housing schemes. The reports highlight that the Traveller family tenants of Galway City and Galway County Councils are experiencing extremely poor, unsafe and unhealthy accommodation conditions, which are in violation of fundamental international human rights standards for habitable housing and accommodation. It documents the breaches of human rights standards outlined by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its General Comment NO.4: The Right to Adequate Housing.



# PROGRESS TO DATE IN RELATION TO THE TRAVELLER HOMES NOW CAMPAIGN

The sections below outline the work of the Traveller Homes Now campaign since its inception in 2017.



## Local Elections

GTM made the Traveller Homes Now campaign a local election issue. Members of the Traveller community called for change as part of the Local Traveller Action groups in Galway City and County. The GTM election strategy work began in January 2019 and is ongoing with preparations underway for the general election planned for 2020. Candidates were asked to support the demands of the Traveller accommodation campaign by agreeing to prioritise the issue of Traveller accommodation in their manifestoes. Members of the Traveller community in Galway City and County participated in voter awareness workshops and were actively involved in the Equality Votes Galway campaign calling for greater accountability from Local Government. Members of the Traveller community also worked with Minceir Whiden - a Traveller only Forum calling for an end to racism and discrimination in Ireland. A call was made for the Irish State to show leadership and end the institutionalised racism



experienced by the Traveller Community Candidates were also asked to support the ENAR Anti-Racism Election Protocol at an event on the 21st of March, International Day Against Racism and were asked about their positions on equality issues including Traveller accommodation.

## Galway City Council & Galway County Council Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAPs):

The Galway City and County Traveller Accommodation Plans were developed in 2019 and adopted by the Councils. GTM made submissions to both Councils however we were not satisfied with the final Traveller Accommodation Plans.

Traveller homelessness is increasing - Census 2016 recorded the rate of Traveller homelessness as 13

times that of general population. There needs to be specific targets set at a local level in relation to reducing the incidence of homelessness

The Galway City TAP 2019-2024 is flawed and will not meet the projected needs of the Traveller community over its lifetime. The cultural rights of the Traveller community are not protected by

the plan and the sad element is that families who have been waiting for the provision of culturally appropriate accommodation are being forced into housing. The nomadic needs of the Traveller community are not being met as currently the so-called transient site is being used to accommodate families on a permanent basis. There are no actions identified in the plan that will rectify this. There is systemic failure in meeting the needs of the Traveller community. The Local Traveller Accommodation Committee is not fit for purpose. Galway City Council continues to fail to draw down its Traveller accommodation budget.

The Galway County TAP 2019-2024 is flawed and will not meet the projected needs of the Traveller community over its lifetime. County – Traveller specific accommodation in the main is substandard and insufficient. There are no new plans for the development of Traveller specific accommodation despite a pressing need. There are no plans for the development of transient sites to support Traveller's nomadic culture despite provisions within the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act which necessitates supporting nomadic culture. There is systemic failure in meeting the cultural needs of the Traveller community. The majority of accommodation provision in County Galway is through Standard Housing and HAP which does not offer culturally adequate or appropriate accommodation.

Both local authorities have failed to meet their targets over a 15-year period and now unfortunately the new TAPs are weak and do not inspire confidence that the targets to meet the accommodation needs of the Traveller community will ever be delivered. This cannot continue and we propose that the responsibility for the provision of culturally-appropriate accommodation be taken away from the local authorities.

## Expert Review Submissions:

The Traveller Accommodation Expert Group was established in 2018 by Minister Damien English to review the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 and other legislation impacting on the provision and delivery of accommodation for Travellers.



GTM made a submission in December 2018 and attended a stakeholder meeting and presented the views and perspectives of members of the Traveller community Galway City and County early in the new year. Since the second report the Expert Group have reported, and the following are the recommendations:

- The establishment of the National Traveller Accommodation Authority.
- Temporary suspension of Part 8 in the development of Traveller Specific Accommodation.
- The repeal of the Trespass Legislation.
- The range of recommendations in the report to address the inconsistencies of the Social Housing Assessments regarding Travellers.

## ENAR consultation re CERD shadow report

The Irish Government is presenting its State Report to the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination committee in Geneva for examination in December 2019

Galway Traveller Movement and members of the Traveller movement from Galway City and County participated in the development of the ENAR alternative report on Racial Discrimination in Ireland – A collective civil society perspective. The issue of accommodation and housing rights was a constant theme throughout the consultation, with the lack of culturally appropriate accommodation framed as a denial of cultural rights.



# THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

## - INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS

Tenants on the different sites and group housing schemes in Galway City and County identified twelve breaches of the Human Rights Standards outlined by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its General Comment Number 4: The Right to Adequate Housing (1991) which were included in the First and Second Monitoring Reports. This report assesses whether progress has been made to address these breaches.

The breaches are listed below:

BREACH 1	HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD	NATIONAL STANDARD
Traveller families reporting overcrowding	<p><i>"Adequate housing must provide the inhabitants with adequate space and protect them from cold, damp, heat, rain, wind or other threats to health, structural hazards and disease vectors."</i></p> <p>CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (d)</p>	<p>The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998) places a duty on Local Authorities to <i>"adopt as respects their functional area an accommodation programme....and shall specify in that accommodation programme the accommodation needs of Travellers and the provision of accommodation required to address these needs,"</i> for a 5 year period</p> <p>(Section 7) The Housing Act (1988) placed a responsibility on each Local Authority to assess need, provide housing directly or with other agencies, and make payments to cover the costs of homelessness provision.</p>
BREACH 2	HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD	NATIONAL STANDARD
Traveller families reporting serious structural faults and hazards with poor, irregular or no maintenance response.	<p><i>"Adequate housing must be habitable in terms of providing the inhabitants with adequate space and protecting them from cold, damp, heat, rain, wind or other threats to health, structural hazards and disease vectors."</i></p> <p>CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (d)</p>	<p>Properties for rent must meet minimum physical standards</p> <p>- Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.</p>

### BREACH 3

Traveller families reporting poor sanitation and washing facilities

### HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD

*"An adequate house must contain certain facilities essential for health, security, comfort and nutrition .... safe drinking water, energy for cooking, heating and lighting, sanitation and washing facilities, means of food storage, refuse disposal, site drainage and emergency services."*

CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (b)

### NATIONAL STANDARD

Properties for rent must meet minimum physical standards

- Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.

There is an obligation on the Local Authority to make available basic services 'including water, toilets and waste removal' as detailed in the 'Guidelines on Basic Services and Facilities for Caravans' 'pending the provision of suitable permanent accommodation' (Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998), Section 31).

Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998); 'Section 24 allows a Manager of a local authority to carry out works necessary for the provision of a reasonable standard of accommodation in an emergency situation using powers under section 138(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001.'

Section 26, Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998).

### BREACH 4

Traveller families reporting damp, mould and cold

### HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD

*"Adequate housing must be habitable in terms of providing the inhabitants with adequate space and protecting them from cold, damp, heat, rain, wind or other threats to health, structural hazards and disease vectors."*

CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (d)

### NATIONAL STANDARD

Properties for rent must meet minimum physical standards

- Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.



BREACH 5	HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD	NATIONAL STANDARD
Traveller families reporting pest infestation – mice, rats, flies	<p><i>“Adequate housing must be habitable in terms of providing the inhabitants with adequate space and protecting them from cold, damp, heat, rain, wind or other threats to health, structural hazards and disease vectors.”</i></p> <p>CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (d)</p> <p>And <i>“...Housing should not be built on polluted sites or in immediate proximity to pollution sources that threaten the right to health of the inhabitants.”</i></p> <p>CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (f)</p>	<p>Properties for rent must meet minimum physical standards</p> <p>- Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.</p>
BREACH 6	HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD	NATIONAL STANDARD
Traveller families who report difficulties with lighting, heating and cooking	<p><i>“All beneficiaries of the right to adequate housing should have sustainable access to natural and common resources, safe drinking water, energy for cooking, heating and lighting, sanitation and washing facilities, means of food storage, refuse disposal, site drainage and emergency services.”</i></p> <p>CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (b)</p>	<p>Properties for rent must meet minimum physical standards</p> <p>- Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.</p>
BREACH 7	HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD	NATIONAL STANDARD
Traveller families who report poor and inadequate facilities for children and young people	<p><i>“Adequate housing must be in a location which allows access to employment options, healthcare services, schools, childcare centres and other social facilities.”</i></p> <p>CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (f)</p> <p>And <i>“Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities.”</i></p> <p>UN Convention on the Right of the Child, Article 31</p>	<p><i>‘Children and young people should enjoy an adequate standard of living, compatible with a life of dignity. They should be able to live and grow up in a safe, healthy, sustainable and child-friendly environment that supports their developmental and learning needs’</i></p> <p>– Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The national policy framework for children &amp; young people 2014 – 2020.</p>



BREACH 8	HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD	NATIONAL STANDARD
Traveller families who report irregular or no refuse disposal	<p><i>“All beneficiaries of the right to adequate housing should have sustainable access to natural and common resources, safe drinking water, energy for cooking, heating and lighting, sanitation and washing facilities, means of food storage, refuse disposal, site drainage and emergency services.”</i></p> <p>CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (b)</p>	<p>Properties for rent must meet minimum physical standards</p> <p>- Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.</p> <p>There is an obligation on the Local Authority to make available basic services ‘including water, toilets and waste removal’ as detailed in the ‘Guidelines on Basic Services and Facilities for Caravans’ ‘pending the provision of suitable permanent accommodation’</p> <p>(Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998), Section 31) Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998);</p> <p>‘Section 24 allows a Manager of a local authority to carry out works necessary for the provision of a reasonable standard of accommodation in an emergency situation using powers under section 138(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001.’</p> <p>Section 26, Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998).</p>
BREACH 9	HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD	NATIONAL STANDARD
Traveller families who are concerned about safety issues, barriers on sites and emergency access.	<p><i>“All beneficiaries of the right to adequate housing should have sustainable access to natural and common resources, safe drinking water, energy for cooking, heating and lighting, sanitation and washing facilities, means of food storage, refuse disposal, site drainage and emergency services.”</i></p> <p>CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (b)</p>	<p>Properties for rent must meet minimum physical standards</p> <p>- Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.</p>
BREACH 10	HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD	NATIONAL STANDARD
Travellers who report that there is a poor response to issues raised and a lack of acknowledgement and respect for cultural identity, livelihood and needs.	<p><i>“The way housing is constructed, the building materials used and the policies supporting these must appropriately enable the expression of cultural identity and diversity of housing.”</i></p> <p>CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (g)</p> <p>And <i>“The right to an effective remedy need not be interpreted as always requiring a judicial remedy. Administrative remedies will, in many cases, be adequate...Any such administrative remedies should be accessible, affordable, timely and effective.”</i></p> <p>CESCR General Comment Number 9. C paragraph 94</p>	<p>The Equal Status Act (2000) prohibits discrimination in the disposal of premises and the provision of accommodation, on grounds of age, gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religious belief, disability, race or membership of the Travelling community.</p> <p>Local Authorities are ‘to refrain from taking any measures that inhibit nomadism, but places a positive obligation to provide the necessary services to facilitate nomadism’. It also states ‘Regard must also be had to the need for transient sites’</p> <p>- Section 19, Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998.</p>



### BREACH 11

Number of Traveller families reporting sewerage invasions and smells

### HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD

*“An adequate house must contain certain facilities essential for health, security, comfort and nutrition .... safe drinking water, energy for cooking, heating and lighting, sanitation and washing facilities, means of food storage, refuse disposal, site drainage and emergency services.”*

CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (b)

### NATIONAL STANDARD

Properties for rent must meet minimum physical standards  
- Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.

### BREACH 12

Number of Traveller families who report that they have no participation in decisions about their housing conditions.

### HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD

*“The full enjoyment of other rights ...such as the right to participate in public decision-making is indispensable if the right to adequate housing is to be realised and maintained by groups in society.”*

CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 9

### NATIONAL STANDARD

Properties for rent must meet minimum physical standards  
- Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.



# PROGRESS ON THE PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE FOR CURRENT SITES AND GROUP HOUSING SCHEMES – GALWAY CITY

## Sites and group housing schemes assessed (in alphabetical order)

1. BEAL NA STRUTHA
2. CARROWBROWNE TEMPORARY, HEADFORD ROAD
3. CARROWBROWNE TRANSIENT SITE, HEADFORD ROAD
4. CIRCULAR ROAD HALTING SITE
5. CLOS NA CHOILE, BALLYBANE
6. CUL TRÁ, SALTHILL
7. TUAM ROAD
8. FANA GLAS, BALLYBANE
9. ST NICOLAS PARK GROUP HOUSING, DOUGHISKA
10. ST NICOLAS PERMANENT HALTING SITE, DOUGHISKA

## BEAL NA STRUTHA

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Immediate Refurbishment of houses to deal with conditions that lead to damp and cold. Immediate remedy for structural problems – damp and mould, effective insulation installed	No progress	No progress
2. Review of all the cooking facilities and ranges	No progress	No progress
3. Fix and replace the unsatisfactory sewerage system. A complete overhaul of the plumbing system and a review and investigation of the electricity supply	No progress	No progress
4. Play area for children developed	No progress	No progress

*There has been no progress on issues identified by the families. There are gaps in the windows with mould visible in the rooms. Wooden doors are rotting and a large amount of slates that have come off the rooves have not been replaced. Tenants are forced to put sheets over the windows to stop the draught coming in. Most ranges barely heat the houses with one house having no heat source at all.*

*The tenants have approached a TD, they've asked a doctor to write to the Council and they've rang the Maintenance department in the Council.*

**Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway City Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International human rights standards 2, 4, 7, 9, 12.**



## CARROWBROWNE TEMPORARY SITE

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. The Utility sheds and mobiles need to be replaced. This urgent issue has been in discussion since October/November 2017 where damage was caused by the storm. The storm also highlighted that there was no health and safety plan in place for the protection of the families during adverse weather conditions. All changes need to be carried out in consultation with the families.

No progress

Limited progress

2. Address immediate and ongoing infestation from rats, mice and flies

No progress

No progress

3. Fix and replace the unsatisfactory sewerage system. A complete overhaul of the plumbing system and a review and investigation of the electricity supply

No progress

No progress

*The Council have committed to installing 13 new welfare units on site by mid-January. These units have been promised for months but have been delayed twice. There are potholes in some bays that have not been fixed for over 2 years. The sewers around some of the sheds haven't been unblocked. Tenants are still dealing with an infestation of rats around the backs of the bays.*

*The tenants contact the Council about many issues, but they fail to get a satisfactory response. They are following all the correct procedures regarding logging complaints.*

**Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway City Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights Standards 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12.**

## CARROWBROWNE TRANSIENT SITE

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Identify in consultation with the families culturally appropriate accommodation that meets their long-term needs – A short term plan developed to immediately improve conditions. Immediately address structural hazards- Fix and replace plumbing and utility sheds should be replaced. The cracks in the internal and external walls should be repaired. Plumbing needs to be overhauled. Sewerage as a public health issue needs to be addressed. Power lines need to be fixed to end electricity difficulties

No progress

No progress

2. Address immediate and ongoing infestation from rats, mice and flies. A rubbish collection system needs to be regularised

No progress

No progress

3. Children's human rights need to be prioritised- the right to play, respect and dignity

No progress

No progress



*CCTV has been reinstalled on site without any consultation with the families. The utility sheds have still not been replaced and some bays go without heating for months with incidents being more regular closer to Christmas. The response from the Council about a sewerage issue was severely inadequate and the conditions are contributing to the presence of rats at the back of the site.*

*The green area at the centre of the site has no play facilities and is too small for children to play in. Very young children play on the road with many tenants feeling that the afterschool is poorly situated.*

*The families postal service is not satisfactory with post being sent to the wrong bay in many instances. This has often led to hospital appointments being missed. This is not the direct responsibility of the Council but warrants investigation by the estate management department.*

**Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway City Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights Standards 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12.**

## CLÓS NA CHOILE, BALLYBANE

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Sewerage system overhauled

No progress

No progress

2. Houses treated for damp and mould

Limited progress

Limited  
progress

3. Heating systems overhauled

Limited progress

Limited  
progress

*The gullies around the bays regularly overflow resulting in water going under the houses and damaging the flooring. Any heat in the houses escapes through the gaps in the windows. Some toilets are sinking into the ground with bad smells and sewerage issues developing.*

*In one house the washing machine has to be filled manually from the sink by the tenant.*

**Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway City Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under human rights 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12.**

## CUL TRÁ, SALTHILL

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Traveller specific accommodation to be provided to reduce forced overcrowding

No progress

No progress

2. Refurbish existing site

Limited progress

Limited  
progress

3. Fire and safety needs to be brought up to a safe standard on site

Limited progress

Limited  
progress

*There is huge overcrowding on the site with some bays accommodating up to 12 or 13 people on a regular basis. The original 6 families are in a state of limbo with the Council. Cúl Trá is their home and they now feel under constant threat of eviction and fear for the future of their tenancy. The families have always looked for culturally appropriate accommodation but due to the absence of any innovation or new developments a lot of families are being forced into houses.*

**Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway City Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 12.**

## FANA GLAS, BALLYBANE

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Address the damp and mould

No progress

No progress

2. Find alternative Traveller culturally appropriate accommodation for the families in the Ballybane area

No progress

No progress

3. Develop play areas for the children

No progress

No progress

*The houses have no insulation with tenants forced to stuff the windows to keep out draughts – the ranges don't heat the houses beyond the kitchens.*

*The tenants have no idea of the long-term plans for the development. The empty houses that were filled with rubbish have been cleared out by the Council. All the houses around the development in the wider area were insulated except this site.*

**Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway City Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights Standards 2, 4, 6, 12.**

## TUAM ROAD

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Extended and larger units to allow for privacy and adequate cooking and living facilities.

No progress

No progress

2. Install Fire exit door into the buildings at the back off the units.

No progress

No progress

*The tenants have been told that the path at the back of the bays is preventing the extension of the units. As a result, overcrowding has got worse on the site with many bays at full capacity.*

*Complaints have been logged regularly with the Council but the caretaker has not been able to give the tenants a reasonable timeframe for when they will be addressed.*

**Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway City Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights Standards 1, 6, 9, 12.**



## CIRCULAR ROAD, WESTSIDE

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Serious refurbishment required for the site

No progress

No progress

*City Council in consultation with CENA.*

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway City Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights Standards 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12.

## ST NICHOLAS PARK GROUP HOUSING SCHEME, DOUGHISKA

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Traveller specific accommodation to be provided to reduce forced overcrowding/hidden homeless

No progress

No progress

2. An immediate review of the conditions. Structural problems addressed as a matter of urgency - drainage, window replacement, insulation

No progress

No progress

3. Address rodent problem

No progress

No progress

*The houses were scheduled for insulation work in 2019 but this has not happened to date. The projected needs of the families have not been met over the last 15 years leading to severe overcrowding and in some instances the younger families have had to be accommodated in emergency homeless services. There is an absence of meaningful consultation with the families which leads to a feeling of isolation and despair.*

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway City Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 1, 2, 5, 12.

## ST NICHOLAS PERMANENT HALTING SITE, DOUGHISKA

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Traveller specific accommodation to be provided to reduce forced overcrowding/hidden homeless

No progress

No progress

2. Regular and quality structural maintenance prioritised – insulation, drainage, damp and mould

No progress

No progress

3. Timely and quality maintenance of site issues

Limited progress

Limited progress

*Some repairs have happened on site. Overcrowding and families living in substandard conditions continues to be an issue. There is an absence of meaningful consultation with the families which leads to a feeling of isolation and despair.*

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway city Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 1, 2, 4, 12.



# PROGRESS ON THE PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE FOR CURRENT SITES AND GROUP HOUSING SCHEMES – GALWAY COUNTY

## Sites and group housing schemes assessed (in alphabetical order)

1. BALLYDAVID, ATHENRY
2. CANAL DRIVE, BALLINASLOE
3. CAPIRA, PORTUMNA
4. CLOONLYON CRESCENT AND CLONLYON, BALLYGAR
5. CRAUGHWELL
6. CREGGANE, BALLINASLOE
7. GORT BRIDGE, LOUGHREA
8. SANDYMOUNT, KILLIMOR

### BALLYDAVID ATHENRY

#### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Erect street lighting on the road outside the group housing scheme.

No progress

Limited  
progress

*The Council are in the process of erecting street lighting. The tenants have identified speed bumps as being necessary for children's safety.*

*Tenants felt there's no point in ringing the council with issues because it takes too long for a response.*

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway County Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 6, 9, 12.

### CANAL DRIVE, BALLINASLOE

#### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Timely, quality structural maintenance

No progress

No progress

*There's been only one visit to the site from the Council in this monitoring period.*

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway County Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under human rights standards 2 and 6.



## CAPIRA, PORTUMNA

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Redevelopment of the site into a fully serviced one. New serviced bays

Limited progress

Limited  
progress

2. Green space for children

No Progress

Limited  
progress

3. Address security and safety issues re lack of access to barrier

No Progress

No progress

*Two units have been completed and landscaping has been carried out on the site. The barrier is not high enough for emergency vehicles to go through with no tenants on site having access to a key.*

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway County Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12.

## CLOONLYON CRESCENT AND CLOONLYON, BALLYGAR

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Structural maintenance carried out as a matter of urgency

No Progress

No Progress

2. Sewerage system reviewed and works carried out immediately

No Progress

No Progress

3. Maintenance of green spaces or provision of green space.

No Progress

Limited  
Progress

*A young man with a disability lives in one of the houses which has had some adaptations as recommended by an Occupational Therapist. However, the overall approach to meeting the disability needs of this tenant and making the adaptations were less than satisfactory with rails installed that are still out of reach.*

*There are cracks within chimneys, parts of internal walls left standing and windows that can't be opened. Some radiators are emitting black water with many rooms covered entirely in damp forcing tenants to cover the damp with wallpaper or timber.*

*Only through persistent logging of complaints has there been work done on the green areas with the tenants constantly being frustrated in their advocacy efforts.*

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - Galway County Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12.

## CRAUGHWELL

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Redevelopment of the site

Limited progress

Limited  
progress

2. Maintenance of structural defaults on time

Limited progress

Limited  
progress

3. End overcrowding

No progress

No progress

*Some groundworks have taken place, but it appears to have come to a standstill again. No clarity on redevelopment, what is being done or when and where the families are to be placed.*

*There are sanitation problems with leaks and dampness across the bays. Issues with doors, windows and holes in the ceilings haven't been addressed. Fire hoses have been installed but the barrier makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to enter the site.*

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - The Galway County Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12.

## CREGGANE, BALLINASLOE

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Improved maintenance – quality standard and on time.

Limited progress

No progress

2. Review of rents for poor and substandard accommodation

Limited progress

No progress

3. Access to keys for barriers. Modern access systems need to be put in place

No progress

No progress

*The tenants expressed frustration at the lack of progress on development work needed on site. The families felt that they were being forced to take houses as a solution and alternative to living on the site in poor conditions. There are serious safety concerns both with the barrier and the fact that traffic passes quite close to the entrance.*

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - The Galway County Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 1, 2, 4, 9, 12.



## GORT BRIDGE, LOUGHREA

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Structural maintenance issues should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Limited progress

No progress

2. Street lighting and traffic calming on the road outside. Disability access issues dealt with.

No progress

No progress

3. Key to the barrier and access for safety

No progress

No progress

4. Children's Play area

No progress

No progress

*The barrier at the entrance to the site is causing serious problems that have directly affected several tenants. With no key on site, emergency vehicles are delayed when attempting to attend the immediate health needs of tenants with two quite serious cases occurring in this monitoring period.*

*There are electrical wires hanging off poles and severe sewerage issues. There is a large collection of waste at the back of the site that was not the fault of the tenants. Their privacy is invaded with CCTV pointing towards the bays.*

*The Council have promised repairs, but these are not taking place. Some tenants have been threatened with eviction for trying to accommodate family members. Overcrowding remains an issue.*

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - The Galway County Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12.

## SANDYMOUNT, KILLIMOR

### PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

PROGRESS AS PER  
2ND MONITORING  
REPORT

PROGRESS  
TO DATE

1. Structural issues to be addressed, in particular damp and heating.

No progress

No progress

2. Immediate and regular maintenance.

No progress

No progress

*The site is severely overcrowded with many rooms in the houses being completely uninhabitable. The Council left fire alarms in the houses and asked the tenants to install the alarms themselves. Walls are destroyed with damp.*

*Regular maintenance calls receive no attention while the engineer has come onto the site and taken pictures of issues but with no follow up.*

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - The Galway County Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 2, 4, 6, 12.

# UPDATED DATA ON ROADSIDE FAMILIES

## POOLBOY, BALLINASLOE

ACCOMMODATION ISSUES	IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED	IMPROVEMENTS TO DATE
1. Lack of access to basic facilities - basic sanitation services like running water, toilets or showers	Basic facilities provided in the interim	No facilities have been provided
2. Lack of culturally appropriate accommodation	Need for comprehensive plan to address families' accommodation needs  Violation of International Human Rights Standards - The Galway County Council	Families have not been provided with any form of culturally appropriate accommodation

Violation of International Human Rights Standards - The Galway County Council are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 3, 7, 10.





## CONCLUSION

In the 6 months since the publishing of the Traveller Homes Now 2nd Monitoring Report, there has been little to no progress on almost every issue raised by the Traveller community across the city and county. This process has revealed a community whose basic human rights are consistently violated on a daily basis.

Despite Galway Traveller Movement naming Traveller accommodation as a local election issue in May 2019, there is no political will to rectify the inhumane living conditions as reported by the Traveller community. The Traveller Accommodation Programmes for the City and the County are hugely inadequate and do not address in any meaningful way the issues monitored in these reports.

The living conditions and the violation of Traveller's human rights in Galway has been raised at a national level through submissions to the Expert Review and at an international level through consultations for the shadow reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

The Traveller Homes Now campaign has laid out quite clearly the demands of a community who are living in conditions that violate most Human Rights standards with regards to accommodation.

**“Persistent systemic institutional racism against Travellers, and the continued and widespread prevalence of discriminatory attitudes towards Travellers remains one of the most significant areas where the State is failing to meet its obligations.”**

*Ireland Falling Down on Obligations to Tackle Racial Discrimination UN Told in New Report*  
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission,  
Press Releases, 28/11/2019





*“The right to adequate housing applies to everyone. Individuals, as well as families, are entitled to adequate housing regardless of age, economic status, group or other affiliation or status and any such factors. In other words, there should be no discrimination in the provision of adequate housing”*

– UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



# #TRAVELLERHOMESNOW

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